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Report of the Constitution Committee  
A.D. 1950

(The full text of the 1948 Government of Nepal Act had been given in Regmi Research Series, Year 2, No. 4, April 1, 1970. A joint session of the two chambers of the legislature / rated by Prime Minister Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana on Aswin 6, 2007 (September 22, 1950). Subarna Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana (not to be confused with the Nepali Congress leader of the same name) presented the following report on that occasion on behalf of the Constitution Committee. The translation is based on the text of the report as given in Grishma Bahadur Devkota, Nepalako Rajanitika Darpana (Political Mirror of Nepal), Kathmandu: Keshav Chandra Gautam, 2016 (A.D. 1960), pp. 726-33). / as provided for in Article 22 of the Act was inaugurated.

His Highness the Prime Minister, in the capacity of acting Prime Minister, constituted the Constitution Committee to ensure smooth and speedy operation of the 1948 Government of Nepal Act proclaimed on January 26, 1948. In fact, it was only after his accession to power that the Committee had begun full preparations to ensure the full implementation of provisions of the constitutional law. This is quite a new task. Difficulties may, therefore, arise in persuading government offices and courts to understand this law. Because of transport difficulties, it may also take considerable time to send or receive replies in the course of correspondence with them. Some delay in accomplishing this task is thus inevitable. Nonetheless, this Committee has worked energetically to procure the required materials from district government headquarters, besides initiating all such functions as it could perform directly from the capital. Because this is a great task that will have a vital impact on the country as a whole, His Highness the Prime Minister has regularly held meetings of the Minister and Commander-in-Chief and other authorities who are fully conversant with affairs of the state to supervise and uphold the measures initiated by this Committee. That is why the spadework undertaken by this Committee has been quick and smooth. His Highness has also occasionally associated with these meetings royal priests and bhardars who have a good knowledge of the law.

This Committee first turned its attention to civil rights. It deems it imperative for Nepal to follow the principles of the law relating to civil rights in force in other countries. Accordingly, it was necessary to promulgate legislation guaranteeing individual liberty, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression, and Press freedom. Although under the constitutional law, such legislation should be promulgated by mid-April 1949. Even then, in view of the desire of His Highness to grant civil rights to the countrymen as early as possible, all the four laws (governing individual liberty, freedom of assembly and association, freedom of expression, and Press freedom) were promulgated in mid-April 1948 itself, and enforced throughout the country. I can assure you that the laws guaranteeing fundamental rights to the people are similar

to those in force in other countries. As for freedom of religion, it is improper and even impossible for this Committee to take any decision on this major issue so quickly, inasmuch as Nepal remains the only Hindu nation in the world whose laws and customs and usage are all based on Hinduism. For this reason, it has not taken any step in this regard now. Indeed, it does not seem necessary to frame any specific law in this regard, because nobody in this country is prevented from following his own religious belief, and moreover, Nepal has always been immune from religious strife.

It is necessary to make provisions guaranteeing full legal equality and expeditious justice. For this purpose, this Committee considers the opinions of both the justice-giver and the justice-receiver essential. Accordingly it has formed a Committee comprising chiefs of courts. This body has been directed to submit through this Committee a report containing suggestions on how to guarantee full legal equality and cheap and quick justice to the countrymen. It now seems desirable to consult the public also on this issue.

The Department of Education is framing a law guaranteeing free and compulsory primary education. An announcement in this regard will be made by that department itself as early as possible.

As far as the right to protection of private property is concerned every person in this country already enjoys it under current law. If anyone is dispossessed of his property by another person by unjust means, he can file a suit at any court. For this reason, this Committee considers it unnecessary to frame any new law or regulation in this regard. The reference in the constitutional law to the right to protection of private property is adequate.

As for the right to vote, everyone who has attained the prescribed age will exercise it in elections to village and district Panchayats, as well as in elections of special representatives.

After completing functions relating to civil rights, this Committee drafted and enacted the Village Panchayat Act, the Panchayat Courts Act, the Town Panchayat Act, and the District Panchayat Act and promulgated them for enforcement all over the country. Rules regarding elections were also framed by this Committee.

Inasmuch as under the new Constitution Panchayats themselves constitute election wards, it was necessary to frame these laws in the first place. Much time was spent on this task. It has been accomplished much earlier than expected in view of the desire of His Highness to bring this Constitution into operation as early as possible. This very year, Election Officers were despatched to every district,

to form Panchayats. These Election Officers were also required to explain the aims and provisions of these laws to the people, most of whom were ignorant of these provisions. It, therefore, required considerable time to complete the formation of Panchayats. This year, it has been possible to constitute only 158 Panchayats. No arrangements could be made to constitute Panchayats in Jumla in view of the remoteness of that area as well as of lack of time. It was not possible to constitute Panchayats in Rautahat district also because cholera had broken out there well before the commencement of the election process. In order to ensure that these two areas too are represented in the meeting to be held this year, local government offices have been directed to assemble people and elect one representative each. It is proposed to constitute more Panchayats and to depute Election Officers to supervise the activities of the Panchayats formed this year.

The formation of Panchayats is quite a new task and this is the reason why it was not possible to constitute Panchayats in the expected number. Many people were ignorant of the meaning of the Panchayat system. Formation of Panchayats was hampered by transport difficulties as well. At some places, the local people said that they did not need Panchayats, and that the existing arrangements should be retained. At a few places, people asserted that they could not afford to spend much time attending Panchayat meetings, and that Panchayat activities would only mean additional inconvenience for them. People in some other districts have passed and forwarded a resolution declaring that they will be able to run Panchayats properly only if they are provided with assistance by the government as well as with educational facilities.

Most of the Village Panchayats which have already been constituted have taken interest mainly in judicial functions. They do not seem to be paying attention to development functions. One or two areas are reported to have demanded the formation of Panchayats. Demands that cases beyond their jurisdiction be heard by Panchayats have also been made.

The Town Panchayats of Bhaktapur and Lalitpur have started functioning according to the law. They are performing their duties satisfactorily. With respect to the Town Panchayat of Kathmandu, however, the position is not satisfactory.

A municipality had been established in Kathmandu in Vikrama 1971 (A.D. 1914). The objective was to hand over functions relating to sanitation and public health in the capital to a board consisting of elected as well as nominated representatives. Because citizens were not properly trained in this new field, adequate cooperation could hardly be expected from them. The responsibility for making a new arrangement thus fell on the government. The Kathmandu municipality was then created. The government had previously been directly running the municipality and spending over

Rs 150,000 on it every year. But in Vikrama 2004 (A.D. 1947) the Prime Minister expressed his desire to frame a Constitution which would enable the people to take part in the affairs of the state. Accordingly, a Reforms Committee was formed. The Reforms Committee formed a provisional local autonomous institution consisting of elected members in Kathmandu and persons nominated to assist and advise them. This institution was authorized to frame a Constitution for itself and submit it to the Reforms Committee, and function in the meantime in accordance with current law. Provisions were made for the appointment of a Vice-Chairman also from among the elected members. His signature was required in every matter. However, on the ground that the institution was not functioning satisfactorily, eleven of the twenty-one elected members submitted their resignations within nine months after they had assumed office. The remaining ten members continued drafting the Constitution of the municipality. However, six of them quit their posts one by one either on grounds of health or pre-occupation with domestic duties. In the meantime, the Constitution Committee finalized the draft of the Town Panchayat Act. Provisions were made to hold elections twice in all unrepresented wards, once before the promulgation of the Town Panchayat Act, and once thereafter. However, nominations, were filed only from one ward. As nobody presented himself as a candidate in these elections, the government has decided to nominate members in accordance with the Panchayat Rules so as to run the affairs of the municipality until fresh elections .

The Kathmandu Town Panchayat has started functioning from this year with a total membership of 15, of whom ten are nominated and five elected. The Town Panchayat Act prohibits an incumbent government employee from being elected to a Town Panchayat. However, inasmuch as government employees also have been elected from their wards before the promulgation of this law, it would be unfair to deprive them of an opportunity to work as members of the Town Panchayat. Accordingly, provisions have been made whereby one-third of the members of the Town Panchayat will relinquish their posts every year, and it has also been decided that, government employees, who are members of the town Panchayat should be the first to relinquish their posts in the first year. As regards special representatives, few people turned up to register their names in their respective wards, although notifications regarding elections had been issued several times. This Committee had had to answer many questions, including the following: "Is failure to vote punishable? Is financial assistance extended if we register ourselves in the list of voters, and, if so, how much?" As a result, this Committee had difficulties in compiling lists of voters eligible to vote in the election of special representatives. The names of literate people had had to be collected through government offices, district headquarters offices, and schools and colleges. There were only five candidates for two seats to be filled up from this particular constituency. Three of them withdrew their names on the eve of the elections.

In accordance with the election rules, the remaining two candidates were declared elected. Our teaching community has done well to arrive at a consensus on this issue, refraining from indulging in quarrel, as is usual in the course of elections.

Birtowners and jimidars too should act in the same spirit. Nowhere have people turned up to register their names, and only four candidates filed their nominations from the Haya Muluk region and one from Kathmandu before the last date for filing applications. Under the Constitution, elections can be held only after ascertaining whether such candidates are eligible to contest elections and become members. That is why it has not been possible to secure the presence of such special representatives in the present meeting. Elections will be held shortly, and next time this ward too will send its representative.

On behalf of the merchant community, only one person has so far come forward with a nomination paper. He has been chosen to represent this community. Recently, some persons had expressed their opinion that prominent merchants should be nominated directly. This Committee, however, expressed the view that election is better than direct appointment by the government.

Government employees are required to elect one special representative from among themselves. Accordingly, arrangements have been made for the election of one representative by civil servants. At present, most of the nominated members belong to the army. It is not therefore necessary for the army to have an additional special representative. It has already secured a due place.

The following persons have been nominated to sit in the first meeting of this first Parliament :

Bharadari-Sabha

1. Minister and Commander-in-Chief	...	Chairman
2. Commanding General (Eastern Sector)	...	Member
3. do. (Southern Sector)	...	do.
4. General Narayan Shumshere J.B. Rana	...	do.
5. Lt. General Sura Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
6. Major-General Basant Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
7. Major-General Brahma Shumshore J.B.R.	...	do.
8. Major-General Nara Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.

9. Major-General Sharada Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
10. Major-General Arun Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
11. Gauraj Vishwa Raj Panditju	...	do.
12. Lt. General Ram Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
13. Major-General Megharaj Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
14. Lt. Colonel Parthiv Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
15. Brigadier-Colonel Jhulendra Bikram Rana	...	do.
16. Sahebju Shambhu Bikram Shah	...	do.
17. Raja Gehendra Bahadur Shah	...	do.
18. Chaitaria Bahadur Shah	...	do.
19. Guru Purohit Janak Raj	...	do.
20. Guru Chhatra Nath	...	do.
21. Bada Kaji Ratnaman	...	do.
22. Brigadier-Colonel Indra Bahadur Karki	...	do.
23. Lt. Colonel Ved Bahadur Khatri	...	do.
24. Sardar Som Prasad	...	do.
25. Pandit Lekha Nath	...	do.
26. Sardar Narendra Mani Acharya Dikshit	...	do.

Rashtra Sabha

1. Commanding-General (Western Sector)	...	Chairman
2. General Hari Shumshere J.B.R.	...	Member
3. General Prachanda Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
4. Lt. General Ekaraj Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.
5. Major-General Mrigendra Shumshere J.B.R.	...	do.

6. Major-General Arjun Shumshere J. B. R.	...	do.
7. Major-General Laxman Shumshere J. B. R.	...	do.
8. Major-General Vijaya Shumshere J. B. R.	...	do.
9. Lt. Colonel Subarna Shumshere J. B. R.	...	do.
10. Lt. Colonel Bharat Shumshere J. B. R.	...	do.
11. Gururaj Nayan Raj Panditju	...	do.
12. Major-General Nir Shumshere J. B. R.	...	do.
13. Major-Captain Balakrishna Shumshere J. B. R.	...	do.
14. Lt. Colonel Khanga Narsingh Rana	...	do.
15. Brigadier Colonel Sobhag Jung Thapa	...	do.
16. Lt. Colonel Surendra Bahadur Shah	...	do.
17. Lt. Colonel Yagnya Bahadur Basnet	...	do.
18. Sardar Man Bahadur	...	do.
19. Sardar Gunja Man Singh	...	do.
20. Sardar Krishna Bahadur	...	do.
21. Mir Subba Upendra Purush	...	do.
22. Dr. Siddhi Mani Acharya Dikshit	...	do.
23. Prof. Kula Nath Lohani	...	do.
24. Engineer Gnyan Bahadur Pradhan	...	do.
25. Subba Bhagawati Prasad Singh	...	do.
26. Pandit Lok Nath Joshi	...	do.
27. Mir Subba Bhim Bahadur	...	do.

The elected members are as follows :-

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Jagat Bahadur                | (East No. 1)   |
| 2. Megh Raj Upadhyaya           | (East No. 2)   |
| 3. Tulsi Giri                   | (East No. 3)   |
| 4. Pashupati Prasad Upadhyaya   | (East No. 4)   |
| 5. Gajendra Bahadur Pradhananga | (Dhankuta)     |
| 6. Tanka Nath Eanstola          | (Ilam)         |
| 7. Shiva Dutt Panjyar           | (Bara-Parsa)   |
| 8. Kewal Chaudhari              | (Rautahat)     |
| 9. ...                          | (Mahottari)    |
| 10. Rajendra Singh              | (Sarlahi)      |
| 11. Bodh Bikram Pantha Chhetri  | (Saptari)      |
| 12. Shiva Dayal Sahu            | (Siraha)       |
| 13. Hari Narayan Sahu           | (Morang-Jhapa) |
| 14. Dhim Bahadur                | (West No. 1)   |
| 15. Devi Bahadur Kanwar Chhetri | (West No. 2)   |
| 16. Rishiram Sedhai             | (West No. 3)   |
| 17. Santa Man Shrestha          | (West No. 4)   |
| 18. Bhavendra Raj Paudel        | (Palpa)        |
| 19. Rana Bahadur Gharti         | (Gulmi)        |
| 20. ...                         | (Salyan)       |
| 21. Giri Raj Upadhyaya          | (Pyuthan)      |
| 22. ...                         | (Dailekh)      |
| 23. ...                         | (Dandeldhura)  |
| 24. ...                         | (Doti)         |
| 25. ...                         | (Baitadi)      |
| 26. ...                         | (Jumla)        |
| 27. Indra Bahadur Joshi         | (Chisapani)    |

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 28. Laxmi Narayan Shrestha  | (Palhi-Majhkhand)          |
| 29. Gaya Prasad Shah        | (Khajahani-Seuraj)         |
| 30. ...                     | (Kailali-Kanchanpur)       |
| 31. Krishna Gopal Tandon    | (Banke-Bardiya)            |
| 32. Krishna Prasad          | (Kathmandu Town Panchayat) |
| 33. Ishwari Prasad Rimal    | (Bhaktapur)                |
| 34. Mahant Govind Harijngam | (Lalitpur Town Panchayat)  |
| 35. ...                     | (Birgunj Town Panchayat)   |

Special Representatives of Different Classes

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Shankar Dev Pant     | (                    |
|                      | ) (Teachers)         |
| Purna Prasad Brahman | (                    |
| Bhesh Raj Sharma     | (Merchant community) |
| Prof. Bhava Nath     | (Civil servants)     |
| ...                  | (Jimidars)           |
| ...                  | (Workers).           |

Bhavendra Raj Paudel of Palpa has requested that he be granted 15 days more to enable him to reach Kathmandu after visiting his home. It is not yet known whether representatives are arriving from Salyan, Dailekh, Doti, Dandeldhura, Baitadi, Jumla and Kailali-Kanchanpur. Perhaps they are on their way to Kathmandu. Mahottari has not been able to send its representative because some local Pradhan Panchas have gone out of their district, and some others are ill. Measures are underway to constitute a town Panchayat in Birgunj.

Your Highness, we are fortunate that this legislative assembly has been set up so impressively and within such a short time.

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The Rajopadhyayas of Kantipur

By

Harishankarananda Rimal (Rajopadhyaya)

("Kantipuraka Rajopadhyaya," Janmabhumi Weekly, Poush 11, 1982/  
December 26, 1982).

Phirkep Village in Nuwakot area, located to the west of Kathmandu, is the ancestral village of the Rimal Upadhyayas. In 881 Vikrama, Kantipur (then named Simhakaalpanagara) and Lhasa (Tibet) maintained friendly relations. They had religious and commercial contacts with each other, and thereby established influence over each other. That was why all religious ceremonies were performed at that time by Gubhajas (Vajracharyas) according to Tantric rites. From the first day (Pratipada) of the bright half of the month of Kartik, 1037 Vikrama, Tibet's influence in Nepal started waning, and the Nepal era was initiated in Nepal on that date. On the ninth day of the bright half of the month of Poush, 1380 Vikrama (444 Nepal era), King Nanyadeva of Karnataka, apprehending invasion by Sultan Ghiyasuddin of Delhi, moved into Nepal Valley through Bihar and Simraunagarh along with his entire family, his courtiers, and priests, and Kanauj Brahmans belonging to the Bharadwaja clan. He brought with him the idol of Taleju Bhawani, and then settled in Bhaktapur. Allasa Raj and Ullasa Raj, who had accompanied Nanyadeva, settled at Nhainkantala Tole in Kantipur. It was precisely at that time that propagation of Hindu religion started in Nepal Valley. In 1358 Vikrama (457 Nepal era), Rimal Brahmans migrated from Phirkep (Nuwakot) to Kantipur and began performing religious rituals. In 1670 Vikrama (733 Nepal era), during the rule of Pratapa Malla, Pandit Sahasrashivananda Rimal Upadhyaya discovered the idol of Chaturbahu Narayan while bathing at the confluence of the Vishnumati and the Rudramati, and installed it at Ichangu.

A bag of blackgram brought to the Hanumandhoka Palace from an eastern area in 1679 Vikrama (752 Nepal era) was found to contain one maize seed. King Pratapa Malla took this as a portent of famine, and summoned Pandit Sahasra-Shivananda Rimal. With his help, he organized a vagnya to ward off the apprehended famine. Pratapa Malla built a house for the same Pandit at Indrachok and named it Brahmapura. Later, he gifted it to the Pandit through vedic rites.

In 1831 Vikrama (804 Nepal era) King Pratapa Simha Shah Dev was initiated into the diksha by Kirtijwalananda Upadhyaya of Lalitpur. He then gave Kirtijwalananda Upadhyaya the title of Rajopadhyaya. When Rajendra Laxmi Shah, Queen of King Rana Bahadur Shah, died of small-pox on Shraavan 2, 1842 Vikrama (814 Nepal era), the Rimals residing at Indrachok were dispossessed of their entire property. However, Dhriti, an unmarried daughter of the Rimal family, managed to save her property, which, she later handed over to Rimals.

We began to use the honorific title of Rajopadhyaya after it was conferred on us by King Pratapa Simha Shah Dev. In 1948 Vikrama (921 Nepal era) Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere gave us the title of "Deubhaju" in place of Rajopadhyaya, and made separate legal provisions for us. Members of the Rimal family still use Rajopadhyaya Deubhaju, Sharma, etc as their surnames.

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#### Abolition of Levies, A.D. 1951

The Darshan-Bhet, Tika-Bhet, Fatte-Mubarak, Salami, and other levies were abolished with effect from Bhadra 1, 2008 (August 16, 1951). Nepal Gazette, Vol. 1, No. 9, Aswin 15, 2008 (October 1, 1951).

#### 1. The Darshan-Bhet Levy

- (1) Royal order to Subedar Ehotu, Subedar Mahabista, and Subedar Ahiman Bokati.

... Collect the Darshan-Bhet levy from military personnel (stationed in Doti) at the rate of four rupees each ...

Falgun Badi 11, 1854  
(February 1798)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 23, p. 293.

- (2) Received at the Tosakhana on Baisakh Sudi 7, 1887 (April 1830) through Kaji Bakhtwar Simha Thapa the sum of Mohar Rupees 714 being income from the Darshan-Bhet collected from the three companies stationed at Palpa.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 44, p. 14.

- (3) An order was issued on Chaitra Sudi 1, 1907 (March 1851) prescribing that the Darshan-Bhet levy should not be collected from military employees who were transferred to the same or to a lower pay-scale in another company. The levy was thereafter collected only from employees at the time of their appointment or promotion.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 81, pp. 89-90.

(4) Apportionment of Darshan-Bhet Revenues, 1916 Vikrama  
(A.D. 1859)

His Majesty	Rs 8
Ex-King Rajendra	Rs 6
Prince Trailokya	Rs 4
Her Majesty the Third Queen (Bada Maharani)	Rs 8
Her Majesty the Youngest Queen	Rs 8
H.R.H. the Crown Princess	Rs 4
H.R.H. the Second Prince (Sahebju)	Rs 2
Her Majesty the Senior Queen	Rs 2
Her Majesty the Junior Queen	Rs 2
	Rs 44

(High-ranking civil and military officers thus paid Rs 44 each. The rates were different for officers and employees of junior ranks; payments collected from them were appropriated exclusively by His Majesty.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 16, p. 392.

## (5) Prime Minister Bhima Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana's Order to the Jagir Phant (Jagir Division) of the Pahad Bandobast Adda (Hill Region Land Administration Office).

"Because Her Majesty the Third Queen-Mother has died, and H.R.H. the Third Princess and H.R.H. the Youngest Royal Princesses have been born, the existing arrangements for the apportionment of the proceeds of the Darshan-Bhet and the Tikabhet levies have been abolished, and the following arrangements introduced, with effect from the Vikrama year 1986 (A.D. 1929).

<u>Old Schedule</u>	<u>Darshan-Bhet</u> Rs	<u>Tikabhet</u> Rs
His Majesty	8	4
Her Majesty the Queen Mother	8	2
Her Majesty the Second Queen Mother	5	1
Her Majesty the Senior Queen	8	2
Her Majesty the Junior Queen	7	1
H.R.H. the Crown Prince	4	1

H.R.H. the Second Princess	2	1
H.R.H. the Third Princess	2	1
H.R.H. the Youngest Princess (Daughter of His late Majesty)	2	1
H.R.H. the Eldest Princess	2	1
H.R.H. the Youngest Princess	2	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Rs.50	Rs 16
<u>New Schedule</u>	<u>Darshan Bhet</u>	<u>Tikabhet</u>
	Rs	Rs
His Majesty	8	4
Her Majesty the Queen Mother	8	2
Her Majesty the Senior Queen	8	1
Her Majesty the Junior Queen	8	1
H.R.H. the Crown Prince	4	1
H.R.H. the Second Prince	2	1
H.R.H. the Third Prince	2	1
H.R.H. the Youngest Princess (Daughter of His late Majesty)	2	1
H.R.H. the Eldest Princess	2	1
H.R.H. the Second Princess	2	1
H.R.H. the Third Princess	2	1
H.R.H. the Youngest Princess	2	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Rs 50	Rs 16

Poush 8, 1985  
(December 23, 1928)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 16, pp. 20-22.

2. The Tikabhet Levy

The Tikabhet levy was offered by top-ranking civil and military officers to the King, the Queen, and the Crown Prince at the time of the Dashain festival :

Tikabhet Payments

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Commander-in-Chief	Rs 16
Commanding Generals, Generals, Majors, etc.	Rs 12
Others	Rs 3

The levy was apportioned as follows :

<u>Total Payment</u>	<u>His Majesty</u>	<u>Ex-King Rajendra</u>	<u>Prince Trailokya</u>
Rs 16	Rs 8	Rs 4	Rs 4
Rs 12	Rs 4	Rs 4	Rs 4
Rs 3	R. 1	R. 1	R. 1

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 16, p. 398.

3. The Fattemubarak Levy

The term Fattemubarak is derived from the Persian terms fatah (victory) and mubarak (felicitations). The levy was offered to the King by top-ranking dignitaries at the time of the Indrajatra festival commemorating King Prithvi Narayan Shah's conquest of Kathmandu in A.D. 1768. The list of such payments, in the early years, after King Surendra's accession to the throne, was as follows :

Fattemubarakh Payments, A.D. 1850

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Rate of Payment</u>
Commander-in-Chief	Rs 8
Generals	Rs 4
Commanding and other Colonels, Chautariyas, Kajis, Royal Priests, Sardars, etc.	Rs 2
Other military officers, Subbas, Taksaris, and Nepali merchants trading in Tibet	R. 1

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 16, p. 397.

#### 4. The Salami Levy

The Salami levy was collected on behalf of the Rana Prime Minister at the time of appointment, transfer, and promotion, as well as in the month of Shrawan each year. Inasmuch as mid-year transfers and promotions involved multiple payments during the same year, regulations were enforced in A.D. 1919 prescribing that the Salami levy need not be paid more than once a year. The rates were as follows for military employees :

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Lieutenant and above	Rs 2
Lower ranks upto private (Sipahi)	R. 1
<u>Pipa, banadar</u> (other ranks)	50 paisa.

(Jangi Bali Talab Sawal (Regulations of the Army Pay Office), Aswin 27, 1976 (October 13, 1919), sec. 1.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 16, p. 29.

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#### Land Allotments in Makwanpur

Dittha Kuber Upadhyaya submitted the following petition to Kathmandu : "A revenue settlement had been conducted in the Madi area of Makwanpur in the Vikrama year 1911 (A.D. 1854). In the course of that settlement, both good and bad lands had been allotted to the local peasants under the raibandi system. The peasants then cultivated their allotments and paid their rents accordingly.

"At present, several peasants have vacated their allotments, while several others have shifted to other areas. Peasants cultivating adjoining holdings are not willing to take up such vacant allotments, which, consequently, have remained uncultivated. I have been compelled to make rent payments on these vacant allotments myself. Such payments amounted to Rs 30 in the Vikrama year 1913, Rs 50 in 1914, and Rs 44 in 1915. I shall go bankrupt if I continue to make rent payments on the vacant allotments personally. I am, therefore, unable any longer to discharge the functions of a Jimmawal."

The government then issued the following order in the name of peasants cultivating rice-lands (khet) in the Madi area of Makwanpur : "Lands assigned to the army must not be left uncultivated. With effect from the Vikrama year 1916, all vacant lands in the area shall be reallocated to the local peasants in proportion to the size of their own allotments. They must then cultivate the additional areas allotted to them in this manner. In case you cultivate only good lands, leaving inferior lands uncultivated, the concerned peasant shall be held personally liable for payment of rents on the uncultivated lands.

Chaitra Sudi 10, 1915  
(March 1859)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 81, pp. 639-40.

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Forest Protection in Nawalpur, A.D. 1866

On Marga Badi 2, 1923 (November 1866) Subba Damodar Padhya of the Tribeni Kathmahal submitted the following petition to Kathmandu :

1. Reports have been received that in the Nawalpur area ryots have reclaimed (Khoriya Phadnu) forests containing valuable timber (Kathbana) and thus destroyed the timber. Investigations have shown that these reports are correct.

2. I have now deputed Subedar Nityananda Bhattarai to ascertain the extent of loss of sakhu, champ, toon, and sissau timber, which can be sold through the Kathmahal. I shall take action against the poachers according to orders received from Kathmandu after I receive his report.

3. Commercially valuable timber which can be sold through the Kathmahal is being destroyed because ryots reclaim such lands for agriculture, and also because they cut such timber indiscriminately to meet their domestic and agricultural needs.

Subba Damodar Padhya, therefore, recommended that legislation be enacted as follows :

1. Ryots shall reclaim lands in forests containing commercially valuable timber only with the approval of the Kathmahal.

2. For meeting their domestic and agricultural needs, ryots shall cut timber of small sizes against permits issued by the Kathmahal. They shall not be allowed to cut commercially valuable timber which can be sold through the Kathmahal for meeting such needs.

Subba Damodar Padhya also noted in his petition that a law had already been enacted prohibiting land reclamation for agricultural purposes in forests containing commercially valuable timber.

Subba Damodar Padhya's petition was referred to the Kaushal Adda. Its comments were as follows :

1. It will not be feasible for the Kathmahal to issue permits for the reclamation of forest lands or for the cutting of timber needed by ryots for domestic and agricultural purposes. Such an arrangement will also cause hardships to ryots belonging to different areas.

2. No 8 of the regulations promulgated in the name of Subba Damodar Padhya states : Necessary timber and other forest products such as bamboo and sabai grass shall be supplied on payment of the prescribed fees to any person who wants to build a brick house with tiled roof, or a bridge, or to manufacture agricultural implements. Provided that such person shall be allotted only the actual quantity, and not allowed to sell the excess, if any. These facilities shall continue to be provided.

3. A proclamation shall be made to the effect that no person shall reclaim forests which contain commercially valuable timber. In case any person acts in contravention of this order, a report containing the necessary particulars shall be submitted, and action shall be taken as ordered.

This recommendation of the Kaushal Adda was endorsed by Prime Minister Jung Bahadur on Poush Badi 3, 1923 (December 1866).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 63, pp. 475-83.

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Forest Protection Regulations for the Tarai and Inner Tarai Regions, A.D. 1888

On Shrawan 1, 1945 (July 1888), the government of Nepal promulgated regulations for the protection of forests in the Tarai and inner Tarai districts. A summary of these regulations is given below :

1. No one shall be allowed to poach timber without the permission of the Kathmahal. Persons who furnish information to the appropriate authorities about such poaching shall be granted a reward amounting to 10 percent of the sum realized from the poacher. Local officials and revenue functionaries who fail to furnish such information shall be punished with a fine amounting to 50 percent of that sum.

2. Any person who needs timber for domestic and agricultural purposes may submit an application to the local revenue office through the local Chaudhari or jimidar during the months of Magh through Jestha. The Kathmahal will then issue permits for such timber on the recommendation of the revenue office. No such permits shall be issued, nor shall timber be allowed to be taken away from forests even against permits, during the other months of the year. However, a person whose house has been damaged or destroyed by any natural calamity may obtain a permit at any time through the revenue office and the Kathmahal. Timber in excess of the quantity mentioned in the permit shall in no circumstances be taken away.

3. Employees of the Hattisar (Elephant Depot) shall conduct regular tours to check whether or not lands in protected forest areas have been reclaimed for cultivation and settlement without permission. In case any such reclamation is detected, the reclaimed lands shall be reverted to waste, and the settlers' huts shall be demolished. The Hattisar employees may appropriate the settlers' goods for their own use.

4. Persons who furnish information regarding the reclamation of protected forests, or of forests containing commercially valuable timber, shall be suitably rewarded, while local officials and revenue functionaries who fail to furnish such information shall be punished at the discretion of the government.

Source : Yogi Naraharinath (ed.), Itihasa Prakashana Sandhi-Patrasangraha, Dang : the editor, 2022 (A.D. 1966), pp. 432-433.

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### The Chhalahi Levy

#### Proposal for Ijara

On Jestha Badi 6, 1944 (May 1887), Jimmawal Loku Budha Chhetri, a resident of Bangaun Village in Dang-Salyan, submitted a petition to Kathmandu suggesting that he be granted an ijara for the collection, sale, and export of hides and skins in the region situated between the Budhi-Gandaki and Mahakali rivers. He stipulated an annual payment of Rs 500 if he was granted the ijara. Inquiries revealed that people belonging to Sino-eating castes used to supply cow and buffalo skins to the Jangi Megjin. Subsequently, the Jangi Megjin retained the obligation in some cases, but commuted it to a cash payment in other cases. The rates of this payment, known as Chhalahi, were as follows, inclusive of the tip levy :

Sarki	8½ annas (in paisa rupees).
Other castes	2½ annas

The Chhalahi levy was either included in jagir assignments, or collected on behalf of the government through Backyauta Tahasil Addas.

The Sadar Dafdarkhana pointed out that if Jimawal Loku Budha Chhetri was granted the ijara, people who were paying the Chhalahi levy would complain. In its opinion, the ijara might be granted only if Chhalahi-payers signed a bond stipulating that they would raise no objection.

The opinion of the Sadar Dafdarkhana was endorsed by Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on Ashadh Badi 12, 1942 (June 1885).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 85, pp. 561-70.

### Chhalahi Levy in Lamjung

- (1) Rane Sarki of a village in Lamjung relinquished his kodale homestead and shifted to another village. As a Sarki, he had been paying the Chhalahi levy at the rate of eight annas on that homestead.

The homestead thus relinquished by Rane Sarki was subsequently allotted to Trilochan Poudyal, who belonged to the Brahman caste. The mukhiya of that village, Bishram Thapa Chhetri, insisted that he pay the Chhalahi levy as usual even though he was a Brahman.

Trilochan Poudyal then submitted a petition to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere praying that, as a Brahman, he should not be made liable to pay the Chhalahi levy due from a Sarki.

The petition was referred to the Sadar Dafdarkhana, which expressed the following opinion: "The Chhalahi levy cannot be collected from a Brahman if he has occupied a homestead relinquished by a Sarki. It must be collected from the homestead which the Sarki has since occupied in another village. On no account must the Chhalahi levy be collected from a Brahman."

This opinion was endorsed by Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on Chaitra Sudi 3, 1947 (April 1891).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 83, pp. 193-96.

- (2) The Chhalahi levy was also known as Megjin, because it represented the commutation of an obligation due to the Jangi Megjin (corrupt form of Magazine), or the Munitions Factory at Kathmandu.

In the village of Thungagaun in Lamjung, three households occupied by Pauni (or untouchable) castes, were under obligation to pay the Megjin levy at 8 annas each. These households belonged to Juthe Kami, Bhote Kami, and Mangale Sarki. In 1945 Vikrama (A.D. 1888), there was an outbreak of plague in the village. All members of these three families, with the exception of Mangale Sarki, died. Later, Mangale Sarki left the village. Consequently, no one was left to pay the Megjin levy and the Sema tax on these three households.

The Mukhiya of the village, Nandalal Padhya, submitted the following petition to the Pokhara Tahasil (Revenue Collection) Office : "These three homesteads remain unoccupied. No untouchable (pauni) families are available to whom these may be reallocated, while pure caste (Chokha) families are not willing to pay the Megjin levy." Nandalal declared in his petition that he was himself not willing to assume obligation for the payment of that levy."

Inquiries revealed that two of the three homesteads had subsequently been occupied by families belonging to Chokha castes, who were paying only the Serma tax. The Mukhiya was paying the Megjin levy on all the three homesteads, and the Serma tax on the homestead which still remained unoccupied.

On Baisakh Badi 1, 1948 (April 1891), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere endorsed the unanimous recommendation of the Pokhara Tahasil Adda, the Sadar Dafdarkhana, and the Muluki Adda, and decreed that families belonging to Chokha castes need not pay the Megjin levy if they occupied the homesteads vacated by Pauni families.

Regni Research Collection, vol. 83, pp. 453-458.

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#### Prime Minister Mohan Shumshere's Address

(The following is a full translation of the address given by Prime Minister Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana at the first joint session of the Bharadari-Sabha and the Rashtra-Sabha on Aswin 6, 2007 (September 22, 1950). Source : Grishma Bahadur Devkota, Nepalako Rajanitika Darpan (Political mirror of Nepal), Kathmandu : Keshav Chandra Gautam, 2016 (A.D. 1960), pp. 734-38).

Minister and Commander-in-Chief,  
Chief of the Army Staff (Jangi-Lath),  
and Members of Parliament,

"We heartily welcome all of you members who have come here from all parts of the country to participate in this session of the first Parliament. Your meeting constitutes an historic and important occasion for our country. We have just heard a report from Lt. Colonel Subarna Shumshere on questions concerning the convening of this session and the enforcement of the new Constitution. Difficulties have been

faced in accomplishing these tasks. The Constitution Committee, however, has been able to overcome them quickly and smoothly. This is how it has been possible for you to gather here today. You must have realized this well.

The Constitution provides that the first meeting of the Rashtra Sabha shall take place only after all district Panchayats have been created. But since it would take some more time to hold the first meeting of this body we have summoned you here and inaugurated our Parliament. We have also enforced the above-mentioned provision of the Constitution as early as possible.

We expect goodwill and cooperation from all our beloved countrymen in all the new measures we are initiating now. Our efforts will be crowned with success only through such cooperation and goodwill.

It is now 104 years since the Ranas assumed responsibility for the governance of this beloved country. You are aware of the extent of achievements or progress made during this period. We would like to mention some of those achievements briefly.

In the first place, the government has always remained prepared to defend the independence of the country, which it regards as an invaluable jewel.

For the purpose of maintaining law and order, a definite system has been established in this country, plagued as it was by mismanagement. The people have thus obtained an opportunity to follow the path of progress and prosperity.

Among the memorable measures initiated by us for the well-being of the countrymen was the abolition of slavery in 1982 (A.D. 1925). That measure enabled both the government and the people to hold their heads high in the world.

We hardly need tell you about the need and importance of tranquillity in the country. All governments in the world regard the maintenance of tranquillity as the most important task and have adopted various measures and framed different laws in order to ensure that it is not breached. You may be aware of this.

The rulers have always striven for public welfare. By the grace of god, we have been successful in this endeavor in great measure. You are aware of this as well. Inasmuch as it is our intention to associate the people in the affairs of the government gradually, we wish this Sabha continued success in making the country and the people prosperous.

Against the background of history, this gathering shows that the ruling class in Nepal has always pursued the policy of promoting necessary changes in the administrative system keeping the prevailing circumstances in view, with the desire of advancing the well-being of the country and the people.

As it would be suicidal to show any haste on such a sensitive political question, we intend to discuss and examine all its aspects carefully and move forward in the light of the conclusions arrived at thereby.

Village Panchayats constitute the foundation of our system. You have already heard in detail the circumstances in which village Panchayats had been constituted, and what obstacles were faced and removed in doing so. It is our aim to despatch officers to constitute the remaining village, district, and town Panchayats through persuasion, and subsequently convene Parliament comprising the Bharadari-Sabha and the Rastra-Sabha according to the constitutional procedure.

The functions to be discharged by the Parliament will be prescribed in the Constitution; hence we need not determine them now.

All other countries of the world have framed rules suited to their respective conditions to enable such institutions to function smoothly. We also are seeking to do so.

You are aware of our earlier announcements regarding foreign policy. In dealing with foreign countries, Nepal will pursue an independent policy. As part of our policy to maintain independent relations with all nations, Nepal concluded peace and trade treaties with the Indian government nearly six weeks ago. This is the latest step we have initiated as part of that policy. New treaties are expected to be signed with the United Kingdom (Britain) and France also. The treaty with Britain will be signed shortly. It has long been our policy to maintain amicable relations with all other countries who seek friendship with us.

It is nearly eighteen months since we applied for membership of the United Nations. Our entry into the United Nations has remained blocked primarily because of the conflict of a certain country with other countries. This is why we have not been able to take further steps in this respect. However, we have been extending such cooperation as we can to the affiliated agencies of the United Nations which relate to public welfare.

Our internal policy should primarily aim at maintaining law and order. No government can tolerate lawlessness, disorder, or actions calculated to disturb the peace. The next task to which we will give special priority is the enforcement of the remaining provisions of our new Constitution.

The government has been doing its best to improve the economic condition of the countrymen and raise their living standard. The National Economic Planning Committee, inaugurated by us two years ago, has been regularly drafting plans and submitting them before us. We have approved some of them, and accordingly work on them has commenced. Necessary special studies, discussions, and investigations regarding the

construction of roads in various places for the purpose of bringing about improvement in the field of transport are going on. Wireless stations and telephone lines are being opened and developed to facilitate the smooth and quick exchange of news. It is also proposed to open a broadcasting station soon. The Food Council has been established to promote the development of agriculture and thereby solve the food problem. A plan for reclaiming waste lands in Hitaura has been approved. Various measures are underway for the development of agriculture in both the hill and Tarai regions. 5,250 bighas of land in the area bounded by Makwanpur to the east, Ramauli-Pratappur to the west, the Rapti river in the north, and Naya-Basti on the Chure hills in the south, will be reclaimed and rendered cultivable through the use of modern means, including tractors, within two years. We have sanctioned Rs 800,000 for this purpose. Arrangements are being made for cattle breeding, fish-farming, etc. at the center. With the objective of running the Forest Department smoothly, we have allocated Rs 500,000 in the budget for this purpose.

We have deputed local doctors and also invited experts from India as part of an experimental plan to eradicate malaria and kala azar in the Hitaura area. Considerable success is reported to have been achieved in this task. Such programs will be extended to other affected areas as well. A plan has already been started for the installation of filtration plants on the Bir-Dhara and Tri-Bhim-Dhara Water Supply Systems to purify drinking water in the capital. These plants will start operating next winter.

With a view to improving public health services, doctors are being sent to Britain for medical training. We have approved plans for establishing dispensaries and providing other medical facilities in the hill and Tarai areas on the recommendation of the Health Department. Steps are being taken accordingly.

Education is spreading in our country satisfactorily. Many centers of basic education have opened. Normal schools and pathashalas, girls' pathashalas, Montessori centers, etc have already been opened in large numbers. A plan for establishing a Sanskrit College has been finalized and the college will be opened soon.

We have accepted the recommendations of the Nepal University Plan Committee, and accordingly granted permission for establishing the proposed University. It will be established next year. Our Education Department is conducting studies regarding the need for opening a public English School in Nepal, which will benefit many guardians by saving money which they have to spend for educating their children abroad.

We have shortened the schedule of both Sabhas this time because, in view of the rainy season, it is doubtful whether members belonging to remote areas of the country will be able to assemble here now.

We have included two elected members of the Legislative Assembly in the cabinet. We also intend to set up Administrative Committees. Those of you who have been nominated to these Committees should offer appropriate advice on relevant questions to order to assist us in determining our administrative policy.

Since you have assembled here from all parts of the country, you have an opportunity to represent to us the urgent needs of your districts and regions, if any. We shall always give appropriate attention to such matters and initiate necessary action.

We wholeheartedly pray that by the grace of God, and your cooperation and goodwill, the venture on which we have embarked today should continue for a long time in the future for the service of the King, the country, and the people.

The End

### Six Documents on Dolakha

#### Revenues from Alampur Village

- (1) Revenues from Alampur Village in Dolakha were customarily collected in the form of black gram (mas) as well as money. Collections were made through an ijaradar, who was also responsible for the collection of walak levies, income from escheats (maryo-apatali), income from fines imposed on persons guilty of Panchkhat crimes, payments due to the Chaudhari, and the Chhepi levy from dyers and printers of cloth.

Until the Vikrama year 1842 (A.D. 1785), the ijara was held by Zorawar Khawas. On Poush Badi 13, 1842 (January 1786), he was replaced by Kesan Thapa, Ranasur Gharti, Karmadeo and several other persons to operate the ijara jointly. Particulars of payments due under the ijara were as follows :

Year (Vikrama)	Black Gram (in muris)	Rs
1842	601	Rs 200
1843	601	Rs 200
1844	601	Rs 200
1845	601	Rs 200.

The black gram was to be supplied to the royal stables (astabalkhana), and the money to the royal palace.

The order added, "Collect payments in the customary manner. Do not harass the people. You shall be dismissed if you harass the people, thereby causing the depopulation of the village. You may occupy the homesteads of Sirman Khatri and Siuri Khatri for your own use."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 25, pp. 8-9.

(2) Prime Minister Jung Bahadur's order to officials appointed to collect jagat duties in eastern Nepal :

"Formerly, the village of Alampur had been assigned to the royal stables and black gram, ghee, oil, and other commodities used to be supplied in lieu of taxes. No jagat (transit) duties were collected on these commodities.

"These days the village of Alampur has been assigned as jagir to General Bakhat Jung Kunwar Rana. Reports have been received that jagat duties have been collected on black gram and other commodities received as rents from the village, as well as on other commodities procured by the General from that village.

"We hereby reconfirm the customary practice and exempt commodities supplied to the jagirdar from Alampur Village from jagat duties."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 81, pp. 480-81.

#### Gharbari Allotment of Mining Lands

On Jestha Badi 4, 1862 (May 1805), a plot of land situated north of the Bhiikot-Khola, east of the Khani-Khola, south of the Hatti-Khola, and east of a water-spring, was allotted to Dirgha Simha Gharti on Gharbari tenure. Dirgha Simha Gharti was required to extract lead from deposits found in that area, and supply the metal (kachho), as well as mahsul fees, the sema tax on homesteads, and fines and penalties (ganda-Kunda) collected in the course of the administration of justice, to the Kathmandu Munitions Factory. He was also required to submit accounts and obtain clearance every year through Chautariya Prana Shahi.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 20, p. 172.

Judicial Administration

Royal order to the Mijhars, Naikes, and common people (Praja) of the entire Dolakha region :

You have suffered much because the local Amali has imposed fines through ex-parte judgments even in the absence of complaints and confessions. We hereby decree that in the future fines, fees, and penalties (danda, jitauro) shall be collected only after dispensing justice in the presence of the plaintiff and obtaining confessions. With due assurance, make all payments (syak, sirto) due from you, do not suppress information relating to crimes that may be committed in that area, and obey the Amali."

Magh Sudi 12, 1863  
(January 1807)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 5, pp. 129-30.

Tenancy Rights in Dolakha Town

Royal order to people owning lands under Chhap, Guthi, and Kipat tenures in Dolakha town :

Collect customary payments from tenants (dhakre) who have settled on your lands. Let them occupy such lands so long as they want to do so. If they leave, you may reallocate the lands to other persons. Similarly, do not evict people from the houses they are living in.

Chaitra Sudi 15, 1873  
(March 1817)

Regmi Research Collection, vol: 36, p. 522.

Allotment of Jagir Lands to Tenants

On Magh Badi 9, 1903 (January 1847), rice-lands assigned as jagir to a number of Bhardars were reallocated to some tenants on enhanced rates of kut payments. Particulars of these allotments were as follows :

(1) Tenant : Ambar Singh

Allotments

<u>Name of Jagirdar</u>	<u>Area of rice-field</u> (in muris)	<u>Kut rent</u> (old rate) (in muris)	<u>Kut rent</u> (new rate) (in muris)	<u>Ghiukhani</u> Rs.
(a) Sardar Dal Bahadur Shah	20	6	6	1½
(b) do.	20	6	6½	1½
(c) Kaji Dal Kesar Pande	40	12	12	3
(d) <del>Kaji Surath Singh</del>	<del>20</del>	<del>6</del>	<del>6½</del>	<del>1½</del>

(2) Name of Tenant: Ratna Man

Kaji Surath Singh Pantha	20	6	6½	1½
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(3) Tenant: Bishnu Man

Kaji Surath Singh Pantha	20	6	6½	1½
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Total	140	42	44	10½
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The total quantity of kut rent on 140 muris of rice-lands was thus increased from 42 to 44 muris of paddy, in addition to ghiukhane payments totalling Rs 10½, a share of the winter crop, and the chardam theki levy at the customary rate.

The allotment order stated : "Tenants shall make these payments to their jagirdar-landlords and also provide them with loans not exceeding the value of the rents if so asked. Tenants shall repair damaged irrigation channels and construct embankments in rice-fields through their own labor and resources. They shall put manure in the fields, and not cut trees on the borders. They shall also not clear forests for agricultural purposes."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 62, pp. 630-33.

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#### Reclamation of Forest Areas, A.D. 1897

Lt. Gagan Singh Swanr Chhetri had obtained a contract to clear a tract of Jhora forest adjoining the no-man's land on the Nepal-India border in Nepalgunj within a period of three years. Under the terms of the contract, he stipulated a total payment of Kampani Rs 59,000 to the government.

Haji Mohammed Khan, Shivaratan, and other persons obtained a similar contract to clear a tract of Jhora forest west of the Mannara river in Bardiya within four years against a total payment of Kampani Rs 70,000.

In Vikrama 1854 (A.D. 1897) both these contracts were cancelled on the ground that the contractors had not complied with the stipulated terms and conditions. The government then decided to establish a separate office to clear both these Jhora forests and export the timber on amanat basis. Regulations were promulgated outlining the working procedure of that office. The substantive provisions of these regulations are as follows :

3. Timber from both these forests shall be transported to Jamunaha-Ghat;

4. Expenses have been sanctioned as follows :

1 paisa per foot for cutting.

1 paisa do. for transportation.

10 percent less for branches and other small-size timber.

5. Timber extracted from these forests in this manner shall be converted into ties (sleepers) of 6'x8"x4½" size each. Surplus timber, or timber not suitable for producing sleepers, shall be cut for other possible uses. Offers for the purchase of such timber shall be invited from merchants and reported to the government. Sleepers should be made of uniform size, as otherwise they cannot be sold.

6. Timber shall be stacked at a place safe from floods on a floor made of inferior varieties of timber so as to ensure that the dampness of the earth does not reach it. The stacks shall be guarded well from fire accidents, dacoits, etc. Wages shall be paid to the guards at current rates. If the total amount does not exceed Rs 50, disbursements may be made in the presence of representatives of the local Mal and Amini offices. If the amount exceeds Rs 50, sanction must be obtained from the government.

7. In case any merchant makes an offer for specified varieties of timber, he must sign a bond accordingly, and also furnish a deposit amounting to 5 percent of the value of the offer. Timber shall then be released on payment of the value and export duties. In case the merchant does not take delivery of the timber within the stipulated time-limit, the deposit shall be confiscated, and the timber shall be sold to other merchants.

8. Bids shall be invited from lumbermen, carters, sawyers, and boatmen who can cut timber, transport it to the ferry point (ghat), and make sleepers before the season ends. Such bids may be accepted on the condition that the total cost does not exceed four annas for each sleeper.

9. A responsible person shall be appointed to function as Chaudhari of the lumbermen. His responsibility shall be to recruit lumbermen at stipulated rates of wages, disburse advance payments to them, and ensure that supplies of timber reach the Kathmahal in time. The remuneration of the Chaudhari shall consist of one-fourth of the sale price of one piece of timber of each variety supplied through him. As far as possible, only local people shall be appointed as Chaudharis.

10. A separate Chaudhari shall be appointed for carters as well. Each carter shall be paid wages at the rate of one paisa per foot of timber per kos.

11. Dadani advances may be provided to lumbermen and carters through the appropriate Chaudharis.

12. Timber for domestic and agricultural purposes shall be supplied to local people against permits issued by the Banke Mal.

The following staff was sanctioned for the new office :

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Annual salary</u> (Kampani Rs)
1 Lientenant	Rs 600
1 Mukhiya	Rs 400
1 Subedar	Rs 150
1 Nausinda	Rs 108
1 Nausinda	Rs 96
1 Hudda	Rs 54
8 Peons	Rs 360
1 Office peon	Rs 30
Office expenses	Rs 25
	<hr/>
Total	Rs 1,823

Kartik Sudi 12, 1954  
(October 1897)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 61, pp. 432-56.

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Birta Confiscation, A.D. 1805-61. Irregular Birta Grants in Lamjung and Tanahu

Royal order to Bishram Khatri :

You have reported that ten ringleaders of the lawless elements (hulyana) have been put in irons and despatched to Kathmandu. They have not yet reached here; they are probably on the way. After they arrive here, we shall inform you about what happens.

You have also reported that you have confiscated the lands of jaisis and other lawless elements. You have done well.

In addition, you have reported that after compiling particulars of birta lands in Lamjung and Tanahu, and detecting irregular grants, you will proceed across the Madi river. Discharge the functions entrusted to you according to the regulations without fear or favor.

We have formed four companies here. Make arrangements for land assignments to them.

You have asked how much lands should be assigned to the two units (patti) of the Khas Company. Assign lands according to the prescribed schedule (raibandi) to the following personnel of these two pattis:

2 Jamadars  
4 Hawaldars  
4 Aitans  
42 Soldiers

You have reported that you have enlisted the cooperation of responsible persons of Lamjung and Tanahu. This is good. We shall assign them emoluments (khangis) according to their work.

The lands (confiscated in Lamjung and Tanahu) are expected to be sufficient for recruiting ten companies. We have so far recruited four companies. You have asked whether the remaining six companies will be formed now or later. Make no delay in this manner.

Jestha Sudi 8, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 15-16.

## 2. Disbursement Order

Royal order to Bishram Khatri : The total salary of Bhajudeo Khawas for the years 1861 and 1862 (Vikrama) amounts to Rs 410. Of this amount, Rs 50 will be paid here. Disburse the balance of Rs 360 in his name from income earned through land surveys in the region west of the Marsyangdi river and east of the Bheri river. The amount will be debitted when your accounts are audited.

Jestha Sudi 14, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 31.

## 3. Land Surveys in Jumla

A notification was issued on Jestha Sudi 13, 1862 (May 1805) in the name of the people of Jumla that officials have been appointed, and regulations promulgated, to scrutinize birta and guthi land grants and compile particulars of raikar lands, as well as of customs and transit duties (sair, bhansar), taxes on mines (kachho), taxes on homesteads (sirto), and other sources of revenue. Give these officials necessary cooperation. Any person who does not do so shall be severely punished.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp.40-41.

## 4. Royal Order to Rama Chandra Joshi

Ashadh Badi 1, 1862 (June 1805)

We have sent Bishram Khatri to the region situated between the Bheri river in the west and the Chepe-Marsyangdi rivers in the east to confiscate birtas lacking documentary evidence of title, and use such lands to form ten companies. Work in such a manner that your reports are credible and the companies are formed. In other matters, work in consultation with Bishram Khatri. Ascertain whether what you say turns out to be quite accurate, or whether there will be any discrepancy, and report to us early. You will get other information from your brother's letter.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 47-48.

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Revenue from Olanchung-Gola

During the revenue settlements of Vikrama 1925-29 (A.D. 1868-1872), revenue from five villages under the jurisdiction of the Olanchung-Gola was assessed at Mohar Rs 1026.

The settlement was revised in Vikrama 1937 (A.D. 1880) and the assessment was raised by Rs 78-13.

Landen Bhote, who was responsible for the payment of this amount under the thek-thiti system, requested that the old assessment figure be restored.

The local administrator, Bambir Bikram Rana, expressed the following opinion on Landen Bhote's request: "Olanchung-Gola is situated on the border with Tibet. It has a snowy climate, where crops cannot be raised. The people of this area depend solely on agriculture for their livelihood. When the A.D. 1868 revenue settlement had been made, the number of households was found to have declined, hence the assessment was fixed at Mohar Rs 1026. During the revenue settlement of A.D. 1880, however, the figure was raised by Rs 78-13 as if the local people were engaged in tilling the land for crops. If people who have been persuaded to come over from the Tibetan side to settle in this area go back to Tibet because they are unable to pay the enhanced amount, it will not be collected, and, instead, the government will lose even the revenue that it was collecting before." Bambir Bikram Rana, therefore, recommended that the old assessment figure of Mohar Rs 1,026 be restored.

The Sadar Dafdarkhana expressed the following opinion on the matter." The A.D. 1872 revenue assessment order does not stipulate that revenue may not be enhanced during a fresh revenue settlement. Hence it will not be appropriate to recommend that the enhancement of Rs 78-13 be cancelled." This recommendation of the Sadar Dafdarkhana was endorsed by the Muluki Adda, and sanctioned by Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on Shrawan Sudi 5, 1946 (July 1889).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 62, pp. 74-78.

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Deukhuri and Sunar, A.D. 18331. Deukhuri

In 1890 Vikrama (A.D. 1833), the Deukhuri area of Dang-Salyan district had been included in the jagir assignments of Chautariyas.

Reports were received that Deukhuri was being depopulated because of disputes among the local Chaudharis, and actions taken by the local Fouzdars in contravention of traditional practices.

The Chaudharis of Deukhuri, therefore, submitted a petition to Chautariya Jan Shah stipulating that they would make efforts to promote land reclamation and settlement in that area if specified arrangements were made.

Chautariya Jan Shah referred the matter to General Bhimsen Thapa. The following regulations, based on the arrangements proposed by the Chaudharis, were then sanctioned through a royal order issued on Shrawan Badi 1, 1890 (July 1833) :

1. In case plowhands employed on tandha lands for which money has been paid commit any crime, other than crimes which are punishable through enslavement or degradation to a lower caste, the fines and penalties collected from them, as well as their escheat property, shall be appropriated by the local Chaudhari, Mahto, or bandha-owner in the same manner as during the rule of the Raja of Salyan.
2. For crimes other than Panchakhat crimes, fines have customarily been paid at the following rates. In the future also, the Amali and the Fouzdar shall make collections at the same rates :

Chaudhari	...	Rs 25
Mahto	...	Rs 20
Purpaliya	...	Rs 15
Aghautya	...	Rs 12
Phohora	...	Rs 6
Borgan	...	Rs 10
Kodale households, plowhands, and Sukumbasis	...	Rs 5

3. A fine of Rs 10 shall be collected from both parties in case any person commits adultery with a widow or unmarried woman belonging to a caste of equivalent status, provided there is no incest. For rape, the fine shall be five times higher.
4. For injury causing the shedding of blood, a fine of Rs 5. has customarily been paid. Payment shall be made at the same rate in the future also.
5. Prajawat and Gurana levies shall be collected by Chaudharis from Lohars and Damais at the customary rates.
6. For offenses relating to ritual purity (papa), fines have customarily been collected at the following rates. The Amali and the Fouzdar shall make collections at these rates in the future also :

Chaudhari	...	Rs 60
Mahto	...	Rs 50
Purpaliya	...	Rs 40
Aghautya	...	Rs 30
Phohora	...	Rs 20
Plowhands and Sukumbasi	...	Rs 10

7. The Raji-Khuna community had enjoyed exemption from Chak-Chakui fines and escheats from the time of the Raja of Salyan to the Vikrama year 1881 (A.D. 1824). Such payments had been collected from people belonging to that community by Sairdars and Fouzdars from the Vikrama year 1882 (A.D. 1825). We hereby reconfirm the exemption.
8. Rice had customarily been procured for the purpose of elephant hunts (kheddah) at the rate of 16 pathis a rupee. Supply rice at this rate in the future also. For other purposes, do so at the prices current there from time to time against payment in money.
9. No person, whether a bhardar, a revenue-collector (rakami), a government official (jagire), or other individual (dhakre), shall use mulak services for the transportation of his goods. Ryots, on their part, shall not provide porterage services for such goods. They shall do so only for the following categories of goods :
  - (a) Military stores
  - (b) Supplies for elephant hunts
  - (c) Government cash.

Provide porterage services for these categories of goods in your respective areas.

Supply provisions only to officials and functionaries who visit your village to collect revenue, and obtain payment from others. No person, whether a government official or a private individual, shall demand free provisions.

10. Four porters shall be impressed for transporting supplies sent through the bhardars stationed in Salyan for religious ceremonies at the temple of Goddess Patan Devi on the occasion of the Chaitra-Ashtami festival. The bhardars shall not harass people by demanding a larger number of porters.

Shrawan Badi 1, 1890  
(July 1833)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 26, pp. 328-31.

## 2. Sunar

Royal order to Mahtos, ryots, and Raji-Khunas inhabiting different villagies in Sunar Parganna of Dang-Salyan district, which had been included in the jagir assignments of Chautariyas.

"You have submitted the following petition to Chautariya Jan Shah : "Fouzdars, Sairdars, and other officials and functionaries collected taxes (Pota) in an arbitrary manner. In contravention of custom and tradition, they appropriate the escheat property of members of the Raji-Khuna community, inhabiting the area situated west of Bardbaduwa and east of Naniya. Visiting government officials (jagire) and other persons (dhakre) force the local people to provide porterage services (begar) without paying wages, and also demand free provisions. In case such arbitrary actions continue, we shall not be able to stay within the frontiers. If a royal order is issued defining our rights, customs, and usages (thiti), we shall promote land reclamation and settlement and continue to live here." Chautariya Jan Shah referred the petition to General Bhimsen Thapa, who has reported the matter to us."

The royal order then sanctioned the following arrangements to redress the grievances of the inhabitants of Sunar :

1. The Fouzdar shall collect taxes (Pota) from ryots on the basis of an estimation of the area cultivated by them.
2. Sairdars shall not appropriate the escheat property of members of the Raji-Khuna community, or collect Chak-Chakui fines from them.
3. Bhardars, government officials, or individuals shall not force the people to provide porterage services without wages.
4. Ryots shall pay Pota taxes on their lands, as well as fines and penalties, as before. They shall obey the orders of the Amali.

5. Members of the Raji-Khuna community need not relinquish their claim to escheat property.
6. Porterage services shall be provided only for military stores, cash belonging to us, and supplies required for elephant-hunts, not for transporting goods belonging to bhardars, government officials, or other individuals.
7. Free provisions shall be supplied only to officials and functionaries who visit the village to collect revenue. Provisions shall be supplied to others only against payment at current rates.
8. Any person who does not comply with these regulations shall be severely punished.

Shrawan Badi 1, 1890  
(July 1833)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 26. pp. 327-28.

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#### Sale of Wax in Patna

Madhav Lal, a merchant of Patan, offered a price of Rs 41 per maund of wax stocked at the Alainchi Kothi in Patna. The offer was made in Kathmandu.

On the basis of this offer, bids were invited in both Kathmandu and Patna. But no higher offer was received.

The Nepali Wakil at Calcutta, Lt. Colonel Bishwanath, was then instructed to submit a report on the price of wax current there. According to his report, prices ranged between Rs 45 and 46 per maund of high-quality wax, and between Rs 31 and Rs 40 for wax of inferior quality.

The Chief of the Alainchi Kothi at Patna, Captain Ratnanidhi Padhya, was then ordered to invite fresh bids with a week's time limit, and submit a report to Kathmandu at the end of that period.

Jestha Badi 9, 1942  
(May 1885)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 52, pp. 285-93.

(Note : The document does not mention the date of Madhav Lal's original offer. Prime Minister Ranoddip Singh's order to take action on the offer was communicated to the Muluki Aada on Poush Sudi 5, 1941 (December 1884). The matter had not been finalized by Jestha Badi 9, 1942 (May 1885), even though nearly six months had passed. It is also noteworthy that transactions through the Alainchi Kothi at Patna were sanctioned directly from Kathmandu).

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### Two Proclamations of A.D. 1951

#### 1. Prime Minister Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana's Proclamation

(Grishma Bahadur Devkota, Nepalako Rajanitika Darpan (Political mirror of Nepal), Kathmandu : Keshav Chandra Gautam, 2016 (1960), pp. 39-43).

On Poush 24, 2007 (January 8, 1951), Prime Minister Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana made the following proclamation in the name of the Nepali people :

"It is now 104 years since Shri 3 Maharaj Jung Bahadur, on the order of the then King and Bharadars, and the people, assumed responsibility for the governance of this country. The circumstances in which that change took place are already described in history. I can only remind you of the fact that the country had been plagued at the time by internal conflict, disturbances, and chaos resulting from misrule. With the emergence of Maharaj Jung Bahadur, tranquillity and stability were rapidly restored in the country.

"Without mentioning other memorable events that took place in the last century, I can say for certain that Maharaj Jung Bahadur and his successors not only preserved but also consolidated the independence, the priceless jewel of Nepal, thereby guaranteeing to the countrymen the benefits of security, prosperity and a stable government. These things are essential for the prosperity and happiness of all societies.

"However, with a view to making it possible for Nepal to move according to the changed circumstances, and associating the people in the affairs of state to a greater extent than before, we promulgated the Nepal Government Constitutional Law on Baisakh 1, 2004 (April 13, 1947).

"The provisions of that law were enforced with effect from Baisakh 2 (April 14) of the same year. So far, 200 Panchayats, including Village and district Panchayats, have been constituted all over the country. The Central Parliament too was constituted on Ashwin 6, 2004 (September 21, 1950), though not all the formalities required for its establishment had been completed. Several administrative committees were formed at the first session of the Parliament.

"Thus the difficult task of laying the foundations has been nearly completed, and the people have been led along the path of free and independent democracy peacefully. In the light of the success we have so far achieved in these tasks, and of the current national and international situation, which we have carefully assessed, as well as of the desire of our government to associate the countrymen to a greater extent in the administration of the country, we believe that it is now possible to quicken the pace of political advancement without disturbing the situation. With this aim in mind, and with faith in the patriotism of the countrymen, we have resolved to initiate the following steps, and we hope that they will help the country to move toward the realization of its aim :

"A Constituent Assembly (Vaidhanika Sabha) established through a general election in which all the adults of the country will take part shall be established as early as possible.

"For this purpose, preparations have been started for conducting a population census. Compilation of voters' lists for elections to the Constituent Assembly will also be completed as early as possible. Though this is a new and difficult task, we earnestly hope that the Constituent Assembly will be able to hold its first session before 2009 (April 12, 1953). Its main task will be to draft the future Constitution of the country.

2. Lest the measures required for the establishment of the Constituent Assembly should lead to a slackening of the pace of progress, a cabinet shall be formed at the center soon. It shall consist of 14 members, of whom seven will be the trusted representatives of the people.

The administration of the country will be handed over to the cabinet, which shall function on the basis of the principle of collective responsibility and frame its procedural rules itself. It shall have powers in respect to the revenues and expenditure of the country. The budget system shall be introduced soon.

The cabinet shall make necessary arrangements to run all administrative departments of the government smoothly.

3. The 1948 Constitutional Law shall remain operative pending the promulgation of a new Constitution to be drafted by the Constituent Assembly. But in case some changes made through this proclamation, or those to be effected by the Cabinet, conflict with the provisions of the said law, the new arrangements shall be valid.

The following provisions of the 1948 Constitutional Law, which remain to be enforced, shall be enforced as early as possible :

(a) Provisions relating to separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

(b) Appointment of an Advocate-General and an Auditor-General.

(c) Formation of a Public Service Commission to select qualified candidates for government service, and similar other arrangements relating to the administration of the country.

So far, 200 village and district Panchayats have been constituted, and efforts will be made to constitute the remaining 500 or so Panchayats before Chaitra 30, 2009 (April 12, 1953).

4.(a) As it is our heartfelt desire to promote goodwill and cordial cooperation between the government and the countrymen, we are prepared to grant amnesty to armed rebels, provided they renounce their policy of violence and completely cease fighting. But persons guilty of cold-blooded murder, looting, and arson shall not be entitled to amnesty. Political prisoners who are currently in detention and are not involved in murder, loot, or arson will also be granted amnesty if they repudiate the policies indicated above.

(b) Political associations established by Nepalis living abroad, or individuals who renounce violence and follow the path of non-violence, are all welcome to cooperate in the lofty task of ensuring the prosperity and good governance of the country if they wish to do so.

(c) Nepalis living within Nepal will in no way be prevented from establishing political associations. Such associations must function in accordance with the law.

5. Everyone is aware of the circumstances in which His Majesty King Gnyaniendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev had had to be placed on the throne of Nepal. But certain friendly governments who maintain diplomatic relations with us have not recognized this change. Besides, uneasiness and confusion have been spreading among the countrymen because the issue remains unsettled. On the pretext of this issue, trouble-makers too

have fomented large-scale disturbances, indulged in plunder, attacked people, and even murdered several innocent persons. In the course of our discussions with the Indian government, the latter has offered some friendly suggestions to the effect that it would be possible to establish tranquillity in the country if His Majesty King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah Dev, in consultations with the Nepal government, appointed a Regent to function until his return to Nepal. On Poush 2, 2007 (January 7, 1951), we convened a special meeting of the Parliament and the Bhardari-Sabha to discuss the matter. These institutions, after considering the circumstances, recommended that in the interests of tranquillity and stability in the country, His Majesty King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah Dev may appoint a Regent on the advice of the government of Nepal to function during his absence. We would like to announce that in the opinion of the Government of Nepal the decision of the Parliament and the Bhardari-Sabha is appropriate, and that it accordingly endorses that decision.

We gratefully appreciate the manner in which all government employees have remained firm on their duty and worked honestly at this hour of crisis.

I would like to give a special message to our beloved brothers in the army at this moment. At a time when the country is passing through a difficult and dangerous situation, you have maintained your tradition of patriotism and bravery without letting it be sullied in any way. You have stood with unflinching patience on the side of your government. My beloved brothers, I would like to assure you that your interests and welfare will remain uppermost in our mind as they have been all along. Even after the proposed constitutional changes are made, we shall remain on your side with integrity and fortitude. The officers and personnel of the Police Department too have remained steadfast in their duty at such a difficult moment and worked wholeheartedly and faithfully, for which we extend our happy appreciation and sincere thanks.

You need not feel worried about what will happen in the future.

We firmly hope that the entire Nepali people will welcome the important reforms that have been announced today in the same spirit of pure patriotism and goodwill in which these have been made. We also hope the entire people will extend cooperation to the government in attaining its lofty objective of enhancing the peace and prestige of our beloved motherland. We have full hope that every patriotic Nepali will properly understand the importance of the additional constitutional reforms that have been announced today

Any changes that may be necessary in any field in the course of implementing these reforms are our private affair, and will be made after consultations from time to time according to need.

Remember that at this hour the eyes of the entire world are on us. We must show before the world that the Nepalis alone can determine a bright destiny for Nepal. It is, in fact, a sacred duty on our part to be able to maintain the reputation of our country and people. We have gained immortal fame in many battle-fields in the cause of freedom and justice. In case each one of us unitedly comes forward to serve the motherland with firmness, courage, and cooperation, and works according to his wisdom and capacity, we shall be able to gain equal fame in the path of peace. There is no doubt about this.

We pray for the grace of Sri Pashupatinath and Sri Guhyakali on this country and people, so that we may be able to attain the lofty goals that we have set for ourselves, and promote the happiness and prosperity of our nation through the reforms that we have announced today. May the peace, integrity, and independence of our country, in which every true Nepali takes just pride, remain safe and immortal even in these difficult and turbulent times.

## 2. King Tribhuvan's Proclamation

The following proclamation was made by His Majesty King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah Dev on Falgun 7, 2007 (February 18, 1951) in the name of the nation :-

Whereas in 1903 Vikrama (1846 A.D.) our great-grand father, His Majesty King Surendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, who occupied this throne at the time, had, for serious and important reasons, handed over the administration of the country to Shri 3 Maharaj Jung Bahadur Rana on his own behalf and on behalf of his successors,

Whereas, the successors of Shri 3 Maharaj Jung Bahadur Rana had been running the administration of this country on behalf of our predecessors as their Prime Ministers,

Whereas Shri 3 Maharaj Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana has been running the administration of this country on our behalf and in our name,

Whereas we have now desired and decided to have the administration of the country run in the future by our people in accordance with a democratic (ganatantratmaka) Constitution grafted by a Constituent Assembly elected by themselves,

And whereas it is our desire and resolve to form a cabinet including the trusted representatives of the people to assist and advise us in discharging our functions until the preparation of such a Constitution,

Now, therefore, we have, through this proclamation, formed and appointed a cabinet consisting of the following persons to assist us in the performance of our functions, with our highly trusted and beloved Shri 3 Maharaj Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana as Prime Minister and Foreign Minister :

Babar Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana	... Minister of Defense
Bi shweshwar Prasad Koirala	... Minister of Home
Subarna Shumshere	... Minister of Finance
Chuda Raj Shumshere	... Minister of Forests
Ganesh Man Singh	... Minister of Industry and Commerce
Yagnya Bahadur Basnet	... Minister of Health and Local-Self Government
Bhadrakali Mishra	... Minister of Transport
Bharat Mani Sharma	... Minister of Food and Agriculture

These persons shall hold office at our pleasure and shall remain collectively responsible to us. It shall be the duty of the Prime Minister to communicate to us all decisions of the cabinet on matters concerning the administration of this country, and he shall also submit to us all reports sought by us in respect to administrative matters.

We hereby call on all our countrymen to remain wholeheartedly loyal to us and our heir-apparent, and order all our civil and military officers, as well as other people of this country, to assist and help our ministers in discharging their duties faithfully.

It is our wish to grant amnesty as well as pardon to all persons involved in political offenses, and restore their property which had been confiscated on grounds of such offenses, if they return home before Chaitra 20, 2007 (April 3, 1951) and engage themselves in peaceful vocations.

It is our earnest hope that in the new order the government and the people will work together for promoting the progress and prosperity of the country. May the Almighty bestow on us and our authorities the strength to fulfil our wishes as outlined above in the interests of our countrymen.

Source : Grishma Bahadur Devkota, op. cit. pp. 49-52.

Birta Confiscation, A.D. 1805-6

(Continued from the February 1983 issue)

5. Eastern Tarai Region

Royal order to Dharma Simha Bhandari : "We have deputed you, along with Gaja Simha Khatri, to scrutinize birta, fakirana, guth, brahmottar, bekh-bunyad, istamar, and other land grants in Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Saptari and Mahottari, situated east of the Bariya river and west of the Kosi river. Make no delay in taking up this assignment. We hereby grant you a salary of Rs 400 for the (Vikrama) year 1862, which shall be debited from revenues collected by you.

Ashadh Badi 2, 1862  
(June 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 52-53.

6. Guthi Endowments in Kathmandu Valley

On Ashadh Badi 3, 1862 (June 1805), Baka Khatri was granted authority to scrutinize guth endowments made by the state as well as by individuals, as well as to inspect temples, roadside shelters, water-spouts, etc. The following instructions were issued to him :

1. Do not take any payment from those who operate guth endowments according to the terms and conditions stipulated in the deed of endowment.

2. Collect fees (panphul) at the rates mentioned below from those who operate guth endowments which lack documentary evidence.

3. In case any person is found to have misappropriated the ornaments of deities, the value thereof shall be realized from him, and used to make new ornaments.

4. Payments (panphul) shall be collected according to their economic status from those who misappropriate the ornaments of deities, or sell, purchase, mortgage guth lands. Fines shall also be imposed on them.

5. In the future, persons guilty of selling, purchasing, or mortgaging guth lands without operating the endowment, or misappropriating the lands and ornaments of deities, shall be punished with enslavement or confiscation of property according to their caste status. A public notification to this effect shall be issued throughout Kathmandu Valley.

6. Income collected in the course of the enforcement of these measures shall be transmitted to the government through the Chief (dittha) of the Dafdarkhana. After the work is finished, accounts shall be submitted, and clearance obtained.

(Rates of Fees (Panphul))

(Pertaining to No. 2 above)

Rates of fees per ropani to be collected from persons who operate guth endowments lacking documentary evidence :

<u>Grade of Land</u>	<u>Rate per Ropani</u>
Abal	R. 1
Doyam	12 annas
Sim	8 annas
Chahar	4 annas

Ashadh Badi 3, 1862  
(June 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 62-64.

7. Royal Orders to Bishram Khatri

(1) "We hereby authorize you to assign lands needed to meet the deficit according to the raibandi schedule to the personnel of the Ramadal Company from lands confiscated by you in the course of surveys in the region situated west of the Chepe and Marsyangdi rivers and east of the Bheri river. They have been deputed to the front, hence make no delay in making these assignments."

Ashadh Badi 5, 1862  
(June 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 70.

(2) "You have reported that surveys are underway to raise adequate lands for the recruitment of four companies. You have also compiled tax-assessment registers (Jammabandi) for rice-lands belonging to the Brahmans of Dordor in Tanahu district who were unable to take oath on the Harivansha. We have issued orders in respect to all these matters, and also promulgated regulations. So far, you have worked in accordance with those orders and regulations.

"Make no delay in assigning lands for the four companies. People here say that after work is completed there, enough lands will become available to recruit even ten or twelve companies. You are therefore ordered to assign lands for the four companies as early as possible and then report how much will be available to recruit additional companies.

"You have also transmitted a sum of Rs 700 which Krishnananda Lohani has accepted as a bribe. We are sending a receipt for this amount.

"You have asked for surveyors (dangol) and we are sending twelve.

"The Jaisi criminals sent by you have reached here. They will get the treatment they deserve. You have done well to confiscate the lands of Jaisi ringleaders there. Find out the lands of similar other persons, if any, confiscate such lands, and assign them to the Company.

"In case you make any delay in your work, we shall flay you alive. You have also written about your emoluments; we shall increase them according to your work. Work wholeheartedly and expeditiously.

"Ascertain whether Krishnananda Lohani has obtained any other bribes, or if any other person has done so, and transmit the amounts to us.

"You have asked what action should be taken regarding the birta grants made by Hara Kumara Datta Sen after he went back to Tanahu after being released by us and once more became King. Hara Kumara Datta must be regarded as having helped us, rather than functioned as a vassal (thapala). Hence reconfirm all ritual (sankalpa) birta grants made by him, with the boundaries specified after scrutinizing the documents."

"Pay the twelve surveyors wages at the rate of 2 annas each daily."

Ashadh Badi 12, 1862  
(June 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 85-87.

A receipt for Rs 700 (Rs 600 in paisa rupees and Rs 100 in Mohar rupees), which had been accepted as a bribe by Krishnananda Lohani and recovered from him through Bishram Khatri, was issued on Ashadh Badi 13, 1862.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 92-93.

## 8. Palpa

Additional regulations issued in the names of Kaji Dalabhanjan Pande, Kaji Ambar Simha Thapa, and Kaji Birabhadra (in Palpa).

1. All lands granted as birta or bandha by Raja Prithvi Pal after the (Vikrama) year 1848 (A.D. 1791) shall be confiscated, converted into raikar, and assigned as jagir to the army.

2. You have asked what action should be taken on former bandha grants in which the Brahman mortgagees have made additional payments, and later rulers have granted additional lands and issued royal orders subsequent to 1848 Vikrama (A.D. 1791). Confiscate all additional lands granted after

that year. Scrutinize the original bandha grants and conduct local inquiries. If the local people affirm that the grants are authentic, and take oath accordingly on the Hariyamsha, Shaligrama stones, Ganga water, Tulasi plants, and copper, reconfirm such grants on the basis of the original payment. Confiscate the excess area. Issue a proclamation to the effect that in case any person is proved to have taken oath falsely on payment of bribes, or through fear or favor, he shall be liable to be punished with death or enslavement of his family. In case the local people take oath (regarding the authenticity of any bandha land grant), send us a list of such lands, along with particulars regarding the name of the donor, and the amount of money paid. We shall issue order reconfirming such lands on payment of a fee of one rupee for each 20 muris.

3. You have asked what action should be taken on claims made by Brahmans that the ancestors of any person had obtained loans from them before 1848 Vikrama and demanding repayment, or else foreclosure of the lands held in consideration of such loans. All lands given away in such a manner after 1848 Vikrama shall be confiscated, converted into raikar, and assigned to the army. In case the lands had been granted as bandha formerly, make deductions in the area according to the regulations. As regards the excess area, do not accept payment in money, but resume the necessary area and assign it to the army.

4. You have asked what action should be taken in case any person is found to have exchanged one holding for another. Reconfirm such holdings if they are equal in respect to area, yield, and value. Otherwise, confiscate the holding and send back such person to his former holding.

5. You have asked what action should be taken in respect to lands granted and payments made previously, which were subsequently reconfirmed by Siddhipratapa Shah. In such matters, scrutinize the names of the donors and the Brahman beneficiaries, and reconfirm the lands if the grants are found to be authentic in all respects. In case they are not found to be authentic, and in case (the owner) are unable to swear that they are authentic, converts the lands into raikar and assign them to the army.

6. You have asked what action should be taken in respect to claims that royal orders (lalmohar) have been stolen, looted, destroyed by fire, or lost. In such cases, conduct local inquiries to ascertain the names of the donors, the beneficiaries, and the boundaries, and in case responsible persons swear by the Hariyamsha that the grants are authentic, reconfirm them. Otherwise, convert the lands into raikar and assign them to the army.

7. You have asked what action should be taken in respect to former bandha lands which have been granted as birta after 1848 Vikrama to the same person. In such cases, scrutinize the reason why money was paid, the name of the Brahman beneficiary, and the authenticity of the grant. In case the grant is found to be authentic, reconfirm it after making deductions in the area according to the regulations. Convert the excess area into raikar and assign it to the army. All bandha and birta grants made after 1848 Vikrama shall be cancelled.

8. Soldiers forfeit their birta and bandha lands when their King loses his throne. Confiscate such lands, convert them into raikar, and assign them to the army.

Ashadh Badi 7, 1862  
(June 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 76-80.

9. Royal Order to Bag Simha Thapa, Jarul Bohara, Kirtibir Thapa, and Biru Gurung

"We have received your report.. You have mentioned in that report that you have reached your destination quickly, formed Companies, assigned rice-lands and homestead revenues (khuwa), and started surveys. This is good. Any one who makes delay in this work shall be punished. We have sent surveyors (dangol) according to your request. In case any one causes any obstruction, take necessary action there, if possible, or else capture him and send him here."

Ashadh Badi 12, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 85.

(To be Continued)

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Construction of Forts

(Free Translations)

Dailekh

Royal order to Subba Basanta Bokati and Bhimal Sen Bokati of Simta, Dailekh :

"We have received reports that forts (gadhi) and checkpoints (thana) have not been built in that area. We are, therefore, sending Subedar Jagajit Pande along with one company. In consultation with the Subedar, the Subba of Simta shall make arrangements for the construction of forts and fords (sanghu), and maintain guards there. The Subba of Dailekh shall impress unpaid labor (jhara) in the area under his jurisdiction and construct a fort at Kanta in Surkhet. The fort should be constructed on a broad and elevated site according to the number of troops stationed there. Good stones should be procured from quarries and polished, and the foundation should be strong. A deep well should be dug inside the fort with lime mortar so that sufficient water should be available. The palisades should be buried deep, and protected with stockades and embankments. Maintain sufficient stocks of foodgrains and water in the fort at all times. Man the fort adequately with your sons and brothers. Persuade those inhabitants of Surkhet who have fled to other areas to come back, allot them lands with tax exemption for an initial period according to the nature of the lands. Promote settlement in this manner and have the lands cultivated. In case there is action anywhere, the company will be despatched to that place for help. The two checkpoints of Dailekh shall be retained for the protection of Simta. We shall depute thartheks to inspect whether or not the fort has been constructed according to our instructions. Expedite such construction.

Bhadra Badi 11, 1853  
(August 1796)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 23, pp. 97-98.

The following instructions were issued in the name of Subedar Jagajit Pande on the same day (Bhadra Badi 11, 1853) :

You are hereby ordered to go to Dailekh along with one company of troops. Since durable forts and fords have not been constructed there, we have sent orders to impress jhara labor at Panchthapala and other areas for constructing durable fords at ... and Sunagaun. Impress jhara labor in Rukum, Musikot, and Jajarkot for the construction of a fort at Dailekh. The site of the fort should be broad and elevated. Procure hard and durable stones from quarries to construct the fort. Construct a building with a stone roof inside the fort to store food and military supplies. Construct a deep tank with lime mortar so that adequate water may be available. Maintain sufficient supplies of foodgrains, water, and arms

and ammunition to last all the twelve months of the year. Erect palisades with strong foundations and also construct strong stockades. With the help of the Subba of Dailekh, persuade the ryots of Surkhet who have left for other areas to come back and reclaim rice fields and promote settlement in Surkhet. In case there is any action any where, send the company to that place, while the Subba shall look after the fort. At other times, the company shall remain in the fort. We shall depute tharthoks and umras to inspect whether or not fords have been constructed, and whether or not other instructions have been complied with. Expedite such construction.

Bhadra Sudi 11, 1853

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 23, pp. 99-100.

#### Achham

Royal order to Subedar Bamsya Khetri of the Ranajung Company.

We have received reports that forts and fords have not been constructed there in a durable manner. You are, therefore, ordered to impress the jhara labor of people belonging to the four castes and 36 sub-castes throughout Achham, and also enlist the labor of military personnel stationed there, to construct forts and fords in a durable manner. The fort should be constructed on a broad and elevated site with strong foundations. The roof should be constructed with hard and durable stones procured from quarries. A building with a stone roof shall be constructed for military stores and foodgrains. A deep well should be dug inside the fort with lime mortar so that sufficient water may be available. Sufficient stocks of foodgrains, water, and military stores should be maintained so as to last all the twelve months of the year. Fords should be constructed in such a way that the foundations are strong and durable on both sides of the river. We shall depute tharthoks and umras to inspect whether or not forts and fords have been constructed there according to our instructions. Expedite such construction.

Bhadra Badi 11, 1853  
(August 1796)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 23, p. 98.

#### Pyuthan

On Bhadra Badi 11, 1853, separate royal orders were issued in the name of the Amalidars of the Nisi and Bhuji areas of Parbat, and of Galkot, to impress the jhara labor of the local inhabitants for the construction a fort at Pyuthan. Subba Ranajit Kanwar was in charge of the construction project.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 23, p. 98.

Another royal order, in the name of Subba Ranajit Kanwar, contained the following instructions :

"We have sent orders to impress jhara labor for the construction of a fort there. Send troops (tilanga) to round up jhara laborers and construct a fort (gadhi) and checkpoints (thana). Construct the fort at a site north of the Pyuthan palace which should be broad and elevated. Use hard and durable stones procured from quarries for such construction and make the foundations strong. Dig a tank inside the fort with lime mortar so that sufficient water may be available. Erect palisades with deep foundations and build stockades and embankments. Maintain adequate stocks of arms and ammunition, food, and water. Arms and ammunition may have to be stocked inside the palace as well. Undertake repairs regularly. Construct durable checkpoints at Sheoraj and Dhunwakot also. We have received reports that the ford (sanghu) on the Madi river has been damaged; repair it. Construct a strong ford (phatukya) on the lower reaches of the Phorya-Khola also. Since no labor will be available for elephant hunts if jhara labor is impressed from the local people for these construction projects, we have sent orders to impress such labor in other areas. Allot work according to the area and the projects.

Bhadra Badi 11, 1853  
(August 1796)

Regmi Research Collection , vol. 23, p. 99.

### Doti

Royal order to Aiman Bogati and Galya Khawas, Subedars of the Barahadal Company and the Devidal Company respectively of Doti :

"We have received reports that forts and fords in Doti have not been constructed in a durable manner. We have sent an order to the Raja (of Doti) also to construct forts and district headquarters (Gaunda). Along with the Dittha, you two Subedars shall impress jhara labor from people belonging to all the four castes and thirty-six sub-castes in Doti, and also employ the companies in the construction of the following forts, fords, etc. Allot work to them in different areas and expedite the construction. Construct the forts on a broad and elevated site sufficient to accommodate the troops stationed there. The foundations should be of hard stones, and the ground levelled. Dig a deep well inside the fort with lime mortar so that sufficient water may be available. Maintain sufficient stocks of food, water, and arms and ammunition to last all the twelve months of the year. We shall depute tharthoks to inspect whether or not the fort and fords are being constructed according to our instructions.

List of Construction Projects

1. A ford shall be constructed at a suitable place on the Seti river along the main route.
2. A strong fort shall be constructed at Banchhar in place of the Silgadi fort.
3. A building shall be constructed at Dhunyaldanda for storing arms and ammunition, as well as a durable well. A building for storing arms and ammunition shall be constructed inside the fort also.
4. A strong fort shall be constructed at Mallaj at the site where a fort had previously been constructed by the Rohilla, with stockades, palisades, and embankments on all sides.
5. Allot jhara labor from specified areas for the construction of a checkpost and a ford on the ... river. Issue orders to construct them in a durable manner.

Bhadra Sudi 13, 1853

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 23, pp. 100-1.

Chhanna

Royal order to Subedar Birabhanjan Shahi of the Ranabam Company.

"Remain at Chhanna with one company. Impress jhara labor from the inhabitants of Chhanna, Bajura, Bajhang, Thalahara, Sunni and Talkot to construct a fort at the site of the old palace at Chhanna. The site should be broad and elevated, and sufficient to accommodate the troops stationed there. Locate a quarry containing hard and durable stones to build the fort and make the foundations strong. Construct a building with stone roof inside the fort to store arms and ammunition. Construct a reservoir to store water, and stock sufficient food and water in the fort. Erect palisades and construct stockades and embankments. Construct durable fords on different streams and rivers so that the movement of troops may not be obstructed when necessary. In the event of any action, retain the necessary number of troops to defend the fort and despatch the rest to the front. We shall depute tharthoks to inspect whether or not our instructions have been complied with. Make no delay in construction .

Bhadra Sudi 13, 1853

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 23, p. 102.

Cardamom Farming in Nepal

By

Mahesh Chandra Regmi

("Nepalama Alainchi Khetiko Prachinata" (The long history of cardamom farming in Nepal), Gorkhapatra, Falgun 9, 2039 (February 21, 1983).

On Magh 28, 2039 (February 11, 1983), the Gorkhapatra published an article on cardamom farming by Bishnu Datta Upreti. The article contains a number of errors.

According to Bishnu Datta Upreti, cardamom farming was introduced in Nepal from Sikkim around Vikrama 1925 (A.D. 1868). But there is evidence that it has a longer history.

In his account of Nepal around A.D. 1814, Francis Hamilton has written: "A most valuable article of cultivation, in these mountainous parts, is a large species of cardamom." Hamilton has also given a brief description of the methods of cardamom farming.

Cardamom was cultivated extensively particularly in the Paudur area of Kaski district. There was a government cardamom plantation at that place. Gajabal Gurung had been appointed caretaker (Chitaidar) of that plantation from Vikrama 1885 to 1894 (A.D. 1828 to 1837). According to a royal order issued on Chaitra Sudi 8, 1884 (March 1828), he was required to supply 81 dharnis of cardamom to the Tosakhana every year. The royal order also instructed Gajabal Gurung to develop the plantation, dismiss tenants who kept cardamom fields uncultivated, and replace them by other tenants.

According to a royal order issued on Shrawan Badi 3, 1855 (July 1798), Chhoti Singh Newar was granted a contract (ijara) for the collection of a tax, known as nirkhi, on commercial transactions. The order lists copper, iron, lead, wax, medicinal herbs (bikhma, kutki, jatamasi, tejpat, taj), cardamom, cotton, and paper as indigenous commodities.

Considerable evidence is available regarding the export trade and monopoly in cardamom. In his account of the district of Purnea in Bihar around A.D. 1809, Francis Hamilton has recorded that cardamom exported from Nepal was sold in Mirzapur, Murshedabad, and other Indian towns.

In 1790, the British Collector of Tirhut Province in Bihar reported to his government that cardamom was one of the commodities imported from Nepal. In his accounts of the districts of Monghyr and Purnea, William Hunter has written that in the following year Nepal had exported cardamom worth Rs 2000 to India.

On Jestha Badi 13, 1845 (May 1788), Shiva Bhansari was granted an ijara for the management of monopolies in cardamom, wax, and chares in the region situated west of the Seti river and east of the Kali river. An ijara for the collection of revenue from different sources, granted to Shyamasunder Newar on Marga Sudi 5, 1860 (November 1803), contains a reference to the cardamom monopoly.

Cardamom grown in the hill region was exported to India through the golas of the Tarai region. On Chaitra Badi 7, 1892 (March 1837) Subba Hiralal Jha obtained an ijara for managing the three golas of Ambarpur in Saptari, Sikharmadi-Siswa in Chaudandi, and Bijayapur in Morang. A royal order granting the ijara in his name lists cardamom as one of the commodities exported to the south through these golas.

An order was issued on Baisakh Badi 3, 1906 (April 1849) in the name of traders, local functionaries (amali), and village headmen (thari, mukhiya) in the region situated east of Kamala-Bahadura and west of the Mechi river. It refers to a petition submitted by ijaradars complaining that cardamom, wax, and other commodities produced in the hill region which were covered by monopolies were being sold not in golas but at other places in India.

According to the law of revenue collection (Rairakam Ko), contained in the Muluki Ain (Legal Code) promulgated in Vikrama 1910 (A.D. 1854), "In case it is proved that cardamom and other commodities which must be sold only in golas and other government establishments are sold elsewhere, these shall be confiscated, and the seller and the purchaser shall each be punished with a fine amounting to half the value thereof."

Bishnu Datta Upreti has also written that around Vikrama 1975 (A.D. 1918), the then Rana government had established a Cardamom Depot (Alainchi-Kothi) at Patna in Bihar province of India and started exporting cardamom through it. It is clear that the Patna establishment came to be known as Alainchi-Kothi because Nepal used it for the cardamom trade, but the history of that trade goes back much earlier than Vikrama 1975 (A.D. 1918).

In his accounts of Bihar and Patna around 1811-12, Francis Hamilton has noted that "the Raja (of Nepal) has a kind of factory at Patna."

According to a royal order issued on Jestha Sudi 3, 1885 (May 1828), one Shaligrama was appointed caretaker of the Patna "factory," replacing his brother, Mohan. Shaligram was instructed to collect rents from the tenants, and use the proceeds to pay the salaries of himself and his staff, as well as to repair and maintain the building in consultation with Devarishi Padhya. He was assigned a salary of Rs 16 a month, and provision was also made for a peon at Rs 3 a month, and one sweeper at Rs 2 a month.

On Marga Badi 3, 1918 (November 1861), Chandrabir Bista Chhetri was appointed as Captain with seven golas and Udayapur-Gadhi under his jurisdiction for a one-year period from Poush Badi 1, 1918 to Marga Sudi 15, 1919. These golas were Bijayapur, Letang, Ratuwa, Singimadi, Raksa and Chatra (belonging to the local monastery), in Morang, and the central (goswara) gola of Chauriya in Saptari. His duties included state-trading in cardamom and other commodities.

On the same day, regulations were issued in the name of Captain Chandrabir Bista Chhetri. Section 8 of these regulations reads as follows :

"Purchase on behalf of the golas such commodities arriving there from the hill region which can be traded with profit at prices current according to the season. Commodities purchased in this manner, including cardamom, cardamom seeds, wax, fish (titya), soap-nut (rittha), Pindalu, long pepper (pipla), other medicinal herbs and drugs (piplamul, bikh, bikhma, jatamasi, silajit, kutki), lac, musk, yak-tails, ganja, chares, and borax, shall be despatched to Patna after making arrangements for payment of wages to porters and boatmen."

On the basis of this evidence, we may conclude that cardamom farming possibly dates back to the period before political unification, but that state-trading in this commodity through the Patna establishment started during the time of Maharaj Jung Bahadur.

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Birta Confiscation, A.D. 1805-6

(Continued from the March 1983 issue)

1. Bheri-Mahakali Region

Regulations for the regions situated west of the Bheri river and east of the Mahakali river in the names of Subedars Puran Shahi, Laxmi Das Pantha, Karna Simha Khawas, and Upendra Simha.

We hereby authorize you to inspect the following categories of lands in the Tarai (Madhesh), Himalayan (Bhot), and hill (Parbat) areas of the Bheri-Mahakali region :

- (1) Raikar and other lands in the possession of Rajas and vassal chiefs (Thapaula) and the army (Kampani).
- (2) Birta, bitalab, pati, Paiwa, guthi, bandha, mayabi, and other (tax-free) lands.

In the course of such inspection, consult the local amalis and other knowledgeable persons. Do not be misled by any one, but work according to the regulations. In case any person, high or low, submits any information or complaint against you, we shall not listen to one side only. We shall give a hearing to both sides and inflict appropriate punishment on the guilty. With due assurance, work expeditiously according to the regulations, instead of making any delay.

Regulations

1. Inspect rope ferries (tar-ghat) in areas west of the Vishnumati river and east of the Mahakali river, and arrange for repairs where necessary. In case cannon despatched to Kumaun in the Vikrama year 1861 (A.D. 1804) had been held up anywhere, punish the local amali and the local people in such a manner that they will not repeat such lapses in the future.

2. Ascertain the annual income in cash and in kind from rice-fields, villages, pakho lands, mines, duties (sair), and other sources of revenue appropriated by the army, Subbas, Rajas, and vassal chiefs in the Tarai, Himalayan, and hill areas of Doti, Bajura, Bajhang, Achham, Dallu, Dailekh, and Jajarkot.

3. There are eight companies in Doti. Each company consists of 101 riflemen, 1 Subedar, 4 Jamadars, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 Kote, 1 Nisan, 1 drummer (tabal), 2 tasa, 2 marfa, 2 bheri, 2 bansuri, 2 blacksmiths (lohar), 1 carpenter, 2 cobblers, 1 Pipa-jamadar, 16 pipas, and 20 Khalasis of artillery, thus making a total of 162. Allot lands according to the prescribed schedule (raibandi) to the personnel of the eight companies in such a manner that no complaints are made. Allot lands yielding an income of Rs 2,500 as the emoluments (khangi) of the Subba. Submit

separate statements containing particulars of the lands allotted to the eight companies and the Subba, and we shall endorse such allotments. Earmark a reasonable amount from the income of the remaining lands to meet annual expenditures in Doti, and use the balance to recruit additional companies.

4. There is one company in Bajura and Bajhang. It consists of 130 riflemen, 1 Subedar, 4 Jamadars, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 Kote, 2 Nisans, 1 drummer (tabal), 2 tasa, 2 marfa, 2 bheri, 2 bansuri, 2 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 2 cobblers, 1 Pipa-jamadar, 22 Pipas, and 20 Khalasis of artillery, thus making a total of 197. Allot lands to them according to the prescribed schedule in such a manner that no complaints are made. Allot 200 muris to 400 muris of rice-lands, along with pakho lands according to the size of their family and retinue, to rajas and vassal chiefs who are loyal to us. Use the surplus lands, if any, to recruit additional companies.

5. There are three companies in Achham, each with 101 riflemen, 1 Subedar, 4 Jamadars, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 Kote, 2 Nisan, 1 tabala, 2 tasa, 2 marfa, 2 bhari, 2 bansuri, 2 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 2 cobblers, 1 Pipa-jamadar, 16 pipas, and 20 Khalasis of artillery, thus making a total of 162. Allot lands to the personnel of these three companies, including three Subedars, according to the prescribed schedule in such a manner that no complaints are made. Allot 200 muris of rice-lands to the princes (saheb) of that territory who are loyal to us, as well as pakho lands according to the size of their family and retinue. Use the surplus lands, if any, to recruit additional companies.

6. There is one company in Dullu-Dailekh, consisting of 125 riflemen, 1 Subedar, 4 Jamadars, 1 Major, 1 adjutant, 1 Kote, 2 Nisans, 1 tabala, 2 tasa, 2 marfa, 2 bheri, 2 bansuri, 2 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 2 cobblers, 1 Pipa-jamadar, 21 pipas, and 20 Khalasis of artillery, thus making a total of 191. Allot lands to them according to the prescribed schedule in such a manner that no complaints are made. Allot 200 muris of rice-lands to the princes of that territory who are loyal to us, as well as pakho lands according to the size of their family and retinue. Use the surplus lands, if any, to recruit additional companies.

7. There is one company in Dama-Jahari, Jajarkot. It consists of 161 riflemen, 1 Subedar, 5 Jamadars, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 Kote, 2 Nisan, 1 tabala, 2 tasa, 2 marfa, 2 bheri, 2 bansuri, 3 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 2 cobblers, 1 Pipa-jamadar, 26 Pipas, and 20 Khalasis of artillery. Allot lands to them according to the prescribed schedule in such a manner that no complaints are made. Allot 200 muris of rice-lands to the princes of that territory who are loyal to us, as well as Pakho lands according to the size of their family and retinue. Use the surplus lands, if any, to recruit additional companies.

8. So far as the Tarai territory of Boktan in Dailekh is concerned, in case the Rani, or any member of the ruling family (bhaiyad), had not pledged allegiance and were not making any payments to the Nawab or the British, confiscate their lands and allot such lands to newly-recruited companies. ... Sahab used to pay Rs 100 every year previously; increase the amount if possible.

Take similar steps with regard to the Malbara area of Dullu.

9. The following regulations are issued for scrutinizing birta, bitalab, talab, bandha, mayabi, and guth lands in the territories situated west of the Bheri river and east of the Mahakali river.

10. Reconfirm the birta lands of Brahmans and Sanyasis, and guthi lands belonging to temples and roadside shelters, in case these have been granted by reigning kings according to traditional rituals, the boundaries have been specified, and documentary evidence or witnesses of the grants are available. Lands in excess of the specified area, if any, shall be confiscated, converted into raikar, and assigned to the company.

11. Lands grants made according to traditional rituals by the Crown Prince and the Queen of a reigning King with his permission shall be reconfirmed. All other birta and guthi land grants, or allotments of raikar lands, made by other members of the ruling family, or bhardars, shall be cancelled. Purchases of birta lands shall be confirmed, in case the grants are valid.

12. In case lands have been in customary possession as bandha or birta, but no documentary evidence of the grant is available, and local people do not know the name of the donor, or the boundaries of the lands, such bandha or birta lands shall be confiscated, converted into raikar, and assigned to the Company.

13. Even in case no documentary evidence of the grant is available, but local people take oath on the Harivansha, Shaligrama stones, Ganga water, and Tulsi leaves that they know the names of the donor and the Brahman beneficiary, as well as the boundaries and other particulars of the lands, such grants shall be reconfirmed. Otherwise, the lands shall be confiscated and assigned to the Company. In case any person has taken a false oath on payment of a bribe, he and his children may be enslaved. A proclamation in this effect shall be made in advance.

14. In case any person claims that the lands he is cultivating had been granted to him according to traditional rituals, but that the boundaries have not been specified, such birtas shall be confiscated and assigned to the Company. All lands used as mayabi birta shall be confiscated and assigned to the Company.

15. Ascertain particulars of taxes imposed and collected in the territories that have been placed under your jurisdiction according to these regulations. Compile particulars of functionaries (tahasildar) appointed to collect such taxes.

16. Our great-grandfather (King Prithvi Narayan Shah) had decreed the following arrangements for jaisis :

- (a) Jaisis may study the vedas, but not teach them to others.
- (b) Jaisis may make ritual gifts (dan), but shall not accept them.
- (c) Jaisis shall not officiate in religious functions (swaha swadha).
- (d) Jaisis shall offer obeisance (Pranama) to Upadhyaya Brahmans, and salaams to us; they may exchange greetings (salaam) with people wearing the sacred thread. Shudras and other people who do not wear the sacred thread shall offer pranama to Jaisis.

Collect fines at the following rates from Jaisis who have not complied with these regulations since the years when those territories were conquered by us :

<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Rate of Fine</u>
1. Officiating at religious functions	... Rs 100
2. Teaching of the Vedas	... Rs 60
3. Failure to offer salaams to us	... Rs 10
4. Failure to attend the royal court or to offer salaams	... Rs 120
5. Exchange of Pranamas with Upadhyaya Brahmans :	
<u>Category of Jaisi Household</u>	<u>Rate of Fine</u>
Abal	... Rs 5
Doyam	... Rs 3
Sim	... Rs 2
Chahar	... R. 1

17. Local functionaries shall be directed to construct irrigation channels in the areas under their jurisdiction and reclaim rice-fields. The person who does so shall be allowed to appropriate both the landlord's share and the cultivator's share of the produce for an initial period of two, three, or four years. On the expiry of that period, rents shall be collected at current rates. Peasants who cultivate rice-lands on adhiya tenure shall not be evicted. We shall endorse expenditures incurred for essential purposes in our interest.

Jestha Badi 12, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 139-50.

## 2. Jumla

Regulations for Jumla in the names of Rama Sundar Thapa and Bhajudev Khawas.

1. Ascertain the annual income in cash and in kind from rice-fields, villages and pakho lands, as well as from mines, customs duties (sair), and other sources appropriated by the army, the Subbas, and vassal chiefs (thapaula) in the Himalayan and hill regions of Jumla and Humla.

2. There are two companies in Jumla and Humla. Each company consists of 110 riflemen, 1 Subedar, 4 Jamadars, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 Kote, 2 Nisans, 1 tabala, 2 tasa, 2 marga, 2 bheri, 2 bansuri, 2 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 2 cobblers, 1 Pipa-jamadar, 16 Pipas, and 2 Khalasis of artillery, thus making a total of 171. Allot lands according to the prescribed schedule (raibandi) to the personnel of the two companies in such a manner that no complaints are made. After lands have been allotted to the company, disburse a sum of Rs 2,500 as the emoluments (khang) of the Subbas from the revenues of the Vikrama year 1862. For the Vikrama year 1863, assign lands yielding a revenue of Rs 1500 as part of the khang of the Subbas.

3. Inspect birta, bitalab, talab, bandha, mayabi, and guthi lands throughout the Himalayan and hill regions of Jumla and Humla.

(Sections 3-9 are identical with Sections 10-14 and 16-17 of the regulations for the Bheri-Mahakali region as given on pp. 58-60).

10. Confiscate all birta lands granted after the time of the Kalyal Kings, as well as those granted by Shubhan Shahi and his relatives, other bhardars, hitans (i.e. members of the royal family), Jimidars, and other local functionaries (thalu, budha), convert such lands into raikar, and assign them to the Company. As regards the birta lands of Jimidars, Rajputs, and Khasas, as well as those of soldiers, confiscate them, convert them into raikar, and assign them to the army, for birta grants cannot remain valid when their lord loses his Kingdom.

11. From the Vikrama year 1863, after lands have been assigned to the two companies, assign lands to the Subbas yielding an income of Rs 1,500 each. Report to us the area and revenue of the excess lands, if any. If lands are adequate for a company, we shall depute a Subedar; otherwise, recruit additional riflemen for the two companies. Prepare separate statements of lands assigned to the Company and to the Subba; we shall endorse the assignments under the royal seal accordingly.

12. You shall be severely punished if you are guilty of undue favor to anyone, or of bribery. Understand this, and work according to the regulations.

Jestha Sudi 14, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 162-69.

### 3. Marsyangdi-Kali Region

Royal order to Bishram Khatri :

Blessings. We had sent you to undertake surveys in the region west of the Marsyangdi river, but so far you have not reported whether or not rice-fields have been assigned to the four companies. Because the work is proceeding slowly, we have deputed Bhimasen Khawas and Jasakarna Najiki. Work together in four teams to complete the survey according to the regulations without any fear or favor. Assign lands to the companies. We had issued disbursement orders in favor of Kirti Rana and Upendra Karki against revenues from fines collected from Jaisis, but you have not made the disbursements yet. We have now sent peons; remit the amount through them quickly. Send the peons to Makwanpur fort quickly after making disbursements and land assignments to the Taradal Company.

Ashadh Sudi 13, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 169-70.

### 4. Pyuthan

Royal order to Sardar Ranajung and Sardar Rudravir.

We hereby grant you authority to undertake surveys throughout the territory of Pyuthan. Work according to these regulations without showing partiality to anyone or taking bribes. In case anyone submits any information or complaint against you, we shall hear both sides, and inflict punishment on anyone who is proved to have made false statements.

1. Ascertain the annual income in cash and in kind from rice-fields, villages, pakho lands, mines, duties, and other sources of revenue in the Himalayan, hill, and Tarai regions of Pyuthan which are being appropriated by the Company or by the gunpowder factory in Pyuthan.

2. There are four companies in Pyuthan. Each company consists of 101 riflemen, 1 Subedar, 4 Jamadars, 1 Major, 1 adjutant, 1 Kote, 2 Nisans, 1 tabala, 2 tasa, 2 marfa, 2 bheri, 2 bansuri, 2 blacksmiths, 1 carpenter, 2 cobblers, 1 Pipa-jamadar, 16 Pipas, and 20 Khalasis of artillery, thus making a total of 162. Allot lands at the prescribed rate (raibandi) to the personnel of the four companies in such a manner that no complaints are made. Make provision for lands to be allotted as khangi to the employees of the gunpowder factory on such a scale that 200 muris of gunpowder can be produced every year. Submit to us a statement of excess lands, if any, and we shall send orders accordingly, which shall be complied with. Purchase saltpeter with revenue from the saunefagu-walak levies collected throughout Pyuthan.

(Sections 3-7 are identical with Sections 10-14 of the regulations for the Bheri-Mahakali region, and section 8 with Section 17).

Shrawan Badi 1, 1862  
(July 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol.6, pp. 192-96.

##### 5. Instructions to Bishram Khatri and Others

1. The following reply was sent to Bishram Khatri under the royal seal on Bhadra Badi 11, 1862 (August 1805) in response to his petition :

"We learn from your report that you have all started working together. The rainy season is over and winter has set in. If you make any delay in your work, it will not be possible to assign lands to the company, or to collect rents. Accordingly, you are ordered to finish the work as quickly as possible.

"We have deputed Jayapati Padhya as Subedar, with an assignment of lands from the area (confiscated) in the course of your surveys. Assign him lands according to the prescribed schedule (raibandi).

"As regards Hemanta Raut, who has been deputed to work along with you, we shall grant him suitable rewards after he pleases us with his work.

"Bishram Khatri is hereby ordered to recruit one company and make assignments of lands to its personnel. Hemanta Raut shall be appointed Jamadar of that company.

"As regards the Chhap land grant, you have sent the draft of a royal order, but the contents are incomplete. Send another draft with accurate particulars, specifying the actual boundaries. The area should conform to the prescribed figure, that is, about 16 ropanis. We shall then confirm the grant.

"As regards the Manachamal land grant, no rice-fields shall be granted, for such lands must be assigned to the company. Disburse the income from 2 khets (i.e. 200 muris) of rice-lands as Manachamal to the Raut; the amount shall be debitted in the course of audit.

"You have reported that all the Brahman men of Karkineta village have gone into hiding, while their women say that they will give up their life and lands simultaneously. Capture them and put them in fetters. If they die in the course of such measures, what can you do ?

"You have done well to buy 10 or 12 muskets and supply them to the company. Obtain receipts from the company in consideration of such supplies. Purchase more muskets, if possible, and supply them to the company.

"You have done well to fix (bandej) the emoluments (tānkha) of Upendra Karki and Kirti Rana.

"You have reported that several people have come there with disbursement orders and that they insist on immediate disbursement. Since these people have to go (to the front) in advance, disburse half of the specified amounts to them immediately, and the balance on their return. Also, make disbursements for the purchase of iron immediately.

"Before we had finished writing this reply to your previous petition, we have received another petition from you dated Friday, Bhadra Badi 6, 1862. We have noted the contents. You have reported that Khuwa and rice-land assignments have been made in five territories (rajya) to the four companies that had been recruited previously. You have done well. We have sent an order deputing two companies to defend Pyuthan. Deliver the order to those companies, and send them to Pyuthan quickly. After these companies are sent to Pyuthan, the Shardul Jung Company will come here.

"You have asked about the date since when birta lands grants made by Raja Siddhi Narayan of Kaski shall be held to be invalid. Cancel all such grants made by him since the Vikrama year 1839 (A.D. 1782), confiscate the lands, and assign them to the company. You have also reported that the local amalis claim the income from asmani and miscellaneous (farmani) fees on such confiscated

lands. Assign all revenues pertaining to the confiscated birta lands as the Khuwa of the company, and record them in the accounts.

"Hand over to the companies of Jarul Bohra and Biru Gurung all muskets procured through Ranabhanjan.

"Allot 6 khets to Ramachandra Joshi, and 3 khets to Gnyanamidhi Jaisi, as Manachamal.

"We have issued a disbursement order in the name of Bhajudev against revenues collected in Thak-Theni during the Vikrama year 1862 for paying the salaries of Bhoj and others as well as for the purchase of betel. Depute four riflemen (tilanga) of Chhirbire's company, collect Rs 968 without any delay, and remit the amount here."

Bhadra Badi 11, 1862  
(August 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 340-45.

2. Royal order to Bishram Khatri, Jasakarna Thapa, and Bhimasen Khawas :

"Assign to the company all invalid (birta) grants of rice-lands which lack documentary evidence or witnesses. Send lists of companies which have not been able to take possession of khuwas and rice-lands assigned by you. In case Brahmans do not relinquish lands pertaining to grants which are found to be invalid in the course of the survey, send troops to arrest them and put them in fetters. We have already sent you instructions to this effect. Why then the delay? Report immediately."

Bhadra Sudi 2, 1862  
(September 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 367.

3. Royal order to Subedar Bag Simha Thapa, Jarul Bohra, Biru Gurung, Kirti Thapa, Chengu Mal, Chhirbire Khawas, and Jayapati Padhya.

"If you cannot take possession of rice-lands grants pertaining to which were found to be invalid, and so were assigned to the company, and if you are afraid of Brahmans, how will you fight the enemy? If the Brahmans of Karkineta village resort to force, send troops of all companies to arrest them and put them in fetters. If you cannot do so, report to us accordingly."

Bhadra Sudi 2, 1862  
(September 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 368.

(To be Continued)

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Depopulation of Mal Lands in Eastern  
Tarai Districts

1. Royal order to the jagirdars, birtaowners, and ambalidars who have obtained permission to reclaim kalabanjar lands in Bara and Parsa.

"Procure ryots only from the Moglan (i.e. India) to settle on your jagir, birta, or kalabanjar lands. In case you attack settlers from Mal lands, you shall be held liable for the payment of revenue on such lands. Do not reclaim your lands by depopulating Mal lands. Any person who disobeys this order shall be severely punished."

Jestha Sudi 6, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 13.

2. An identical order was sent in the name of landowners in Saptari and Mahottari on the same date.

Jestha Sudi 6, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 12.

3. Royal order to Shaktiballabh Padhya.

"You are hereby ordered to submit a list of all those landowners in Bara and Parsa who have persuaded ryots cultivating Mal lands to shift to their birta, bandha, jagir, or kalabanjar lands.

Jestha Sudi 6, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, p. 12.

4. An identical order was sent in the name of Nain Simha on the same date for Saptari and Mahottari.

Jestha Sudi 6, 1862  
(May 1805)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 6, pp. 12-13.

Trading Activities of Gumbas, A.D. 1850

The following royal order was issued in the names of the Lamas of Ghyangs in Langtang and other areas, and the headmen (mukhiya) and villagers of Athgaun in Pansayakhola (Huwakot).

"Formerly, a royal order had been issued remitting jagat duties on supplies needed by gumbas. We hereby reconfirm that order.

"However, we have received reports that you do not pay jagat duties even on sheep, chyangra goats, and other commodities bought or sold by Lamas with commercial motives. We have also received reports that you issue letters authorizing other persons to conduct trade on your behalf without paying such duties. Because such practices have resulted in a loss of revenue, the local Chaudhari has submitted a complaint to us.

"In the future, you must pay jagat duties for sheep, chyangra goats, and other commodities in which you conduct trade, with the exception of supplies needed for gumbas, and the dokos and namlos of the villagers. Any person who evades payment of such duties shall be severely punished."

Poush Sudi 6, 1907  
(December 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 81, pp. 47-48.

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Customs Exemption for Traders of Manang

On behalf of the inhabitants of seven villages of Manang (Manang, Braga, Khangsar, Narme, Phugaun, Ngawal, and Pisang), Pawa Tsering Gurung and others submitted the following petition to His Majesty's Government.

"We, inhabitants of seven villages in the Himalayan (Bhot) region, including Manang, have no lands, and depend on foreign trade for our livelihood.

"A royal order has been issued with the following provisions :

- (1) No customs duties shall be charged on goods imported or exported by us.
- (2) The inhabitants of these seven villages shall make a sirto payment amounting to Rs 1,797.98 every year, as well as a salami payment of Rs 4.50 to His Majesty.
- (3) They shall also supply the following goods every year :
  - (a) Two pairs of docha.
  - (b) One musk-deer.
  - (c) One musk-pod.
  - (d) Two blue sheep (naur, or pseudois nayaur) skins.

"We had accordingly been fulfilling these obligations until the Vikrama year 2019 (A.D. 1962).

"The royal order also contained provision for payment of Rs 50 to us every year as expenses for our journey (between Manang and Kathmandu). We have been receiving this payment regularly.

"When we visited Kathmandu in the Vikrama year 2020 (A.D. 1963) to make these payments and supplies, we were told that the rates of payments in money had been increased by 100 percent under the 1963 Finance Act. Unable to make payment at the enhanced rate, we returned to Manang. Moreover, customs duties too are now being collected from us.

"We, therefore, submitted a petition to His Majesty during the royal visit to Pokhara. On Shrawan 26, 2021 (August 10, 1964), we were informed that the following decisions had been taken :

- (1) The existing arrangements shall be retained for a period of two years.
- (2) No customs duties shall be charged, but records of goods exported and imported (by the inhabitants of the seven villages) shall be maintained.

"Accordingly, we deposited the amount of the sirto payment at the Kunchha Revenue Office.

"Since we do not have any agricultural incomes, but depend on trade for our livelihood, we are unable to make the sirto payment at 100 percent of the existing rate. Until, therefore, our lands are surveyed, and taxes assessed, we pray that we be allowed to pay the sirto and the salami levies, and supply the prescribed goods as usual, for the Vikrama years 2021-22 (A.D. 1964-65 and 1965-66), and that the usual amount of expenses for our journey be paid to us."

According to a decision taken on Baisakh 26, 2023 (May 8, 1966), His Majesty's Government decided :

- (1) To reconfirm the existing arrangements regarding customs exemption and payments.
- (2) To direct the Commissioner of the Gandaki zone to make appropriate arrangements about land survey and tax assessment in consultation with the chairman of the local Panchayat.
- (3) To continue payment of Rs 50 as travelling expenses every year.

The decision to take action in respect to land survey and tax assessment in consultation with the chairman of the local Panchayat was prompted by realization of the fact that :

"(These villages) are situated in Himalayan terrain and remain covered by snow. At some places which are not covered by snow, one crop of potato or barley is grown in a year. The petitioners say that the amount of payment assessed on such areas should not be increased by 100 percent as elsewhere. It is, therefore, necessary to study the condition of the land and finalize arrangements which will be satisfactory to the local inhabitants."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 37, pp. 148-151.

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Book Review : Thatched Huts and Stucco Palaces

Regmi, Mahesh C. 1978 Thatched Huts and Stucco Palaces : Peasants and Landlords in 19th-Century Nepal. New Delhi, India : Vikas Publishing House Pvt Ltd, 1978. Map, glossary, bibliography and source materials, index. XII, 173 pp.

Review by : Shyam Thapa, Brown University.

Scholars of Nepalese society agree that Mahesh C. Regmi's contributions to the study of Nepal's economic history have been outstanding. His works focus on the heart of the economy of Nepal : land and agrarian systems. The primary sources of information for Regmi's studies are government records and other public and private archives, which he painstakingly digests and consistently analyzes in a lucid and coherent manner.

Regmi's latest contribution to Nepalese historiography is Thatched Huts and Stucco Palaces, the first of two projected volumes on the country's economy during the 19th century. The book is an outgrowth of his earlier work on land tenure and taxation in Nepal, and embodies the author's desire to comply with E. H. Carr's dictum that "the main work of the historian is not to record, but to evaluate" since "history consists essentially in seeing the past through the eyes of the present and in light of its problems" (cited in Preface page). Regmi's objective is to examine the historical and institutional constraints that hindered Nepal's economic development during the 19th century in order to explain why the country has remained "poor" to this day.

Regmi's central thesis is that Nepal suffered from a vicious circle, which was a consequence of the nature of the relationship between the peasants, on the one hand, and the state and the landlords, on the other. The standard of living of the peasants, who were the great majority of the country's population, was very low; this resulted in a lack of agricultural investment, which in turn led to low productivity and thus more poverty and a lower standard of living. Peasants were exploited by the state, the landlords and other intermediaries to such an extent that they were stuck in the "margin between subsistence and destitution" (p. 154). The peasants were neither able nor did they have any incentive to improve the productivity or the quality of land, and the landlords showed no interest in doing so either. The book presents a concise but comprehensive analysis of the institutional structures that served to maximize revenue for the government and other rent receivers.

A crucial point that emerges from the book's ten chapters is how coalitions were formed between the de facto Rana government, the landlords and other local representatives of landowning elites. Although the rise of the Ranas "did not mark the entry of new groups into the traditional nobility, it certainly heralded the emergence of a new political elite" (p. 20). The political system of these new elites, which was "as much against the traditions of the Shah dynasty as (it) was against the traditional political process" (p. 20), required

a realignment of the agrarian bureaucratic system so as to insure a steady source of revenue from the peasants. The Rana regime, therefore, developed coalitions with landlords and village elites (headmen), and it was through this realigned machinery of the government that revenue was maximized. But the hegemonic role of the Ranas did not mean any change for the peasants; they were still forced to share their produce with, and pay rent and taxes to, not only the government but also a host of others, such as the rajas, the birta owners, the jagirdars, and the village elites (Chapter 5). Payments in the form of agricultural produce did not represent the total burden on the peasants since compulsory unpaid-labor obligations and extra levies were common during that period (Chapter 6).

Another important feature of the agrarian system pertains to how different categories of intermediaries -- such as the money-lender-cum-landlord, the mukhiyas, and the jimidars -- emerged and operated during the 19th century. They represented a further source of economic domination over the peasantry by exploiting its labor and appropriating a share of its product without making any contribution to improving the land or productivity (Chapters 7 and 8).

Regmi also examines changes in the agrarian system and in land tenure policies introduced by the Ranas during the second half of the century. These policies increased the total area covered by the raiya, the birta, and the jagir systems of land tenure (Chapter 3) by strengthening control of the central government over its functionaries "without affecting the basic structures of these systems" (p. 47). Similarly, the Rana's taxation policies improved the method and machinery of collection (Chapter 4). Other land policies, such as tenure security and property rights, did not change the exploitive situation either, because the peasants remained subject to the village elite's manipulation. Interestingly, tenancy and property rights were initiated largely in response to conflicts between the interests of the state and those of the landowning elites. Whatever increment of productivity was obtained could be attributed to new lands brought under cultivation by the peasants (Chapter 9). Regmi concludes that "the official policy toward the peasant remained one of apathy and exploitation throughout the nineteenth century" (p. 153).

The author thoroughly analyzes the unenviable position of the Nepalese peasantry and the economy. Although he contends that the study "purposely seeks to avoid reference to ideal conceptual systems such as patrimonialism and bureaucracy, or feudalism and capitalism, in the belief that a conceptual analysis of a society is no substitute for socio-economic research" (p. xi), the analysis would have been strengthened with a more comparative, analytical approach. How, for example, would he compare the Nepalese system to those of pre-industrial Europe described by Brenner? Furthermore, some of Regmi's assumptions and criteria are not

explicit -- for instance, his overall view of the problem of economic development. Similarly, the reader is left wondering how the author understands and defines the central question which the book seeks to answer: "Why is Nepal poor?" The reader can only agree with the author, given the benefit of hindsight, that agricultural productivity could have been raised by more capital investment in land. Would higher productivity have improved the peasantry's condition, or would it have resulted simply in a few more "stucco palaces"? Would higher agricultural productivity have made Nepal "rich" as opposed to "poor"? Would Nepal have achieved "economic development" today had agricultural productivity been higher during the 19th century? The book concentrates on the internal forces operating in Nepal, but ignores significant external forces. Nepal's geopolitical status, the regional political situation, Nepal's trade relations with neighboring countries, and trade between India and Tibet --- all of these are important external forces to consider.

In conclusion, we can certainly concur with Regai's caveat that the reader "will value (the book) more for the questions it stimulates than for the answers it postulates" (p. xxii). Thatched Huts and Stucco Palaces nevertheless is a provocative monograph not only for scholars of Nepal's history, society and political economy, but also for students of development in general, who may well find it an enriching case study.

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<sup>1</sup>Robert Brenner, "Agrarian Class Structure and Economic Development in Pre-Industrial Europe," Past and Present, 70 (1976): 30-75.

Source : Himalayan Research Bulletin, Winter 1983, Vol. III, No. 1, (pp. 43-44), published by the Nepal Studies Association at the South Asia Program of the Center for International Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, U.S.A.

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The Impact of India's Railway System on  
Nepal's Economy During the Closing  
Years of the 19th Century

By

Mahesh C. Regmi

The last fifteen years of the 19th century, almost coinciding with the rule of Prime Minister Bir Shumshere (1885-1901) witnessed significant trends in the economic field which set the tone for Nepal's debut into the 20th century. These trends operated largely from the Indian side. Indeed, the highlights of Nepali economic history during the closing years of the nineteenth century were mostly an impact of economic developments in India. Foremost among those developments were the extension of India's railway system to a number of points along the Nepal-India border.

India's railway system witnessed rapid expansion during this period. The total mileage increased from 9,891 in 1881 to 16,977 in 1891, and to 25,373 ten years later, an increase of 256.5 percent during a period of twenty years.<sup>1</sup> By the end of the century, railway lines had been built to connect a number of towns on the Nepal-India border situated athwart important centers of trade in Nepal. In 1885, the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company opened a branch line to Nepalgunj Road on the Indian side of the border near Nepalgunj in Banke district of Nepal.<sup>2</sup> About four years later, in 1890, the Assam-Bihar State Railway similarly opened its Purnea section from Kusba to Forbesganj, adjoining the market town of Rongeli in Morang district of Nepal (nucleus of the modern town of Biratnagar).<sup>3</sup> However, the development of railway transport facilities in the central Tarai region had to wait until the last years of the century. Jayanagar, adjoining Janakpur, and Raxaul, adjoining Parsa in Nepal, were connected only in 1897 and 1898 respectively.

Such an order of priorities in the installation of branch lines connecting towns on the Nepal-India border with major centers of trade and commerce in the Sub-continent was obviously dictated by the need to expand and cheapen supplies of primary produce from the Tarai region of Nepal, particularly foodgrains and timber. Indeed, scarcity of firewood in the Gangetic Valley had been cited by British officials as early as the 1850s as a justification for constructing branch lines into the sub-Himalayan plains.<sup>4</sup> Commercial links between the Tarai region of Nepal and the adjoining areas of India, traditionally close because of the absence of natural boundaries and the proximity of populous settlements on the Indian side of the border, were further cemented by the extension of India's railway system.

The development of the Indian railway system reduced the importance of river navigation in the export trade in primary produce from the Tarai region of Nepal to the adjoining areas of northern India. Railway lines altered the course of trade and diminished the importance of river-borne traffic.<sup>6</sup>

However, there is no evidence that the railways entirely displaced river navigation in the traffic of goods. For instance, Forbesgunj in Purnea district of India was connected by railway in 1890, but timber, cardamom, and other commodities were still being exported from eastern Nepal to Patna by boat at the end of the century.<sup>7</sup> Similarly, the bulk of Nepal's trade in the central sector passed through Raxaul, the terminus of the Sugauli-Raxaul branch railway, but "the Gandak and the Burhi Gandak also carry much traffic."<sup>8</sup>

River transport, moreover, continued to play an important role in the movement of commodities from the interior areas to railheads on the Nepal-India border. Timber, foodgrains and other commodities were transported by river to the nearest Indian railhead, where they were transshipped to wagons, and despatched to different destinations in India.<sup>9</sup>

The extension of the Indian railway system to market-towns on the Indian side of the border gave a fillip to the growth of towns on the Nepali side of the border as well. Nepalgunj, in the far-western Tarai region, may be cited as an outstanding example. There seems to have been a heavy influx of Indian traders, both seasonal and permanent, into Nepalgunj thanks to that policy. By the end of the century, the town accommodated nearly 45 permanent commercial establishments, in addition to more than 100 temporary stalls during the months from November to May every year, operated by Marwaris and other traders from India.<sup>10</sup>

Thanks to these measures, Nepalgunj developed into a bustling town with a brisk building activity,<sup>11</sup> a growing population<sup>12</sup> and even a rudimentary street-lighting system.<sup>13</sup>

The extension of the Indian railway system to Raxaul on the Indian side of the border in 1898 similarly led to the growth of a new market-town in the adjoining area of Nepal. The town was named Birgunj, obviously after Prime Minister Bir Shumshere. Goods exported to India from that area were channelled through Birgunj on a compulsory basis. The government constructed a number of buildings in the town which were leased to traders. A state trading agency, known as the Birgunj Mahajani Adda, was established, and through it trade was conducted in the state sector in raw silk and other commodities.<sup>14</sup>

Railway transport facilities along the borders had one more important impact on Nepal. Thanks to these facilities, the outlying areas of the Kingdom in the east and the west became more accessible from the capital. For instance, one could travel on foot from Kathmandu to Raxaul in India, then by railway to Forbesgunj, also in India, and then cross back into Nepali territory in Morang, the entire journey taking about four days. As Perceval Landon noted in 1928, "For any long distance it is easier and quicker and, it may be added, cheaper for a Nepalese to make his way either to one of the railway stations on the Indian border... and then join the Indian railway system for an excursion east or west even when his destination is in his own country."<sup>15</sup>

The increased access that the new railway transport facilities provided to the far-western Tarai regions had yet another important consequence in the socio-economic field. It now became possible for members of the Kathmandu-based political elite to exploit the agricultural and forest resources of that region for personal benefit. To be sure, this was not a new benefit, for these groups had long exploited the resources of the eastern and western Tarai regions, which were more easily accessible from the capital. The Indian railway facilities enabled them to enlarge the scope of their exploitative practices.<sup>16</sup> The grant of the entire district of what later came to be known as Bardiya to Prime Minister Jung Bahadur and his brothers in 1860 was an exceptional case, and it is significant that large-scale birta grants in the far-western Tarai region began to be made only after the Indian railway system touched Nepalgunj Road and other points on the border.

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#### Notes

1. Romesh Dutt, The Economic History of India, Vol. 2 : The Victorian Age, (reprint), New Delhi : Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, 1963, p. 401.
2. Jahar Sen, Indo-Nepal Trade in the Nineteenth Century, Calcutta : Firma KLM Private Ltd, 1977, p. 77.
3. Ibid, pp. 80-71.
4. Ibid, p. 72.
5. For instance, in his report to the Select Committee on Colonization and Settlement in 1857, Major-General C.W. Tremenhare, R.E. noted "the relative scarcity, even in 1857, of wood fuel in the Gangetic valley," and he cited this as an additional reason for the necessity of constructing branch lines into Sub-Himalayan plains and other hilly districts of Central India where wood

was to be found in "inexhaustible abundance." Elizabeth Whitcombe, Agrarian Conditions in Northern India, Vol. 1 : The United Provinces Under British Rule, 1860-1900, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London : University of California Press, 1972, p. 94.

6. Jahar Sen (op. cit. p. 71), for instance, cites official British Indian sources according to which the opening of the Purnea section of the Assam-Bihar State Railway from Kusba to Forbesganj in 1890 led to a decline in the volume of the Kosi boat trade.
7. "Order to the Saptari-Hanumannagar Mal Regarding Timber Exports to Calcutta," Ashadh Badi 30, 1954 (June 1897), Regmi Research Collection, vol. 71, pp. 540-49; "Order to Lt. Aridaman Khadka Chhetri Regarding Export of Cardamom from Chauriya-Gola to Patna," Magh Sudi 12, 1957 (January 1901), RRC, vol. 70, pp. 64-77.
8. The Imperial Gazetteer of India, Vol. X, Oxford : Clarendon Press, 1908, p. 143.
9. "Order to the Naya Muluk Kusma-Dwar Kathmahal Adda Regarding Export of Timber to the Railway Engineer at Gorakhpur, India," Kartik 1954 (October 1897), RRC, vol. 76, pp. 365-74; "Order to Banke Mal Regarding Dadani Payments for Manufacture of Boats for Transporting Timber," Shrawan 9, 1960 (July 24, 1903), RRC, vol. 77, pp. 344-50. Even during the 1940s, goods were transported between Hanumannagar in Saptari district and the Indian railway station at Nirmali by boat through the Kosi river. (Government of Nepal : Industrial Survey Report of Saptari and Biratnagar (Eng. trans., mimeo.), 1948, p. 4. In 1896, the Nepal government requisitioned the services of an engineer from the British Indian government to dredge the Kernali river in order to facilitate transportation of timber through the river. "Order to the Banke Mal Regarding Expenses for Captain Royal," 1953 (1896), RRC, vol. 76, pp. 34-42.
10. Jahar Sen, op. cit. p. 106 : Reference to a Marwari trader, Umrao Lal Marwari, who had settled down in Nepalgunj, is contained in "Order to Lt. Kalu of the Naya Muluk Kernali Kheir Adda," Bhadra Sudi 10, 1954 (August 1897), RRC, vol. 54, pp. 232-49.
11. "Order to the Naya Muluk Rapti-Kusma-Dwar Kathmahal Regarding Supply of Firewood to Brick kilns in Nepalgunj," Ashadh Badi 7, 1954 (June 1897), RRC, pp. 86-92.
12. Ibid. The document also refers to the growing population of Nepalgunj town.

13. "Order to Nepalgunj Bazaar Adda Regarding Purchase of Lanterns for Street-Lighting in Nepalgunj," Jyestha Badi 10, 1954 (May 1897), RRC, vol. 76, pp. 80-82.
14. "Birgunj Bazaar," Regmi Research Series, Year 13, No. 9, September 1981, pp. 135-37.
15. Perceval Landon, Nepal (reprint of 1928 ed.), Kathmandu : Ratna Pustak Bhandaar, 1978, vol. 2, p. 41.
16. Cf. "Bakas Birta Grant to Sardar Bhagawat Bhakta in Banke," Shrawan Badi 1, 1952 (July 1895), RRC, vol. 90, pp. 185-242.

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Customs Exemption for Lama of Helambu

Chhewang Gyelcho Lama of Helambu submitted the following petition to Prime Minister Jung Bahadur :

In the year 1873 Vikrama (A.D. 1816) a royal charter (Lalmohar) had been issued in the name of my father, Kalsyal Lama, and his disciples, granting exemption from payment of customs and transit duties (Jagat, bhansar, taksar, dalal) and sales tax (Nirkhi) on goods exported to Kuti and Kerung, such as rice, ghee, paper, Phuru, and phale, as well as on goods imported from there, including salt and wool. Accordingly, we did not pay these duties and taxes from the years 1873 to 1905 Vikrama (A.D. 1816 to 1848). These days, however, Jagat duties are being collected on such goods."

The following order was then issued in the names of tax-collecting officials at Setan, Timure, and Panchasayakhola :

In case it is true that no duties and taxes have been collected on goods traded (with Tibet) as mentioned above, from 1873 to 1905 Vikrama, (A.D. 1816 to 1848), do not make such collections in the future also, and refund any amount that may already have been collected. If, however, the facts are different, and you are not satisfied with this order, represent your case before us."

Ashadh Sudi 3, 1907  
(June 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 79, pp. 158-59.

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Forced Labor in Jumla, A. D. 1850

(1)

The inhabitants of Lum, Takharpata, and Ranisain villages in the Sija division (dara) of Jumla submitted the following petition to Kathmandu :

From former times, no portorage services had been impressed from us. We provided such services as ordered by our Jimmawal only to bhardars visiting the temple of Srimalika. In the Vikrama year 1903 (A. D. 1846), some of us were exempted from that obligation. Consequently, others were forced to carry loads through three or four posts (adda), instead of between our usual posts. The heavy burden of such portorage services has thus ruined us.

The government had earlier incorporated the following arrangements in the 1903 (A. D. 1846) Thek-Thiti order :

In the future, provide portorage services for only four loads of supplies required for official ceremonies at the temple of Srimalika through bhardars, military supplies, and sick persons. Do not provide such services for other government employees or private individuals (dhakre), bhardars, military officers (pagari), or soldiers (Sipahi). Such persons shall employ porters only on payment of wages at the rate of 2 annas a day.

On Ashadh Badi 10, 1907 (June 1850), a royal order was issued reconfirming these arrangements.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 79, pp. 138-40.

(2)

The inhabitants of Sija submitted the following petition to the government :

Jhara labor had been impressed for the construction of a fort and the temple of Sri Kanakasundari in the Sija division of Jumla. This was done at the time of the sowing season, hence people remained absent from work for one or two days. A fine was, therefore, imposed on us, and Mudda Madhav Basnyat even took away our household pots and pans to realize the fine.

The royal order relating to thek-thiti arrangements for our village prescribes that no fine shall be collected for default in the fulfillment of jhara obligations. Moreover, no such fine should have been imposed at a time when we were sowing our fields.

The government then issued the following order in the name of the Chief Administrator of Jumla, Kaji Ranasimha Basnyat :

If this complaint is true, and the proceeds of the fine have been deposited with you, refund every single dam. If the proceeds have not been deposited with you, issue orders to the concerned persons to refund the amount. These ryots belong to an outlying border region. Let not such complaints come to us in the future.

Ashadh Badi 10, 1907  
(June 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 79, pp. 140-42.

Order to Gorkhalis, government employees, common people, and inhabitants of Jumla travelling through the Barhabis division (dara) of Jumla district :

The inhabitants (of Barhabis) complain that you exact unpaid portorage and other labor services from them, and also demand free supplies of provisions. A royal order had been issued in the Vikrama year 1887 (A.D. 1830), which contained the following provisions :

- (a) Unpaid portorage shall be provided only for military supplies, sick persons, and coins remitted to the government.
- (b) Provisions shall be made available to peons deputed to the village for the collection of revenue only for the duration of such work.
- (c) Any person who exacts unpaid portorage services or provisions in contravention of these arrangements shall be held liable to the payment of revenue assessed for that area.

These arrangements are hereby reconfirmed.

Ashadh Badi 10, 1907  
(June 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 79, pp. 144-45.

(An order with the same contents was issued on the same date for Bherigaun also. Ibid, pp. 146-48).

(4)

The inhabitants of Rara Village in the Panchsaya division of Jumla complained that they were liable to provide not only both Kagate-Hulak and Thaple-Kilak services for the transportation of mail and government supplies respectively, but also porterage services for goods received through other areas in Jumla district. In a petition to Kathmandu, they added :

Such a heavy burden of porterage services has caused great hardships to us. In case our grievances are not redressed, we shall be forced to leave our villages.

The government then issued the following order :

In the future, Thaple-Hulaki porters shall not provide unpaid porterage services for supplies other than military stores belonging to the government, and sick persons. In case any one forcibly exacts such services from you, seize him and hand him over to the Amali at the Chhinasim Kachahari. With due assurance, Provide porterage services as usual for goods belonging to the government.

Ashadh Badi 10, 1907  
(June 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 79, pp. 145-46.

(5)

Order to the Amalis of Jumla :

Rudrabhane Shahi has come here with the following complaint : "The inhabitants of Baskot Village in the Palanta division (dara) have shifted to other areas (in Jumla). They have, consequently, defaulted in the payment of revenue assessed for Baskot, hence the burden of taxation has become heavy for the rest of the inhabitants of that village. In addition, unpaid porterage services are being impressed only from the inhabitants of villages situated near the main route, with the result that these villages are being ruined. Rudrabhane Shahi has offered to promote settlement in that area if appropriate orders (thiti) are issued in his name.

"You are hereby directed to collect the amount of revenue due from the people who have shifted to other parts of Jumla. If they refuse to make such payments on the ground that they have already left the village, make arrangements in such a way that they remain in (Baskot) Village. Exact unpaid porterage services from each household in the village by rotation in the prescribed manner, so that the burden of such services does not fall only on the inhabitants of villages situated near the main route, and they are not obliged to quit.

Ashadh Badi 10, 1907  
(June 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 79, pp. 148-49.

(6)

Mukhiyas of different villages in the Tripurakot division of Jumla district, Rame Rokaya of Bokategaun, Chandramani Budha of Hotragaun, and Annya Rokaya of Sarmigaun, submitted the following petition to Kathmandu :

Government officials, private individuals, and other people travelling through Bhalu-Bhanjyang exact unpaid porterage services from us, and also demand free supply of provisions, in contravention of royal orders. This has caused great hardships to the ryots.

The government then issued the following order :

In the future, you shall provide porterage services as usual only for the transportation of military supplies, sick persons, and coins, as well as supplies during war. You shall provide food to peons and Jimmawals only so long as revenue collection is not completed. No other person shall be permitted to exact porterage services or free provisions from you.

Ashadh Badi 10, 1907  
(June 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 79, pp. 149-51.

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#### Weights and Measures in Mustang

Royal order to Kashiram Upadhyaya : We have received reports that at Dana you have seized weights and measures on the ground that (the owners) have refused to let them be stamped (with the royal seal). Weights and measures have not so far been stamped there in this manner, and all sources of revenue at Dana have been placed under the authority of Jayanarsing. Return the weights and measures that you have seized. You will be held guilty if you create any obstruction in this regard."

Marga Badi 9, 1848  
(November 1791)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 5, p. 83.

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Export of Gold to India

On Wednesday, Jestha Badi 6, 1950 (May 1893), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere visited the British Residency at Kathmandu and told the Resident, Major-General H. Wylie :

The price of gold has now gone up steeply. I possess gold worth about Rs 750,000, which I had purchased at the rate of Rs 21 or Rs 22 (a tola ?). I am sending Colonel Mahabir to sell the gold in Calcutta.

Bir Shumshere then requested the Resident to issue licenses enabling Colonel Mahabir and his party to carry with them 1 rifle, 1 pistol, and 16 khukuris.

Major-General Wylie promised to send the licenses immediately. He said, "The Maharaja too is now carrying on trade. I too would have made a big profit had I been in possession of gold worth Rs 700,000 or Rs 800,000.

Prime Minister Bir Shumshere replied, "I am now selling gold which is lying idle. When the price goes down, I shall use the money to buy gold again."

(Source : Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Jaisi-Kotha (Tibetan) Division : Bundle No. 22. Cited in Gnyana Mani Nepal, "Nepalako Dhana Videshi Bankma." (Nepal's wealth in foreign banks), Arthik Nepal (English title : Nepal-Economist), monthly economic journal published and edited by Devichandra Shrestha, Year 1, No. 1, Marga 2039 (November 1982), pp. 15-22).

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Mail Services to Chitwan, 1882

In Magh 1936 (January 1880) Major-Captain Muktinath Upreti, Chief of the Chitwan Mal, submitted the following report to Kathmandu :

"In order to operate mail (hulak) services to Chitwan, mail-carriers (hulaki) had been appointed previously for transporting mail through the Hitaura route. They were paid a salary of Rs 3 each per month. However, the mail-carriers refused to work on this salary because the mail route passed through forests, and the Rapti river was flooded during the rainy season. Moreover, they added, they had to remain in constant fear of death at night because the area was infested with such wild animals as rhinoceros, tiger, and elephant.

"In Shrawan 1939, (July 1882), therefore, I raised the salary of the mail-carriers to Rs 4 per month, and that of inspectors (Janchaki) to Rs 6. I have been operating postal services accordingly."

On Falgun Badi 10, 1937 (February 1881), Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha approved a decision refusing to sanction the increment made by Major-Captain Muktinath Upreti. Instead, he decreed the following arrangements :

- (1) Mail shall be transported (to Chitwan) through Upardang or Hitaura, whichever route is shorter.
- (2) Rice-lands shall be assigned (to mail-carriers) to operate mail services through such route.

Earlier, an order had been sent to the Nepal Goswara Hulak Ghar (Nepal General Post Office) on Magh Badi 10, 1937 (January 1881) to appoint mail-carriers with assignments of rice-lands on Adhiya tenure for operating mail services to Chitwan through Upardang-Gadhi.

The Nepal Hulak Goswara Adda Ghar then submitted the following report :

"The Hitaura route is very difficult, because the Rapti river becomes impassable during the rainy season, and it is difficult to operate mail services even through salaried mail-carriers. Orders may, therefore, be issued to appoint mail-carriers with assignments of rice-lands under adhiya tenure through the Nuwakot-Irat-Upardang route. Arrangements may also be made to grant tax-exemption to these mail-carriers as in other Hulak posts.

"In case these arrangements are sanctioned, the 14 mail-carriers appointed for the Hitaura route on a total salary of Kampani Rs 504 may be dismissed."

On Baisakh Badi 11, 1939 (April 1882), Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha sent the following order to Major-Captain Muktinath Upreti because of the delay in implementing the arrangements mentioned above :

"Appoint 32 households for two Hulak posts with assignments of revenue from Bardgandi lands (i.e. lands measured in terms of ox-team units) obtained from the Chitaun Mal. Grant those households tax-exemptions at the rate of Mohar Rs 3 each. In case these arrangements are not implemented by Jestha 1, 1939 (May 14, 1882), permission shall no longer be granted to debit the salaries of the (Hitaura) mail-carriers."

A similar order was sent to the Bakyauta Goswara Adda, warning it that it would be punished with a fine if arrangements were not made for assignments of rice-lands by that date (May 14, 1882).

On Bhadra Sudi 5, 1939 (August 1882), the Nepal Hulak Goswara Ghar submitted the following report to Kathmandu :

"In accordance with the order of Baisakh Badi 11, 1939 (April 1882), the salaried mail-carriers have been dismissed. However, assignments of land have not yet been made. Consequently, mail services have been disrupted. Until such assignments are made, the following arrangements may, therefore, be sanctioned :

- (1) Peons of the West No. 2 Bakyauta Adda should be employed to transport mail to Chitwan every Wednesday.
- (2) Peons of the Chitaun Mal Adda should be employed to transport mail from Chitwan to Gorkha.
- (3) The Nepal Hulak Goswara Ghar should be authorized to despatch mail to Chitwan every Sunday.

However, the government decided that "peons belonging to the Militia must not be employed for the transportation of mail." It, therefore, decreed that the dismissed mail-carriers be reinstated and mail services operated accordingly.

The Nepal Hulak Goswara Ghar, however, responded as follows on Aswin Badi 9, 1939 (September 1882) :

"If the dismissed mail-carriers are reinstated, the government will incur a total expenditure of Kampani Rs 504. Until mail-carriers are appointed with assignments of rice-lands under adhiya tenure, four mail-carriers, two each at Gorkha and Upardang-Jhuwani, may be appointed on a monthly salary of Mohar Rs 5 each. Mail services can be operated for the time being if necessary orders to this effect are sent to the Nepal Hulak Goswara Ghar, the Kamandari Kitapkhana, the Kausi Tosakhana, and the Chitwan Mal.

This recommendation was accepted, and orders as mentioned above were issued accordingly on Kartik Badi 9, 1939 (October 1882) in the name of Prime Minister Ranoddip Sinha and Commander-in-Chief General Dhir Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur.

Lt. Colonel Bijaya Jung Pande Chhetri was Chief of the Nepal Hulak Goswara Adda at that time, with Dittha Lokaman Siddhi as his deputy.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 82, pp. 519-525.

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### A Short History of Nepal

By

Baburam Acharya

(Continued from the December 1982 issue).

(Chapter V : "Pahilo Licchavi Rajya, (I. Sam. 100-525 An.) (The first Licchavi State Circa A.D. 100-525) Purnima, No. 47, Marga 2037 (November-December 1980), pp. 1-5. Edited by Devi Prasad Bhandari).

1. The civilized Brahmans and Kshatriyas inhabiting the Ganga and Jamuna plains regarded the Licchavis and Mallas in the west as Kshatriyas who, like Khasas, had lost their traditions. Unlike the former, the latter did not have any social and religious traditions. The matrimonial system followed by Licchavis and Mallas was not as strong as the one followed by Brahmans and Kshatriyas. This is why they were despised. On the other hand, Licchavis and Mallas did not regard themselves as Kshatriyas of inferior or low status. They considered their lineage as pure as the water of the Ganga. They had merged into the Magadha Kingdom during the rule of the Sishunaga dynasty, thus becoming a part of the empire of north India, but they did not forget their glorious history for about 900 years. They remained a part of the empire when the Sungas, Kanwas, and Satavahanas of South India successively ruled over North India after the end of the Maurya dynasty.

2. In A.D. 50, Kushanas from the west conquered north India. This resulted in a religious upheaval. The Licchavis and Mallas, who were originally Buddhists, converted themselves to the Sanatana religion after it was adopted during the reign of the Sunga kings. However, during the reign of Kanishka, the Kushan emperor who ascended the throne in A.D. 78, and who followed and propagated Buddhism, the Kushanas started using force on the pretext of propagating their religion. Their aim was to consolidate their power. Unable to withstand such religious onslaughts, some Licchavis migrated to the Tharu-inhabited forest areas in the north. They subdued the Tharus and began ruling over them.

3. During the period of the Kushan-inspired upheaval, a group of Mallas also migrated to areas around the present-day Dailekh district, crossing the Mahabharat Pass through the banks of the Karnali river, and established a small principality there. Because the principality was founded by the Mallas, its capital was named Mallapuri. Similarly, a Kshatriya family from Koshala founded a state in Kumaun with Kartipur as its capital. According to legend, Shalivahana was the first king of this state. Its rulers were called Katyuri after the name of their capital. The Seti river formed the boundary between the Malla and Katyuri kingdoms.

4. During their 50 year rule over the Tarai, the Licchavis had had a good opportunity to study the situation in the Kirata Kingdom of Nepal. The Nepars were weaker than the Licchavis, hence the latter were able to conquer that Kingdom easily circa A.D. 100. The first Licchavi king who thus occupied the heart of Nepal and established a state there was Bhumi Varma. His grand son, Jaya Varma, expanded the frontiers of Nepal by conquering the eastern and western principalities ruled by people of Mongolian stock. The Tarai was already under their occupation. The total area of the Licchavi Kingdom, inclusive of the Tarai, was five or six times greater than that of the erstwhile Kirata state. It did not prove hard for the Licchavi kings to subjugate Mongolian communities in the east and the west. But it was certainly difficult for them to make these semi-civilized communities civilized and law-abiding. Jaya Deva's successors gradually performed that task.

To the east of the state of Nepal lay Kamarupa, which was inhabited by Mongolian communities. Mongolian and Tibeto-Burman communities inhabiting Assam and the Himalayan areas located to the north formed part of the state of Kamarupa. There did not exist any other independent state between Nepal and Kamarupa. The Tista river thus formed the natural boundary between the two states. However, neither the Licchavis of Nepal nor the Kamarupis were able to extend their authority to the regions located between the two states, inasmuch as these regions were inhabited by uncivilized tribes of Mongolian stock. The Licchavis, however, succeeded in subjugating the Malla state of Dailekh after occupying the Magar areas of the west. The kings of that region then became vassals of the state of Nepal. After Jaya Varma, eleven Licchavi Kings successively ruled over Nepal. The last Licchavi King was King Vasanta (A.D. 370-390).

5. During the period when the first fourteen Licchavi kings were ruling over Nepal, the Kushanas were driven out of north India. Kings of the Naga dynasty then started ruling over North India. Their place was later taken by the Vakatakas. Emperor Samudra Gupta then established the Gupta Empire over the whole of North India. He ruled from circa A.D. 335 to 380. Emperor Samudra Gupta was the nephew of a Licchavi king. It was with the help of the Licchavis that he had been able to found such a vast empire. The king of Nepal too had to submit to his hegemony. Chandra Gupta II (circa A.D. 380-414) was even more powerful. It was during his rule that there was a revolution within the royal dynasty of Nepal, as a result of which Vasanta Varma was replaced by Vrisha Deva (circa A.D. 390-415). Though he too was a Licchavi and a descendant of Jaya Deva, Vasanta Varma adopted the title of "Deva" assumed by the rulers of Kartipur. This title is still assumed by the Kings of Nepal. Vrisha Deva was succeeded by his son, Shankara Deva (circa A.D. 415-440). Shankara Deva was succeeded by his son, Dharma Deva (circa A.D. 440-463). Both of them ruled in a peaceful atmosphere.

6. In A.D. 463, Mana Deva I, son of Dharma Deva, ascended the throne. The Huna invasion of north India, and the rebellion by Pushyamitra, a petty governor, nine years earlier, had shaken the Gupta Empire. Kumara Gupta (circa A.D. 415-454) died in the meantime. However, his son, Skanda Gupta (A.D. 454-570) was able to save his empire by defeating both the invaders and the rebels by dint of hard work and valor. A similar event occurred in Nepal in A.D. 463. In that year King Dharma Deva died suddenly, and the vassals of the eastern principalities of Nepal rebelled against his minor successor, Mana Deva I, Mana Deva, however, handed over the reins of administration to his mother, Rajyavati, went to the eastern region, and subdued the rebels. On his return to the capital, he received reports of a revolt by the vassal states of the western region also. He personally commanded an army sent to that area to quell the rebellion. He conquered Mallapuri and returned with substantial booty. A pillar inscription describing his victory is still standing at the temple of Changu Narayana, located five miles east of Kathmandu.

Mana Deva died in circa A.D. 493 after a rule of about thirty years. His rule was a period of peace and prosperity. Because the path of progress was open, the Kingdom of Nepal was becoming prosperous. His son, Mahi Deva, ruled for about twenty years (circa A.D. 493-513). His rule too was peaceful. The people thus enjoyed about half a century of peace and prosperity under the rule of Mana Deva and Mahi Deva. Thereafter, however, a period of intranquillity set in. In circa A.D. 513, Mahi Deva was succeeded by his son, Vasanta Deva. It was around this time that the second Huna invasion shook the foundations of the Gupta Empire (A.D. 510). Because of these troubles, Vasanta Deva was forced to abdicate after a rule of about twelve years. This event marked the end of Vrisha Deva's dynasty after a rule of six generations. It was from this time that the ancient period of Nepali history came to an end, and the medieval period began.

7. Because Buddhism had disrupted the Vedic religion, the Sunga Emperor, Pushyamitra, made an attempt to restore it, thereby leading to the emergence of a new religion known as the Sanatana religion. In this religion, such Vedic gods as Indra, Varuna, and Nasatya were given a lowly place, pride of place being given to Vishnu and Shiva. Images of these gods began to be worshipped, replacing Vedic sacrifices. Devotees of Vishnu and Shiva came to be known as Vaishnavas and Shiva respectively. The Licchavis were Vaishnavas when they arrived in Nepal. The first image installed by them was, therefore, of Narayana (Vishnu) at the Changu hill in the second century A.D. Emperor Chandra Gupta II had installed an image of Varaha (Narayana) at Udayagiri near Bhilsa in Malwa. The Licchavi King Shankara Deva or Dharma Deva installed a similar but smaller image in Nepal at Dhumbarahi, two miles to the north-east of Kathmandu. Mana Deva I had installed two images of Vamana (Vishnu). But his bhardars and subjects installed Shiva-linga and images of Divakara (sun) also.

Not all the Licchavis who came to Nepal were Kshatriyas, for there were also Brahmans, artisans, and Dusats among them. Brahman and Kshatriya Licchavis maintained matrimonial relations in the plains. Because their relatives visited Nepal frequently, the foundation of the Sanatana religion was laid here. These Brahmans and Kshatriyas also introduced the caste system in Nepal, but their number was very small. The Nepal inhabitants of the capital and the adjoining areas were Buddhists, and so no caste divisions emerged among them, as well as among other communities of Mongolian origin.

8. The Buddhist religion, which had been disrupted by the Sunga kings, was later reorganized in the form of the Mahayana sect. Followers of this sect gave the name of Hinayana to the old sect. Mahayana Buddhism was propagated by Kanishka (circa A.D. 78-98). He propagated it not only in north India but also in China and Mongolia, as well as among the Nepars of Nepal. According to Mahayana Buddhism, the Buddha was not a human being but a supernatural being. Images of the Buddha began to be installed in Caityas. Worship and prayers to the Buddha took the place of right conduct. The Licchavi kings of Nepal followed the Sanatana religion. Vrisha Deva was the lone Buddhist among them. Gun Vihara was built during his reign west of Kathmandu. It is now called Simbhu. King Mana Deva was a Vaishnava, but he did not show disrespect to Buddhism. During his reign, a big Vihara, known as Mana Vihara, was built. It was considered as sacred as Gun Vihara. But this form of Buddhism did not spread among Mongolian communities other than the Nepars.

9. The cereals and fruits cultivated in the plains began to be cultivated in Nepal also during the Licchavi period. In the hills, irrigation channels were dug with great labor to reclaim lands as rice-fields. This was done on a large scale during the Licchavi period, and rice-cultivation expanded. Handicrafts found in North India reached Nepal,

and images such as those of Varaha, Vamana, and the Buddha, and other stone artifacts, were made. The arts of inscribing figures on wood, and of making carriages, were introduced. Export trade started in shilajit, Cinchona and other medicinal herbs and drugs, as well as ghee, honey, and wax. Companies of artisans and traders were formed. Before the time of Mana Deva, silver Purana coins, and copper Pana coins, which were in circulation in Bihar, were used in Nepal. Mana Deva minted his own copper coins, known as Mananka, and thus facilitated trade. The Licchavis had no literature of their own. The followers of both the Sanatana religion and Buddhism studied the Sanskrit literature and religious texts of India. The Mongolians, on the other hand, were illiterate.

10. Like the Sungas and the Gupta, the Licchavis followed the system of monarchy. There was no trace of democracy in that system. But the monarchy paid much attention to the welfare of the subjects. The capital of the Kirata Kingdom was located in modern Lalitpur, but the early Licchavi rulers shifted the capital to a new place about two miles to the north. They called it Vaishali, their original home in India. This is the place known as Vishalanagara in legends. Mana Deva shifted his capital back to the Kirata capital, and built a palace there. The palace was known as Managriha, of which Manigla is the corrupt form. Mana Deva seems to have laid the foundation of that palace at a very auspicious moment, for the town remained the capital of Nepal for about 1000 years. A palace built during the 17th century on the site of Managriha is still extant.

End of Chapter V

Regulations for Jumla, A.D. 1850

Village headmen (thani) and other inhabitants from all over Jumla submitted the following petition to Prime Minister Bam Bahadur :

"Because our land is situated in the Himalayan region (thotanta) and is covered with snow, our ancestors had requested the government to make special arrangements for it, and the government had done so accordingly.

"These days local revenue officials (amali), military personnel, and other people are acting in contravention of these regulations. This has caused us great hardships."

Prime Minister Bam Bahadur then promulgated the following regulations for Jumla :

1. At the time when Jumla was brought under our control, the following royal order had been issued : "None of our officials and functionaries shall forcibly appropriate the horses, sheep, and women of the inhabitants of Jumla. No dispute of the time of the Kalyal Kings shall be revived." We hereby reconfirm this order.
2. An order had been promulgated previously to the effect that no inhabitant of any of the fifteen divisions (dara) of Jumla shall be summoned in connection with any dispute from outside the district. In the future also, complaints submitted by any inhabitant of Jumla shall be heard and disposed of in the presence of local officials (amali, bhardar), local functionaries (thani, thari), and other respectable people. In case their judgment is not satisfactory, the case may be referred to us.
3. No one shall demand the redemption of lands mortgaged (mat) since before the revenue survey of the Vikrama year 1862 (A.D. 1805). Lands mortgaged after that date may be redeemed against payment of the loan obtained from the creditor. A regulation containing this provision, first promulgated in the Vikrama year 1887 (A.D. 1830), is hereby reconfirmed.
4. In the following matters local officials (amali, bhardar) shall submit reports to us and take action as ordered :
  - (1) Rice-lands not covered by thek-thiti arrangements (that is, those reclaimed after such arrangements were made).
  - (2) Murder through the use of weapons.
  - (3) Cow slaughter.

- (4) Sodomy with cows.
- (5) Sexual relations between persons belonging to pure (chokha) and untouchable (dum) castes.

In the following cases, amalis, bhardars, thanis and tharis shall hold a joint meeting and pronounce a judgment if they can do so. Otherwise, they shall refer the cases to us :-

- (1) Incest between relatives within five generations belonging to the Brahman, Shahi, Thakuri, and Tagudhari (i.e. sacred-thread-wearing) Khas castes.
  - (2) Illicit sexual intercourse between persons belonging to the Upadhyaya Brahman caste.
  - (3) Suppression of information relating to such offenses and involvement of other persons in the use of cooked rice (contaminated by the touch of) the offenders.
5. In case any complaint is filed at the office of the military in Jumla, the complainant shall supply free provisions to the military personnel sent to investigate the complaint. The latter shall not demand additional payments (pyajkhani).
  6. The Amali and Jimmawals shall appropriate income from the beri and Karpan fees collected from litigants. They shall refund such payments in case they are not able to dispose of the case.
  7. The Amali of Jumla shall charge two rupees only, and not more, as bahi-fukauni-forak fee from each Jimmawal who submits accounts at the Military Office at the end of each year.
  8. Land tax (pota) on escheat property, or on holdings which have been vacated by the occupant, shall be collected from relatives who appropriate such property or occupy such holdings. Otherwise, the deficit shall be realized from newly-created households.
  9. Local government employees and military personnel shall not depute peons to the villages on the pretext of revising revenue settlements and exact provisions without payment from the villagers. No one shall collect interest at the rate of four annas (in the rupee) on loans supplied to villagers, but shall only realize the principal along with interest at the rate of ten percent a year.
  10. While collecting revenue in the division, expenses shall be paid only to four persons: the Jimmawal, one bahidar, one peon (Pyada), and one servant (keta). In case they ask for provisions, ryots shall make supplies available only against payment.

11. The inhabitants of Jumla shall pay Salami fees imposed on our orders. They shall not pay such fees if imposed by local officials (amali, bhardar), and functionaries (thani, thari, Jimmawal) on any pretext. In areas where revenue has been assessed on contractual (thok) basis, so that no remissions are allowed, amalis shall not forcibly exact Salami payments from the people.
12. In case military needs arise in the border areas, or in case troops have to reach the district headquarters, the inhabitants of each division shall provide porterage services without payment (begari) for the transportation of supplies in their respective areas (wada). They shall not provide such porterage services to any one else, except for the transportation of military supplies and sick persons.
13. People other than those belonging to Jumla shall conduct trade only at the usual places. They shall not be allowed to conduct trade by encroaching upon the rekh trading privileges of the inhabitants of Jumla.
14. Local functionaries (Jimmawal, thani, thari, asya, hitan, mukhiya) and respectable people (bhaladmi) of Jumla shall not forcibly collect money from the people on the plea that they have to visit the royal palace or the district headquarters. In case any one does so, the local authorities (amali, bhardar) shall make him refund such payments and also punish him.
15. Weights and measures customarily used in Jumla shall be used in transactions in such a manner that there is no shortfall. Pyang or pathi made of copper, stamped at the local military office or at the center (Sadar), shall be used for that purpose.
16. Local functionaries and dignitaries (thani, thakuri, thari, asya, hitan, thar, thapalya) shall not harass the people by demanding the restoration of goods looted (at the time of the conquest) on the pretext that such goods had been placed in their custody during the time of the Kalyal Kings. In case it is proved that the goods had not been looted, but had actually been placed in the custody of any person, the latter shall be made to restore such goods.
17. Local functionaries (thani, thari, thakuri, Jimmawal, mukhiya) shall collect fees, fines and other payments in the villages placed under their jurisdiction and transmit the proceeds through the Jimmawal of the appropriate division (dara). The latter shall then transmit such amounts to the amali.

18. If, at the end of each year, the Jimmawal of any division finds that there is any deficit in the amount of contractual revenue which he is under obligation to pay at the office of the army in Jumla, he shall realize such deficit from each local household on a proportionate basis. If local authorities (amali, bhardar) find that the total amount of revenue paid by any Jimmawal is in excess of his contractual obligation, they shall arrange for the refundment of the surplus amount to each local household. Receipts of such refundments shall be submitted to the Sadar Defdarkhana every year.
19. Moneylenders (sahu) throughout Jumla shall collect interest on in-kind loans at the rate of... pathi on each muri of grains. In case any money-lender collects interest at a higher rate, the local Jimmawal shall arrange for the refundment of the excess amount so collected, and also punish the moneylender.

Baisakh Badi 13, 1907  
(April, 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 80, pp. 577-87.

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### Forest Protection

#### Kathmandu Valley

In the Vikrama year 1872 (A.D. 1815), a ban had been imposed on land reclamation, clearing, slashburning, manufacture of charcoal for purposes other than meeting the requirements of the Munitions Factory, and cutting of timber in forests areas in and around Kathmandu Valley, including Kahule, Manichur, Sindhubhanjyang, Mahadev Pokhari, Ranikot, Phulchoki, Champadevi, Chandagiri, Panauti, Banepa, Mala, Chankot, Dhulikhel, Byahabarkhola, Dhumkharka, Hattiban and Sisneri.

However, timber was cut, and lands were reclaimed, in these areas from time to time under orders issued by different authorities in contravention of the ban. The forest guards (chaikidar, chaprasi) reported the matter to the government through the Sardar of the four Adalats.

The following regulations were, therefore, issued on Magh Badi 9, 1902 (January 1846) :

1. No person shall cut timber, reclaim lands, burn slash, clear forests or manufacture charcoal for purposes other than meeting the requirements of the Munitions Factory.
2. Even for meeting the requirements of the Munitions Factory, wood shall not be burnt in pits for making charcoal. Charcoal for this purpose shall be made in forests on the other side of the watershed.
3. The Itachapli Adalat will issue permits for timber required for our palaces, or granted by us to any one, under the permission of the Mukhtiyar. The Chiprasis of forest checkpoints shall allow timber to be cut against such permits in their presence.
4. No one shall cut timber through permits issued by any authority other than the Itachapli Adalat.
5. In case any person poaches timber, or does so fraudulently, thereby destroying forests, or in case Chaprasis allow any person to do so, the guilty person shall be produced before the Adalat and punished severely.

Magh Badi 9, 1902  
(January 1846)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 613-15.

Bungnam (Chisankhu)

Rama Chandra Khatiwada owned forest lands under birta tenure at Jarayotar in the Bungnam area (of Chisankhu in the eastern hill region). On Poush Sudi 5, 1899 (December 1842), the following regulations were issued for the protection of that forest :

1. No person shall cut green trees or grass, reclaim lands, or burn slash in that forest, located east of Agrichaur-Danda.
2. In case any person needs (timber or other forest product) for any purpose, he shall obtain permission from the birtaowner.
3. Any person who acts in contravention of these regulations shall be punished.

Poush Sudi 5, 1899  
(December 1842)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 404-5.

Dhoksila (Sindhuli)

The following order was issued to Jasram Thapa and Kashi Padhya Baral on Poush Sudi 5, 1899 (December 1842) :

1. Do not allow any person to cut green trees or reclaim lands in the forest area situated east of the Dhoksila-Khola, west of the Kahule-Khola, north of the Kyaurani-Khola in Thalagaun, and south of Danduwagaun in the Bungnam area (of Sindhuli).
2. Do not allow any person to cut trees on the borders of rice-fields, or along paths, and near sources of water.
3. Any person who acts in contravention of this order shall be produced before the Amal and punished with a fine.
4. In case you allow any person to cut trees in the protected/forest out of special favor, and do not protect the forest carefully, you too shall be punished with fines.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 410-11.

Pakarbas (Dolakha)

Order to the Amali, Thari, Majhiya, and Mijhar of Pakarbas (Dolakha) :

"The local people have submitted a complaint through the Amali to the effect that people from outside that area have reclaimed forest lands there and destroyed forests, and that, consequently, not even khar grass and leaves, or timber and roofing materials for huts and cottages, are now available. We hereby order that, in the future :

1. No person shall be allowed to cut sal, sallo, and horla trees in new forests.
2. Kipatowners and birtaowners shall protect forests on their kipat and birta lands. They shall not set fire to such forests, or allow any person to clear new forests.
3. The Sanghu (beams placed across streams) on the Hatauli-Khola shall be made every year through the Amali.
4. Any person who acts in contravention of this order shall be severely punished.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 411-12.

Phulping (Sindhupalchok)

Raghubir Thapa submitted the following petition to Kathmandu :

"The forest at Kotthok village in the Phulping area (of Sindhupalchok district) had been protected from former times. Since the year 1894 (A.D. 1837), people have been poaching timber from that forest. In case the forest is destroyed, 100 or 120 households in the village will be forced to quit."

The following order was then issued on Magh Sudi 4, 1899 (January 1843) :

"No person shall cut timber from that forest. In case any one requires timber for any purpose, he shall obtain permission from Raghubir Thapa to cut it."

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, p. 478.

Bode (Bhadgaun)

The Chitaidars (caretakers) of forests owned by the temples of Sri Nilavarahi and Sri Mahalaxmi in the Bode area (of Bhadgaun) complained that timber was being cut in those forests in contravention of existing regulations. They pointed out that the Chitaidars and Mahanes who had been appointed as forest guards had been placed under the obligation of working for the local amal and other authorities, with the result that they had become unable to protect the forests.

An order for the protection of these forests had originally been issued in the Vikrama year 1886 (A.D. 1839).

On Chaitra Badi 11, 1899 (March 1843) an order was issued appointing the following seven persons as Chitaidars of these forests : Bijar Sim Budha, Bhima Chandra Budha, Simhabir Lakhya, Vishnu Budha, Bhajudhana Lakhya, Bhajubir Has, and Chandrabir Khasu. These persons were granted exemption from all forms of unpaid labor obligations (jhara, beth, begar). The order prohibited the cutting of timber or grass in those forests in contravention of existing regulations.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 516-17.

Mahadeva Pokhari (Kabhrepalanchok)

Order to the Amali, thari, and dware of Mahadeva Pokhari, Basanta Dahal, Hari Bhajgain, Gaju Ghimire, and Mahendra Khatri.

"A royal order has been issued previously to Vishnu Simha Thapa to plant trees on a plot of land known as Hilekharka as well as to protect the Patal forest around the local kot. Complaints have been received that Vishnu Simha Thapa has

prevented the local people from grazing their cattle and using paths through their plots, and stopped just and other payments to landlords, and that the mixed forest was being protected by the officials of the local government."

The order issued previously appointing Vimala Singh Vajpe as caretaker of the mixed forest of the taluk is hereby cancelled. The same subjects of Biligum will be allowed to use their lands as before. Customary payments shall be made, and the forest protected as usual."

Order, July 7, 1937  
Dated 1937

Legal Research Collection, vol. 7, pp. 528-29.

### Anthropologist

The Institutions of Biligum in the Jubbulpore taluk (of Biligum) submitted the following complaint:

"We say that, landlords cut trees in the forest of Biligum so that the forest is being destroyed and irrigation channels are drying up. Consequently, we are not able to sow our fields in time. Some fields are not being sown in time, we are unable to raise the quantity of grain needed for the support of our people. From this, our landlords (talukdars) collect the stipulated tax from us. We are thus being forced to add our children (to pay the tax).

The government has issued an order granting authority to Forest Department to collect taxes on their lands in Biligum in the taluk in the following manner:

"From March 1, 1931 (April 1930), for a total amount of Rs 75-4 (inclusive of Rs 25-4 assessed on tax during the collection of 10% Yikasa, and Rs 11 as annual payments to the concerned talukdars). Appointment to protect the forest, talukdars, and to be made (paid) at Biligum, to be not less than Rs 1000 (thru, 100, 100, 100) for the other purposes. Also to be made for or full time to be made, 100, 100, as well as for the purpose of a person in the taluk-institution, to be made with Rs 100."

Order, July 7, 1937  
Dated 1937

Legal Research Collection, vol. 7, pp. 528-29.

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A Short History of Nepal

By

Baburam Acharya

(Continued from the June 1983 issue)

(Baburam Acharya, Nepalako Samkshipta Itihasa (A short history of Nepal), Edited by Devi Prasad Bhandari, Purnima, No. 47, Marga 2037 (November-December 1980), Chapter VI : "Madhyayugako Arambhako Uthalaputhala Amshuvama ra Yinaka Uttaradhikari (I. Sam. 525-642 am.) (Upheavals in the beginning of the medieval period, and Amshuvama and his successors), pp. 6-8).

1. In the beginning of the first century of the Christian era, a community known as Abhira lived in the western and southern parts of India. It subsisted on animal husbandry, and was of Aryan ethnic origin, although different from the Aida or Manava group. Some time during the second century, an Abhira named Rudrabhute had become the Commander-in-Chief in the Shaka Kingdom of Kathiawad. During the third century, northern Maharashtra, Malwa, and Kathiawad were under the control of the Abhira King Ishwaradatta or Ishwarasena. During the fourth and fifth centuries, the Abhiras spread to different regions of northern India. Some of them came to the capital of Nepal, where they began to engage in agriculture, animal husbandry, and the administration. During the rule of Vasanta Deva, Ravi Gupta, the Chief Judge and chief of the royal guard, was an Abhira. As the influence of the Abhiras increased in the administration, that of the Licchavis declined.

2. When magic and mystic rites crept into the Mahayana Buddhism propagated by Kanishka, a new sect, known as Vajrayana, emerged. There were many Siddhas who spread this sect. Two of them, Gorakshanatha and Matsyendranatha, are specially famous in Nepal. The aim of the followers of this sect was not to worship or pray to the Buddha, but to recite short mantras, display mudras of the fingers, and gain supernatural achievements. Individuals who had gained success in this regard were known as Siddha. Matsyendranatha was one of these Siddhas. Although born in a fisherman's family of Assam, he became a Siddha, and both kings and commoners used to fall at his feet. In A.D. 519, he visited the capital of Nepal and made Vasanta Deva his disciple. Matsyendranath introduced the worship of Avalokiteshwara (Buddha) in Nepal, hence Nepali Buddhists regard Matsyendranatha himself as Avalokiteshwara.

3. Followers of the Vajrayana sect took wine, meat, etc. according to their own conception of right conduct. Vasanta Deva had reverence for that sect, whereas the Abhiras, who occupied a leading position in the state, were orthodox followers of the Sanatana religion, and so disliked the Vajrayana sect. In A.D. 510, Hunas defeated the Gupta Emperor

Skanda Gupta (circa A.D. 508-528) and made him their vassal. The wave of this revolution reached Nepal also. An Abhira known as Parama Gupta took over power on the ground that Vasanta Deva had turned an apostate (circa A.D. 525). Vasanta Deva then took refuge with Matsyendranatha and spent his life there.

4. After banishing Vasanta Deva, Parama Gupta took over the reins of administration in his hands with Rama Deva, a Licchavi Kshatriya, as king (A.D. 525-555). In the meantime, the Kshatriya hero Yashodharma drove out the Hunas from India and became more renowned for his prowess than even the Gupta emperors. Yashodharma died circa A.D. 540, and northern India became divided into a number of petty kingdoms. In Nepal, after Parama Gupta, his son, Bhima Gupta, installed a Licchavi named Gana Deva on the throne at Managriha (circa A.D. 555-570), while running the administration himself. Bhima Gupta was succeeded by Bhuma Gupta (circa 570-576). During the time of these Abhira regents, the Kingdom of Nepal, founded by the early Licchavi kings, was beginning to disintegrate.

5. During the time of Bhuma Gupta, Rupa Varma was a vassal in the old Licchavi capital of Vaishali (Nepal). After the death of Gana Deva, Rupa-varma removed Bhuma Gupta from the throne, installed Shiva Deva I on the throne at Managriha, and assumed charge of the administration himself (circa 575-588). He shifted the capital of Nepal back to Vaishali and became all-powerful in the state. He was succeeded by Amshuvarma, who belonged to the family of Vrisha Deva and was probably Rupavarma's son. Amshuvarma was a very wise, learned and glorious ruler. He retained Shiva Deva on the throne at Managriha and ran the entire administration himself. He defeated the feudatory chiefs who had remained recalcitrant during the time of the Abhira regents and strengthened the Kingdom of Nepal. He built a very beautiful palace known as Kailasakutabhavana in his capital. His fame spread to the plains of northern India.

6. The country of Tibet is surrounded by mountains on all sides. Until the sixth century, therefore, no civilizing influence had reached there either from India or from China. For hundreds of years, Tibet was divided into a number of petty principalities, whose chiefs spent their time fighting each other. The light of Arya civilization had entered there through the valleys of the Indus river in the west, and the Brahmaputra Valley in the east, but its influence had not been pervasive. Accordingly, for the civilized world Tibet was a dark country. During the middle of the sixth century, a principality known as Kongpo, located on the banks of the Brahmaputra river, started making progress all of a sudden. Its king, Namrisrongbtsan, vanquished a number of adjoining principalities and laid the foundation of a united Kingdom. He opened up communications with China and procured the science of medicine from there. His son, Srongbtsangambo, was a very wise and brave king (A.D. 581-650). He defeated all the petty principalities of Tibet and founded a large Kingdom. He also built a new town called Lhasa and

made it his capital. (circa A.D. 590). He opened up Kerang, Kuti, and other Himalayan passes, thereby promoting intercourse among different Himalayan regions from Kashmir to Dharma. He thus propagated Indian civilization in his country. The emergence of this new power created apprehension among the kings of northern India and China.

Srongbtsangambo married Bhrikuti, daughter of Amshuvama (A.D. 592) as well as Kongjo, a Chinese Princess. With the help of his two queens, he laid the foundation of Buddhism in Tibet. He devised a new script for Tibet on the lines of the Kutila script of India and began to propagate learning in his country. Srongbtsangambo thus spent his life trying to make Tibet civilized. Tibetans, therefore, revere him as an incarnation of Avalokiteshwara, and his queens, of Tara.

7. After the death of Yashodharma, a minor branch of the Gupta dynasty founded a strong Kingdom in Magadh. A new royal dynasty called Maukhari did so in Kanauj. Bengal too was under the control of the Guptas. At about the same time, a new dynasty assumed power in Assam. At Sthaneshwor, near Delhi, a minor dynasty was ruling. A famous king of this dynasty, Harshavardhana (A.D. 606-647) conquered most of northern India and thus founded an empire. He brought the Guptas, the Maukharis, and the kings of Assam under his control.

8. Powerful empires thus emerged both in northern India and in Tibet. Nepal thus became a yam sandwiched between two rocks. In these circumstances, Amshuvama, although powerful, was not yet king. In order to strengthen the state, therefore, he crowned himself King and threw off the authority of Shiva Deva (A.D. 606). Amshuvama started a new era in that year, but antedated it from the beginning of the rule of Rupavarma. So long as Shiva Deva was alive, Amshuvama contented himself with the title of Mahasamanta. Only after the death of Shiva Deva did he assume the title of Maharajadhiraja, with a status equal to that of Harshavardhana (circa A.D. 614). Because he was an able ruler, Amshuvama maintained cordial relations with both Srongbtsangambo and Harshavardhana and made efforts for the progress of his Kingdom.

9. Amshuvama died circa A.D. 621. Jishnu Gupta Abhira installed Amshuvama's second son, Mana Deva II, on the old throne at Managriha, ignoring the claims of the eldest son, Yuvaraja Udaya Deva. Jishnu Gupta then began to run the administration from Kailasakutabhavana. Dhruva Deva became king after Mana Deva II, and was succeeded by Bhimarjuna Deva. Jishnu Gupta died during the reign of Bhimarjuna Deva, and his son, Vishnu Gupta, became regent (Uparaja). These three Licchavi kings, and the two regents, ruled for a total period of about 21 years (A.D. 621-642).

10. The famous Chinese traveller, Yuan Chwang, in the course of his tour of Buddhist holy places in India, arrived in Nepal during the time of Bhimarjuna Deva and Vishnu Gupta. His account of Nepal is summarized below :

"(From Vaishali, capital of Vriji), I crossed some hills and valleys to the north-west and reached the country of Nepal. This country has a circumference of 13½ hundred miles. It is situated in the Himalayan mountains. The capital is about 7 miles in circuit. The country is full of mountains and valleys. It is favorable for the production of fruits and grains in abundance. It also produces copper, yaks, and Chyakhura birds. In commerce, copper coin is used. The climate is cold. The people are rude and deceitful and naturally unsociable. Their body is awkward and their appearance is ignoble. There are among them both heretics and followers of religion (i.e. followers of the Sanatana religion and Buddhism respectively). Buddhist monasteries and temples touch each other. There are nearly 2,000 Buddhist Bhikshus, who follow either the Hinayana or the Mahayana sect. The number of followers of each religion cannot be accurately estimated. The king is a Licchavi Kshatriya. He is of pure feeling and character. He has great faith in the teachings of the Buddha.

"To the south-east of the capital there is a small spring and tank, on the surface of which a brilliant flame rises if one throws fire there. If one throws other objects, they change their nature and become fire."

End of Chapter VI

Problems of Land-Tax Collection in Doti

A three-year contract had been issued in the name of Padma Dhoj Shahi, elder brother of Raja Dambar Dhoj Shahi, for the collection of revenue from miscellaneous new sources such as newly-reclaimed lands in Doti. The contract stipulated a yearly payment of Mohar Rs 4,267-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ .

On Marga Badi 4, 1947 (November 1890), the government decided to measure newly-reclaimed lands in Doti. For this purpose, it directed that the contract mentioned above be cancelled even though its term had not yet expired. The Doti District Headquarters Office was then ordered to collect revenue through its own employees from the sources previously included in the contract.

This order was endorsed by Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on Shrawan Badi 7, 1948 (July 1891).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 84, pp. 149-155.

Bahadur Pande, a resident of Liskina Village in the Upallo-Sorad division (garaha) of Doti, has submitted a complaint according to which a number of persons in that area are in possession of undeclared lands and homesteads.

The complaint added: "In Doti, the major portion of the cultivated area consists of pakho. Regulations had been promulgated in the Vikrama year 1931 (A.D. 1874) prescribing that taxes be assessed on both khet and pakho lands at equal rates on a contractual (thekbandi) basis, and that newly-reclaimed lands, and newly-created households, also be registered. Newly-reclaimed lands were accordingly recorded at the Bakyaute Tahasil Adda at Silgadhi in the fourth year, after an initial three-year period of tax-exemption."

On Ashadh Badi 1, 1948 (June 1891) Prime Minister Bir Shumshere approved the recommendation submitted by the Commanding-General of the Southern Zone, Fatte Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur, Sardar Bhaktabir Rajbhandari, Kharidar Ratna Man and Kharidar Dil Bahadur of the Sadar Dafdarkhana, and endorsed by the Muluki Adda, that inquiries be instituted into Bahadur Pande's complaint.

The document contains particulars of the undeclared lands and homesteads.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 84, pp. 155-174.

Manbir Thapa, a resident of Khalanga in Dadeldhura, submitted a similar complaint accusing Mukhiya Kashi Pathak and other persons of Jaloda Village of possessing undeclared lands. He prayed that these lands be registered in his name on a taxable basis. An order for instituting inquiries into this complaint was similarly issued on Shrawan Badi 7, 1948 (July 1891).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 84, pp. 201-5.

Rates of Jagat Duties

On Ashadh Badi 11, 1948 (June 1891), Jagat duties were prescribed at the following rates at Bandhapipal-Ghat on the Eheri river in Dailekh :

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1. Salt :	
(a) Per manload	1 mana
(b) Per 13 animal loads	1 dharni
2. Cotton	Rs 1½ per manload
3. Cloth :	
(a) Per manload	4 annas do.
OR	
(b) Per length ( <u>than</u> )	1 paisa
4. Metal utensils :	
(a) Per manload	4 annas
OR	
(b) Each	1 paisa
5. Tobacco	Rs 2 per manload
6. Iron	4 annas do.
7. Blankets	1 paisa each
8. Dried fish ( <u>sidhra</u> )	4 annas per manload
9. Horses (for sale)	8 annas each
10. Paper	4 annas per manload
11. Pine oil ( <u>dewar</u> )	2 annas do.
12. Khukuris (for sale)	1 paisa each
13. Boats ( <u>Suhugi</u> )	8 annas each
14. Wooden vessels ( <u>Phuru</u> )	1 anna each
15. Nepali goats and gelded goats	1 paisa each
16. Bangles	4 annas per manload.

Birta Grants to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere

On Poush Sudi 15, 1948 (December 1891), the following areas were granted to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere as birta :

- (1) Rice-fields, villages, and forests in the Banagaun area of Nagarkot, confiscated from General Padma Jung Rana.
- (2) do. in the Matatirtha area of Macchegaun. Most of these lands previously belonged to guthi, rajguthi, or rakam tenure, for which appropriate compensation was provided.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 84, pp. 277-304 and pp. 314-24.

On Falgun Badi 9, 1948 (February 1892), the following lands, which had been confiscated from members of the Rana family, were granted as Sarba-kara-akara-Sarbanga-mafi Guthi-birta to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere for different Shiva temples installed by him :

<u>Lands Confiscated from</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Area</u> (in muris)
1. Lalit Jung Rana	Shankhamul	110.75
2. Ranbir Jung Rana	(a) Kathmandu	20
	(b) Silandol, Kathmandu	14
	(c) Kimdol, Kathmandu	16
3. Ranoddip Simha Rana	Silandol, Kathmandu	19
4. Jagat Jung Rana	do.	28
5. Ranoddip Simha Rana's wife	(a) Budankhel, Kathmandu	27
	(b) Khopagal, Ehadgaun	160
	(c) Itapa, Ehadgaun	202.5

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 84, pp. 304-11.

In A.D. 1896, Prime Minister Bir Shumshere received as bakas-birta from King Prithvi Bir Bikram a plot of 161.87 ropanis of land near Kamaladi in Kathmandu. The plot was situated north of the Ganesh temple at Kamaladi and east of the road along the eastern side of the Ranipokhari.

A total area of 189.56 ropanis was acquired for the purpose of that grant. The rest was used as follows :

- (a) 7 ropanis acquired for the construction of a road (the present Kamaladi road ?)
- (b) 15.43 ropanis acquired for the Clock Tower (Ghantaghar).
- (c) 5.18 ropanis belonging to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere himself.

The lands thus acquired belonged to birta, guthi, rajguthi, and raikar tenures. Compensation was provided in the following manner :

- (1) For private birta and guthi lands, compensation was paid in cash at the rate of Rs 200 a ropani.
- (2) Rajguthi and raikar lands were exchanged with the abolished kipat lands of Bhotes in the Maharkhani area.

Magh Sudi 9, 1954  
(January 1898)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 77, pp. 14-36.

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#### Panchsayakhola

In Vikrama 1954 (A.D. 1897), the Panchsayakhola area of Nuwakot district had been assigned as Jagir to Shim Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur, Commanding General of the Eastern Zone.

Panchsayakhola then comprised 21 villages, all of which had been enrolled under the Hulak system.

The government revised the revenue settlement in Panchsayakhola at Shim Shumshere's cost. The settlement team was headed by Kharidar Hari Prasad Padhya.

On Ashadh Sudi 7, 1954 (June 1897), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere issued the following order :

- (1) A royal order had been issued previously stipulating revenue collection on thek basis from the inhabitants of ten villages.

- (2) No Jagat duties shall be collected from the inhabitants of the remaining villages on salt procured by them, irrespective of the number of trips.

Hari Prasad Padhya reported :

"The number of Hulaki villages has now gone upto 21 as a result of subdivision and new settlement. The inhabitants of all these villages provide labor services under the hulak system and enjoy exemption from Jagat duties."

On Chaitra Badi 7, 1954 (March 1898), therefore, the Prime Minister's order was revised in order to extend the Jagat exemption to the inhabitants of all the 21 villages comprising Panchsayakhola.

A copy of the order was forwarded to the Kathmandu Amanat Goswara Chansar.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 77, pp. 234-237.

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#### Bhatta Land Assignments

Prime Minister Bir Shumshere introduced the system of assigning lands to his sons, even before they had come of age, in lieu of allowances. These grants were known as Bhatta. Some of these grants are listed below :

- (1) Pratap Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur was assigned lands and homesteads as bhatta in the Bulgaun area of Dolakha. In 1901, a thek-ijara for these lands and homesteads yielded an income of Rs 271-7.

Baisakh Badi 7, 1958  
(April 1901)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 91, pp. 643-51.

- (2) The Siling area of Gorkha had similarly been assigned to Pratap Shumshere as bhatta. It yielded an income of Rs 576-9.

Baisakh Badi 2, 1958  
(April 1901)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 91, pp. 651-74.

- (3) Tej Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur was assigned the Sangrametar area of Dhading as bhatta. The assignment yielded an annual income of Rs 100.

Jestha Sudi 12, 1943  
(May 1886)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 53, pp. 114-19.

- (4) Dharma Shumshere Jung Rana was assigned the Khotang area of Majhkirat as bhatta, with an income of Rs 1711-8 through a thek-ijara in A.D. 1886.

Shrawan Badi 1, 1943  
(July 1886)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 53, pp. 142-46.

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#### Hulak Arrangements

In the region from the Vishnumati river in Kathmandu to the Mahakali river in western Nepal, selected households had been enrolled under the Thaple-Hulaki and Kagate-Hulaki Systems (for the transportation of goods and mail respectively), and lands had been allotted to the Hulakis, in the Vikrama year 1866 (A.D. 1809).

Similar arrangements had been made in the region from the Tukucha river in Kathmandu to Vijayapur and Ilam in eastern Nepal in the Vikrama year 1872 (A.D. 1815).

In subsequent years, new households were enrolled as Thaple-Hulaki or Kagate-Hulaki, and lands were allotted to them accordingly.

Both peasants and jagirdars, therefore, complained to the government that because of such indiscriminate land allotments, the common peasants had been left with no lands to cultivate, and that jagirdars too had been unable to collect their rents in full.

The following order was issued on Magh Sudi 4, 1899 (January 1843) to redress these grievances :

1. The households enrolled under the Thaple-Hulaki and Kagate-Hulaki systems (in A.D. 1809 and 1815), and the lands allotted to them, shall be reconfirmed.

2. Subsequent enrollments and land allotments shall all be cancelled.
3. In case the position of any Hulaki falls vacant as a result of death or migration, a capable person shall be appointed to fill up the vacancy in consultation with local functionaries (dware, thari, mukhiya, Rai, Majhiya, Mijhar, Gaurung).
4. Because the (confiscated) lands of Brahman (Hulakis) have been restored to them, they are now in possession of both such lands and the Raikar lands allotted to them under Hulak tenure. In such cases, the regular raikar land allotment shall be reconfirmed, and the surplus area shall be resumed.

Magh Sudi 4, 1899  
(January 1843)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 436-441.

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#### Forest Regulations

On Poush Badi 4, 1942 (December 1885), an order was issued in the name of Prime Minister Bir Shumshere to the Kathmahal Bandobast Adda to direct the chiefs of all Timber Depots (Dwar) and Forest Inspection Offices (Ban Janch Adda) from the Mechi to the Mahakali to impose the following restrictions in forests under their jurisdiction :

1. No person shall use snares for hunting in forests. In case any one does so, he shall be arrested and the matter shall be referred to us.
2. In forests south of the Chure range, only trees which have been officially marked shall be cut for commercial purposes. No other trees shall be allowed to be cut. In case any person does so, the matter shall be referred to us.

Poush Badi 11, 1942  
(December 1885)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 54, pp. 190-91.

The Sadar Jangi Kotwali Thana at Indrachowk in Kathmandu submitted the following report to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere :

"Guards had been deputed from the army to look after forests within Kathmandu Valley. But these were subsequently withdrawn."

On Kartik Sudi 15, 1940 (October 1883), Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha had issued an order to the Sadar Jangi Kotwali Thana directing it to employ local functionaries (dware, mahane, thari, rakami) as forest guards. Their functions, duties, and privileges were prescribed as follows :

- (1) To impose the same restrictions as had been imposed at the time when forest guards deputed from the army were looking after the forests.
- (2) To arrest persons who cut trees or cleared forests without permission, produce them before the local amal, and have them punished, irrespective of whether they are local persons or outsiders.
- (3) To impose fines according to the law at rates prescribed in the wood-inscription (kathpatra), and share the income among themselves.
- (4) To submit a report on the value (bigu) of the timber and firewood (cut by poachers) every month through the Sadar Jangi Kotwali Thana and take action as directed.
- (5) To arrest any revenue functionary who himself cuts trees, and produce him before the Sadar Jangi Kotwali Thana along with the value of the timber so cut.
- (6) To undergo any punishment that may be inflicted if the functionaries are unable to protect the forests and these are destroyed as a result.

Forests within Kathmandu Valley have been looked after according to these regulations. Forest guards appointed by the Junior Princess (Kanchhi Maiyan) in her daijo-birta forests in Gokarna, Raite, and Bhotaban, and by General Padma Jung Rana in his birta forests in Nagarkot, Chhahare, and Amaikot, have been removed. It, therefore, appears necessary to employ local revenue functionaries in looking after these forests as well in the manner indicated in the aforesaid regulations.

On Jestha Badi 7, 1943 (May 1886) an order was issued in the name of Prime Minister Bir Shumshere endorsing the above recommendation, and directing the Sadar Jangi Kotwali Thana at Indrachowk in Kathmandu to make necessary arrangements to have those forests looked after by local revenue functionaries as in the case of other forests. The order added, "You shall be held responsible if such arrangements are not made, and the forests are destroyed as a result."

Orders were accordingly issued to local headmen (thari, mukhiya, mijhar, Gaurung, Naike, mahane, mohinaike) and revenue functionaries (rakami) in the villages of Chilaane-Bhanjyang, Chituwa-Bhanjyang, Archale, Lambagar, Anaikot, Golmadevi and Chhaharegaun.

The Sadar Jangi Kotwali Thana subsequently reported to the Prime Minister: "In accordance with this order, we have made the local revenue functionaries sign bonds and look after the forests. It is now necessary to issue formal orders (sanad) in their names."

The May 1886 order also mentions the rates of fines for different offenses indicated in the wood-inscription. These are as follows :

- (1) Any person who breaks the eggs of birds shall be punished with a fine of one rupee.
- (2) Any person who kills a bird shall be punished with a fine of one rupee.
- (3) Any person who takes out loads of foliage (syaula) from forests shall be punished with a fine of two rupees and eight annas.
- (4) Any person who cuts unyu grass from forests shall be punished with a fine of eight annas.
- (5) Any person who grazes cows and buffaloes in forests shall be punished with a fine of eight annas for each animal.
- (6) Any person who grazes sheep and goats in forests shall be punished with a fine of five annas for each animal.
- (7) Any person who plucks fruits or digs tanul (Dioscorea alata) in forests shall be punished with a fine of one rupee and eight annas.
- (8) Any person who takes out dry or rotten timber from forests shall be punished with a fine of eight annas.
- (9) In case any of our hunters hunts in forests without our permission, he shall be punished with a fine of ten rupees.
- (10) Any person who cuts a tree below the height of a man's thigh shall be punished with a fine of five rupees.
- (11) Any person who cuts a tree below the height of a man's waist shall be punished with a fine of ten rupees.

- (12) Any person who cuts a tree above the height of a man's waist shall be punished with a fine of fifteen rupees.
- (13) Any person who only moves about in forests shall be punished with a fine of five annas.
- (14) If any hunter of the General visits the forests with the motive of hunting, he shall be punished with a fine of ten rupees, and the case shall be referred to us.
- (15) Hunters paid to hunt shall be imprisoned for six months. The sentence shall not be commuted to a fine.
- (16) Bears or tigers coming out of forests shall be killed by any one who can do so. This shall not be considered to be an offense.

Jestha Sudi 7, 1943  
(May 1886)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 53, pp. 120-127.

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Regulations for the Bheri-Mahakali Region.

Royal order to Chautariya Bhima Bikram Shah :

"Local functionaries (jimmawal, thari, mukhiya) and other people (bhaladmi, raiyat) in the Bheri-Mahakali region represent matters falsely to us and obtain royal orders (lalmohar) accordingly. This gives rise to disputes in the country and people come here with complaints."

The following regulations were, therefore, issued in the name of Chautariya Bhima Bikram Shah :

- (1) After a complaint relating to land is received, the relevant royal order shall be procured, and the complaint shall be disposed of accordingly.
- (2) No complaint which has once been disposed of properly may be revived.

- (3) Title to disputed lands shall be confirmed in favor of the person who has been in possession of such lands for more than sixty years.
- (4) No complaint relating to lands which have been in the possession (of any person) for more than sixty years shall be heard.
- (5) We have received reports that people have been ruined because jimmawals and mukhiyas impose heavy fines for both major and minor offenses. In the future, no fine exceeding ten rupees shall be imposed at a time.
- (6) In the case of criminal offenses (khatuki), the criminal shall be handed over to the Doti Adalat, and the Dittha of that Adalat shall pronounce a true judgment.
- (7) Bhardars deputed to the district headquarters (muhuda) shall not appoint Dwares or Bicharis in any division (garkha) to hear cases relating to Panchakhat crimes.
- (8) All royal orders issued previously on the basis of false representations are hereby cancelled.

Poush Sudi 4, 1902,  
(December 1845)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 555-556.

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Taxes from Birta Lands1. Bhirkot

The family of Kusumakar Padhya and Siddhi Narayan Padhya owned 200 muris of rice-fields, and pakho lands which required 15 muris of ghaiya seeds for sowing, in Bhirkot.

These lands were reconfirmed in the course of the scrutiny of birta grants in the Vikrama year 1862 (A.D. 1805).

In the Vikrama year 1876 (A.D. 1819) a new royal order was issued reconfirming these birta lands on condition that saunefagu and dashain-tika taxes were paid every year to the royal palace. These taxes amounted to eight annas each, thus making a total payment of one rupee a year. The birta-owners paid this amount, as well as one-third of income from fees and fines collected in the course of the administration of justice in the areas covered by the birta grant to the Sadar Dafdarkhana at Kathmandu.

In Baisakh 1902 (April 1845), Pramanabara Khan, a Prince (Saheb) of the erstwhile royal dynasty of Bhirkot, was appointed as jimmawal with authority to collect revenue in Bhirkot on a contractual (thek basis). The royal order issued to him in this connection authorized him to collect saunefagu taxes from birta lands as well.

The birtaowners then submitted a petition to Kathmandu praying that they be allowed to pay their taxes through the Sadar Dafdarkhana as before, rather than to the jimmawal. Their request was accepted.

Poush Sudi 4, 1902  
(December 1845)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, pp. 557-559.

2. Tistung

A concubine of Ran Bahadur Shah (Sahila Bhitryani Bajyaju) owned a tract of land called Naliban in the Tistung area under birta tenure.

On Poush Sudi 4, 1902 (December 1845), a royal order was issued directing that sama and saunefagu taxes, and income from judicial fees and fines, collected in areas covered by the birta grant be paid to the Tistung Amal, and that a cattle-farm (goth) be set up on the land.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 74, p. 562.

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Salaries and Allowances, A.D. 1889

The following list of salaries and allowances (bhatta, petiya) disbursed in cash to government servants and other persons through the Kausi Tosakhana for the Vikrama year 1946 (A.D. 1889-90) was prepared on Bhadra Badi 13, 1946 (August 1889). It should be noted that the amounts disbursed as salaries do not represent the total amount of such salaries, inasmuch as government employees were partly remunerated through land assignments under the jagir system. (Fractions of one anna have been omitted).

A. Salaries of Bhardars and Other Jagirdars

1. Gururaj Pandit Kuber Raj Panditju	12 annas.
2. Gururaj Pandit Loka Raj Panditju	Rs 11,154-12
3. Gururaj Pandit Tarka Raj Panditju	Rs 253-7
4. Gururaj Pandit Heramba Raj Panditju	Rs 829-5
5. Gururaj Pandit Hema Raj Panditju	Rs 593-8
6. Gururaj Pandit Amara Raja Panditju	Rs 2,114-11
7. Guru Purohit Khajanchi Vamadev Panditju	Rs 6,826
8. Commander-in-Chief General Deva Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur	Rs 28,023-15
9. General Khadga Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur, Commander-in-Chief for the Western Zone	Rs 19,218-8
10. Chautariya Ravindra Bikram Shah	Rs 7,125
11. Chautariya Keshari Jang Parakrama Shah	Rs 5,074-12
12. Gehendra Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur, Dada to His Majesty	Rs 3,385-1
13. Kaji Laxmibhakta Padhya	Rs 130-5
14. Judge Nanda Raj Gurugharana Panditju	Rs 2,381-4
15. Sardar Krishna Raj Gurugharana Panditju	Rs 297-13
16. Sardar Balaman	Rs 756-5
17. Sardar Hari bhakta	Rs 3,500
18. Sardar Bhaktabir Rajbhandari	Rs 536-15
19. Major Captain Krishnaman Karki Chhetri	Rs 1,658-10

20. Captain Bhagawat Prasad Padhya	Rs 1,094-11
21. Sardar Bhagawat Bhakta	Rs 2,513-8
22. Subba Vishnu Hari Padhya	Rs 570-5
23. Subba Ranganath Padhya	Rs 597-10
24. Subba Krishna Bhakta	Rs 1,485-9
25. Subba Manohar Padhya	Rs 696-2
26. Subba Khadananda Padhya	Rs 1,100-6
27. Subba Chhabiman Singh Basnyat Chhetri	Rs 176-12
28. Subba Prithvidhar Padhya	Rs 637-13
29. Subba Shiva Prasad Padhya	Rs 1,716-14
30. Subba Chhabilal Padhya	Rs 806-15
31. Naib Subba Vishnubhakta	Rs 41-11
32. Naib Subba Vishnu Man Singh	Rs 1,300
33. Naib Subba Bhakta Bahadur Rajbhandari	Rs 1,200
34. Naib Subba Krishna Das	Rs 1,600
35. Naib Subba Simha Bahadur Rajbhandari	Rs 480-12
36. Daroga Padma Bahadur Basnyat	Rs 634-10
37. Dware Buddhinath Mishra	Rs 675
38. Dittha Gobindabhakta	Rs 100
39. Dittha Devidas (Thansing orchard)	Rs 120
40. Dittha Bhim Bahadur Pande (Khinchet orchard and cattle farm)	Rs 200
41. Kharidar Ser Man	Rs 12
42. Vaidya Ramadas	Rs 752-13
43. Baithake Haridas	Rs 38-14
44. Naik Punbir (of carpenters)	Rs 946-6
45. Bihari (barber)	Rs 226-2

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Total Rs 113,590-10

(Including Mohar Rs 113,528-7  
paise Rs 62-3).

B. Allowances (Bhatta)

1.	Babu Saheb Sher Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 6,796-2
2.	Babu Saheb Harsha Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 6,991-9
3.	Babu Saheb Mohan Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 4,103-14
4.	Babu Saheb Dhairya Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 5,636-1
5.	Babu Saheb Samar Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 3,500-14
6.	Babu Saheb Khamba Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 7,259-7
7.	Padma Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 6,400
8.	Bhanu Bikram Rana	Rs 2,226-5
9.	Shubha Bikram Rana	Rs 130-10
10.	Kumar Narsing Rana	Rs 3,472-5
11.	Kishor Narsing Rana	Rs 3,551-8
12.	Min Bahadur Rana	Rs 2,786-13
13.	Gambhir Katuwal Chhetri	Rs 4,762-14
14.	Maiyan Durga Kumari	Rs 28
15.	Taraksha Bikrama Rana	Rs 800
16.	Huwan Bikram Rana	Rs 800
17.	Wife of Raja Dal Bahadur Shah of Achham	Rs 473-6
18.	Wife, son, and two servants of Captain Garuda Bikram Singh Thapa Chhetri	Rs 140
19.	Janak Kumari, mother of Captain Tika Bahadur Rana	Rs 599-6
20.	Shiva Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 6,400
21.	Tanka Bikram Dhoj Rana	Rs 412-9
22.	Purna Bikram Rana	Rs 175-8
23.	Prem Bikram Rana	Rs 812.6
24.	Babu Saheb Dharma Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 4,819-12
25.	Babu Saheb Pratap Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 1,413-10
26.	Babu Saheb Punya Shumshere Jung Rana	Rs 3,460
	<b>Total</b>	Rs 77,953-11

(Including Mohar Rs 77,946-6  
Paisa Rs 7-4).

C. Maintenance Allowances (Petiya)

1. Khadga Jung Shah, grandson of Chautariya Daksha Shah	Rs 38
2. Maiya Divya Kumari, widowed daughter of General Bakhat Jung Rana, her cook, and two attendants	Rs 350
3. Jagat Kumari, youngest wife of Kaji Bakhan Simha Basnyat	Rs 35
4. Widowed daughter of Bada Guruju, her cook, and two attendants	Rs 300
5. Captain Bhawanibhakta Shahi and his family (ten persons)	Rs 190
6. Wife of Sardar Chet Simha Basnyat	Rs 35
7. Pramana Kumari, daughter of General Aiman Rana	Rs 35
8. Hit Bahadur Pande and Tanka Bahadur Pande	Rs 61-1
9. Hemanta Kumari and her son, Birakesar Bista	Rs 412-4
10. Subedar Kul Bahadur Pande and his family	Rs 114
11. Captain Kumbha Simha Gurung	Rs 200
12. Anangamanjari Devi, wife of Colonel Jangadhwoj Rana	Rs 75.
13. Lalit Kumari, daughter of Colonel Gajaraj Thapa	Rs 600
14. Subedar Kashiram Gurung	Rs 30-12
15. Lt. Colonel Buddhiman Simha	Rs 539-1
Total	Rs 3,015-4

GRAND TOTAL

A. Salaries	Rs 113,590-10
B. Allowances (Ehatta)	Rs 77,953-11
C. Maintenance Allowances (Petiya)	Rs 3,015-4
Grand Total	Rs 194,539-9

Bhadra Badi 13, 1946  
(August 1889)

A Short History of Nepal

By

Baburam Acharya

(Continued from the July 1983 issue)

Baburam Acharya, "Nepalako Samkshipta Itihasa" (A short history of Nepal), edited by Devi Prasad Mandari, Purnima No. 48, Chaitra 2037 (March-April 1981), Chapter VII : "Pachhillo Licchavi Rajya, (I. Sam. 642-880 Am.) (The later Licchavi Dynasty, circa A.D. 642-880), pp. 1-5).

1. Udaya Deva, Amshuvama's son, died in Lhasa, and his son, Narendra Deva, attained majority there. Even though he was related to Srong Tsan Gampo, he had been unable to remove Jishnu Gupta and Vishnu Gupta and was biding his time. Two years before Amshuvama died, the empire of China had come under the Tang dynasty. Harshavardhana had heard about the second emperor of this dynasty, Taichung from Yuan Chwang. He sent an embassy to China through an ancient circuitous route along the Pamirs. Taichung decided to reciprocate this gesture by sending his own embassy to the Court of Harshavardhana via Tibet and Nepal. At this moment, Narendra Deva, with the support of China and Tibet, went to Nepal before the embassy had left. As the people of Nepal supported Narendra Deva, Bhimarjuna Deva and Vishnu Gupta were defeated in a fierce battle and had to relinquish the throne and the reins of administration. Narendra Deva shifted the throne to the Kailashakuta Palace and was crowned there. He then assumed reins of administration firmly (circa A.D. 642).

2. In A.D. 643, a Chinese embassy led by Li Yi-Piao came to Nepal and met Narendra Deva. It then left for the court of Harshavardhana, where it spent nearly two years. Harshavardhana too sent his embassy to China. In A.D. 647, another Chinese embassy led by Yu An-Che departed for the Court of Harshavardhana. He had gone there previously also. After meeting Narendra Deva, the embassy proceeded toward the Tarai. It was accompanied by some thirty horsemen. Harshavardhana's death, and famine in the same year, had brought his empire to the verge of disintegration. Yu An-Che fled to Nepal, when Arjuna, governor of Tirhut, looted his belongings, and killed or captured members of his entourage.

3. Yu An-Che asked for help from Narendra Deva and Srong Tsan Gampo in order to take revenge on Arjuna. With the help of infantry from Tibet, and cavalry from Nepal, he invaded the fort of Arjuna in Tirhut. Thousands of enemy troops were killed in the battle, and thousands more drowned while trying to cross the Bagmati river. Arjuna fought again with reinforcements of troops. He was defeated in this battle also, and was arrested and taken as a prisoner to China. Many years after this incident, Srong Tsan-Gampo died in A.D. 657. A Nepali embassy went to China the next year (A.D. 651). Later because of the conflict between Tibet and China, political relations between Nepal and China remained broken for 650 years.

4. Yu An-Che came to Nepal for the third time in A.D. 657 as a monk while visiting Buddhist shrines in India. After that pilgrimage, he returned to China through the ancient and circuitous route via the Pamirs. He had given an account of the Nepal of that time in his travelogue, which is now available only in excerpts. A summary of these excerpts, as given in a Tang Chronicle, is as follows.

The state of Nepal lies on the west of Tibet. It is the custom of the people of Nepal to shave themselves up to the eyebrows. They pierce their ears and wear a ring of bamboo or horn. Ears that reach the shoulders are a sign of beauty. They eat with their hands instead of using spoons or sticks. Their utensils are made of copper. There are many traders and pedlars. The number of farmers is very small. Their coin bears the effigies of a man on one side and of a horse on the other. They do not pierce the noses of their cattle. They wear a one-piece garment that covers the entire body, and bathe many times in a day. Their houses are made of wood. The walls of their houses are carved and painted. They are fond of dancing and games. They play on the Madal (Drum) and Karnal (horn), and are interested in research in astrology and materialistic philosophy. They are skilled also in preparing calendars. They worship five holy spirits, and carve their stone images. They bathe those images daily with holy water and sacrifice lambs.

Their King, Narendra Deva, decorates himself with precious jewels such as pearl, coral and emerald. He wears golden rings and jewelry in the ears, and a belt with an image of the Buddha, and sits on a throne. His court hall is sprayed with flowers and scent. The officers and other members of the court sit on the floor on either side. Hundreds of armed soldiers flank them. There is a seven-storey balcony lined with copper plate in the midst of the palace. Beautiful and precious stones are set in its corridors, lattice windows, poles, beams and other interior structures. Water pours out of the mouth of a golden serpent at the bottom. Water poured from the top cascades in a spring from the mouth of a golden crocodile at the bottom.

Obviously this account relates to the Kailashakuta Palace.

5. After the death of Narendra Deva in circa A.D. 674, his son Shiva Deva II, ascended the throne in the Kailashakuta Palace. During the period of Narendra Deva, friendly ties with Tibet were very strong. There was a custom of impressing porters from among the subjects of Nepal in the difficult terrain of the border for the convenience of travellers going to and coming from Tibet. Similar arrangements possibly existed on the Tibetan side also. When the power of the heirs of Srong Tsan-Gampo began to increase, they began to try to bring Nepal under their domination. Shiva Deva then made efforts to protect his independence, but was forced to flee due to the invasion of the capital by a large

army from Tibet, which demolished the Kailashakuta Palace. The Nepali army later attacked and chased the Tibetans as far as the Bramhaputra. The King of Tibet, Tsitsa-Tsalang, was killed in this battle (A.D. 705). Shiva Deva reigned peacefully thereafter.

6. In circa A.D. 720, Shiva Deva II was succeeded by his son, Jaya Deva. After him, his son, Vijaya Deva, ascended the throne in circa A.D. 745. Before the Nepal-Tibet war during the reign of Shiva Deva, Vinayaditya, the Chalukya King of Maharashtra, who ruled from circa A.D. 680 to 696, invaded the Gupta Empire, and thus weakened it. King Yashovarma of Kannauj (circa A.D. 723-743) emerged as a powerful ruler, put an end to the Gupta Kingdom of Magadh, and thereby created anarchy. However, he was dethroned by King Muktapida of Kashmir (circa A.D. 733-756), who had then emerged as a powerful ruler. Muktapida had waged a war against Tibet also. A dispute was then going on between Tibet and China. In this situation, Nepal needed a wise and brave King such as Amshuvama. But neither Jaya Deva nor Vijaya Deva was a capable ruler, with the result that the second Licchavi dynasty became weak. For this reason, the period of 115 years after Vijaya Deva's reign is shrouded in darkness in the political history of Nepal.

7. At the time when a dark period began in the political history of Nepal, the subjects of Magadh, disgusted with anarchy, elected and installed a Hamal named Gopala as their King (circa A.D. 765-769). His son, Dharmapala (circa A.D. 769-809) was a powerful King. He conquered Timut and Bengal, and consolidated his Kingdom. Kanauj, located in the heart of north India, was still under the domination of the Kings of Kashmir. Dharmapala defeated Jayapida, grandson of Muktapida, and occupied Kanauj and proclaimed Chakrayudha as King. (circa A.D. 795). Dharmapala was a devout Buddhist. He served the Vajrayana Sect of Buddhism, in the same manner as Ashoka and Kanishka had served the original Buddhism and the Mahayana sect respectively.

8. After his defeat at the hands of Dharmapala, in the battle of Kanauj, Jayapida moved to the hills, from where he tried to occupy Nepal. Seeing that Jayapida was advancing toward the east with his Kashmiri troops, Aramudi, King of Nepal, marched with his Nepali army to drive him out. (Aramudi is the wrong term used in Kalhana's Rajatarangini. The correct form is probably Varma Deva). Finally, the armies of Jayapida and Aramudi faced each other on the banks of the Hori, which then formed the boundary of the Malla state. The Nepali side built a dam on the upper reaches of the river so that the Kashmiri troops might be drowned the moment they tried to cross it. Jayapida and his army, finding that the river was not deep, began wading through the river. The Nepali troops then opened the dam. As a result, several Kashmiri soldiers were washed away, and Jayapida was captured. He was taken to the right banks of the Kali-gandaki river, where Aramudi imprisoned him. However,

Jayapida's minister, Deva Sharma, helped his King to escape at the cost of his own life after making an alluring promise to Aramudi. Later, Jayapida went to the capital of Nepal and wrought havoc, but the Nepalis drove him out before long (circa A.D. 800). Even so, the Licchavis lost what remained of their power.

9. During the reign of Vijaya Deva, Tibet was ruled by Thi-Srong-De-Tson, who was a great propagator of Buddhism (circa A.D. 742-785). He invited Shantarakshita, a famous philosopher-teacher of Nalanda University, and engaged him for 25 years in his campaign for the propagation of Buddhism. Shantarakshita built a big Vihara named Samye near Lhasa. Before going to Tibet, he had stayed for some years in the capital of Nepal, renovated Gum Vihara, and renamed it as Samye. He died in Tibet in circa A.D. 780. King Ralpa-Tson Ta, grandson of Thi-Srong-De-Tson was a fanatic adherent of Buddhism (circa A.D. 817-841). He made his own son a Bhikshu, and assigned important state duties to incompetent Bhikshus. The result was that there was a chaos in the administration. Taking advantage of this situation, Longdarm, elder brother of the King, spread rumors that the Queen was having an illicit affair with a Bhikshu. On the pretext of these rumors, he murdered that Bhikshu. The Queen committed suicide. Longdarm, with the help of former ministers who were opposed to Buddhism, assassinated his brother, and proclaimed himself King (circa A.D. 841-842). Determined to destroy Buddhism in Tibet, he persecuted Buddhists and destroyed and desecrated Chaityas and Bahals. After eighteen months of such tyranny, a Bhikshu went to him in disguise and assassinated him. After him, his son became king of Lhasa. However, by then the big state of Tibet, created by Srong Tsan-Gampo, had split into several principalities as a result of civil war. In spite of the disintegration of the first state of Tibet, its national identity was preserved by its geographical, ethnic, religious and linguistic unity.

10. The later Licchavi kings had to remain constantly vigilant against Tibet. Incidentally, the later Licchavi dynasty came to an end with the disintegration of Tibet (A.D. 380). The old Malla Kingdom of Dailekh and the Katyuri Kingdom of Kumaun too had been encroached upon in the wake of Jayapida's invasion. The Licchavi state became weak after his return, with the result that the Malla Kingdom of Dailekh became independent. However, the Malla and Katyuri Kingdoms soon disintegrated, and their place was taken over by the Rajputs who had settled down there.

End of Chapter VII

Guthi Endowment for Temple at Ridi

Ambar Jung and Bhupendra Jung were sons of Jagat Shumshere a brother of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur. They occupied the eighth and eleventh places respectively in the roll of succession to the Prime Ministership prepared after the assassination of Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha in 1885 (Perceval Landon, Nepal, vol. 1, pp. 249-50), but were removed from the new roll of succession prepared after Prime Minister Bir Shumshere staged a coup in that year. (Satish Kumar, Rana Polity in Nepal, p. 163).

The birta lands of Ambar Jung and Bhupendra Jung were all confiscated after 1885. Some of these lands, located in the Palhi area of the western region, were endowed as guthi for a temple at Ridi on Aswin Badi 2, 1954 (September 1897). (Regmi Research Collection, vol. 90, pp. 404-414). These lands yielded an income of Kampani Rs 380-12. The temple had been constructed by the eldest daughter of Prime Minister Bir Shumshere.

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Birta Grant to Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha

Major Captain Sangramasur Bista Chhetri was beheaded on charges of treason, and his property, as well as the property of his brothers, was confiscated by the government. It included 3,000 ropanis of khet and pakho lands, both waste and cultivated, and homesteads, at Dukugaun.

These lands were subsequently granted as Sarba-Kara-Akara-Sarbangamafi Birta to Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha.

The grant contravened the following laws :

- (1) Section 3 of the Law on State-Affairs (Rajkajko Ain).

"Neither the Vizier, nor any of his sons and brothers, shall accept lands other than those under forest in the old territories of the Kingdom acquired by other Viziers even though His Majesty may grant him lands through favor or the desire to please him. In case he does so, he shall be considered to be a faithless person (nimak-haram)."

- (2) Section 8 of the Land Law (Jaggajamin Goswara).

(3) Section 90 of the Law on Judicial Procedure  
(Adalati Bandobastako).

The royal order decreed that the lands mentioned above be granted as birta to Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha notwithstanding the restrictions prescribed in those laws. It justified such action by pointing out that Prime Minister Jung Bahadur too had obtained cultivated lands as birta in contravention of those laws, and that the lands now granted as birta to Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha had been confiscated from Major Captain Sangramasur Bista Chhetri, who had been beheaded on charges of treason, and his brothers.

The lands yielded an income of Rs 205 in cash, and a goat, every year.

Ashadh Badi 2, 1940  
(June 1883)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 58, pp. 161-173.

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Food Supplies in Ilam

Civil and military employees stationed in Ilam had customarily been procuring provisions from the local people at rates current in the village.

In A.D. 1892, the Chief Administrator of Ilam, Chautariya Lt. Colonel Khadga Bahadur Shah, reported to Kathmandu that the local people had refused to supply provisions any more on these terms. He prayed that a formal order (sanad) be issued authorizing government employees in Ilam to procure provisions from the local people at rates current in the village.

The Sadar Dafdarkhana was directed to investigate the request. Its report was as follows :

"The people of Ilam complain that civil, judicial, and military employees in Ilam exact provisions from them at rates below those current in the village. They also complain that these employees exact labor services from them for personal needs, even though the local people are under obligation to provide labor services to the government."

On Ashadh Badi 6, 1949 (June 1892), therefore, Prime Minister Bir Shumshere, on the recommendation of the Sadar Dafdarkhana as endorsed by the Muluki Adda, directed that the following public notification (ishtihar) be issued throughout the Kingdom :

"In case any government employee forcibly exacts provisions from the local people at rates lower than those current in the village, or forces people to work for him notwithstanding their obligation to provide labor services to the government, complaints may be filed at the local court, and justice will be dispensed according to the law. Government employees may accordingly procure provisions actually needed by them at rates current in the village, but only after leaving with the people the quantities that they need for their own consumption throughout the year. They shall not procure provisions in excess of their actual needs."

Ashadh Badi 6, 1949  
(June 1892)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 58, pp. 532-36.

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### District Tours of Rana Prime Ministers

#### 1. Vishnumati-Deurali Region

Order to Lt. Likhadhvaj Khatri Chhetri from Prime Minister Jung Bahadur :

"Since we intend to undertake a tour of that area in the month of Ashwin 1920 (September 1863), you are hereby ordered to widen the existing main route from the Vishnumati river to Deurali in the west. At those points where the route passes through rough terrain, or is circuitous, it should be realigned, and made suitable for horses and palanquins without any obstruction. Construct bridges (pul, sangnu) where necessary. For the construction of both roads and bridges, impress the labor services of the local people."

Chaitra Sudi 1, 1919  
(March 1863)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 33, pp. 488-89.

## 2. Satighat-Humla Region

Prime Minister Jung Bahadur's Order to Chief Colonel Dilli Simha Basnyat Chhetri :

" We intend to undertake a tour of that area from Marga 5, 1921 (November 20, 1864). You are, therefore, ordered to depute to officers and personnel of the Narayan Dal Paltan the impress the labor services of the local people to construct a road from Satighat to Humla. Obtain necessary funds from the Kausi Tosakhana for providing food (khaja) to the laborers at the rate of two paisa daily, and submit the accounts to the Kumarichok Dafdarkhana."

Aswin Sudi 3, 1921  
(September 1864)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 33, pp. 501-2.

## 3. Pyuthan-Surkhet Region

Prime Minister Jung Bahadur's Order to Commanding General Badri Narsing Kunwar Rana Bahadur on Ashadh Sudi 14, 1923 (July 1866).

"This year, we intend to undertake a tour to the west through Pyuthan and Surkhet. Impress the labor of the local people from Palpa to Pyuthan for the construction of roads sufficiently wide for horses and palanquins by the end of the month of Ashwin (October 15). In addition, arrange for adequate stocks of rice, pulses, maize, millet, flour, wheat, barley, peas, salt, oil, ghee, turmeric powder, chillies, ginger, etc to feed our entourage."

Such orders were sent on the same day to the following officials also :

- (1) Captain Bal Bahadur Pande Chhetri for the Pokhara-Palpa sector.
- (2) Colonel Rana Simha Khatri Chhetri for the Kathmandu-Pokhara sector.
- (3) Major Captain Udaya Simha Bogati Chhetri for the Pyuthan-Salyan sector.
- (4) Lt. Colonel Dal amardan Thapa Chhetri for the Salyan sector.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 63, pp. 9-10.

#### 4. Far-Western Tarai (Naya Muluk) Region

Prime Minister Jung Bahadur's order to Lt. Colonel Dalamardan Thapa Chhetri :

"This year (Vikrama 1923/A.D. 1866) we are leaving on a tour of the Naya Muluk on the auspicious day of Tika (i.e. the Dashain festival). When orders were sent to different areas for the supply of provisions, Subba Padmanabha Joshi reported from Banke that this year drought has damaged the rice crop in Banke, so that sufficient supplies of rice for our entourage will not be available.

"You are, therefore, directed to make arrangements for husking paddy received as rents (Panchkur-bataiya, i.e. one-fifth of the crop) from Dang and Deukhuri, impress the portering services of the local people for one day each on payment of wages, and transport the rice to the ferry-point (ghat). From there the rice shall be transported by boat to Sidhniya-Ghat. At that place, the cost of the rice, calculated at rates current in Dang and Deukhuri plus the amount spent as wages while transporting it to Sidhniya-Ghat, shall be realized from Subba Padmanabha Joshi. In this manner, make arrangements for the sale of rice worth Rs 20,000 or Rs 25,000.

"In case the quantity of rice collected as rents is not sufficient to feed our entourage, order the local people to sell their produce at Sidhniya-Ghat at rates current at that place."

Aswin Sudi 4, 1923  
(September 1866)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 63, pp. 276-78.

#### 5. Sindhuli-Morang Region

In Marga 1948 (December 1891), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere left on a hunting tour of Morang through Sindhuli. He was scheduled to halt in the valley south of Sindhuli-Gadhi on Marga 17, 1948 (December 3, 1891), and at Sindhuli-Madi on the following day.

On Aswin Sudi 2, 1948 (September 1891), the following order was sent to the officials of Sindhuli-Gadhi :

"The Prime Minister's party will include 10,000 troops and 200 horses. Rice, pulses, salt, oil, vegetable, ghee, spices, tobacco, ducks, sheep, goats, ducks' eggs, and feed for horses will be required for them. Issue orders to the inhabitants of villages situated in that area for the procurement of these supplies. Make arrangements to stock them at each camp four or five days in advance. Construct roads strong and wide enough

to ensure that horses of Arab breed pass through without any obstruction. Construct dirt bridges on streams and rivers, or make arrangements for boats in adequate numbers, as appropriate."

Regal Research Collection, vol. 50, pp. 625-28.

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Appointment of Mukhiya-Jimmawals  
Khumrichaur, Pyuthan

On Kartik Badi 3, 1945 (October 1888), Kaji Nara Bahadur Shah, a resident of Harigaun in Pyuthan, submitted the following petition to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere :

"Revenue on pakho lands (and homesteads) was collected in Khumrichaur Village by Mukhiya Ramu Roka, and on rice-terraces by Jimmawal Prasram Acharya. Because Ramu Roka resided not in this area but in Hhikrigaun, he was not able to make collections properly. Accordingly, he resigned that position in the name of his father, Khadga Simha Roka, and himself, and the inhabitants of Khumchaur indicated their willingness to have the resignation accepted. Accordingly, since the Vikrama year 1929 (A.D. 1872), I have been collecting revenue on pakho lands (and homesteads) in that village.

"Subsequently, I found that the Jimmawal, Prasram Acharya, was appropriating income from undeclared rice-lands. With my concurrence, Motilal Padhya and Deuraj Giri submitted a complaint. Prasram Acharya confessed his guilt, and was, therefore, replaced by Motilal Padhya and Deuraj Giri. They then placed their copy of the judgment in my custody, and from Vikrama 1929 to 1945 (A.D. 1872 to 1888), I collected revenue (on rice-lands also in the capacity of Jimmawal).

"Assessments for the Gadimubarakh levy, imposed in Vikrama 1942 (A.D. 1885) were made in my name under current orders and regulations, and the levy was collected accordingly.

"In the Vikrama year 1944 (A.D. 1887), Meherman Roka, a son of Khadga Simha Roka and elder brother of Ramu Roka, assigned the functions of Jimmawal, which had already been assigned to us according to the previous decision, to Hikmat Bista Chhetri, son of Subedar Tula Simha Bista Chhetri, even though the latter resides in a place which lies at a distance of 10 or 12 kosh, and cannot therefore make collections properly. Meharman Roka told Hikmat Bista Chhetri : "The assessments have been made in the name of my brother; we now authorize you to collect the revenue. Accordingly, Hikmat Bista Chhetri had visited (Khumrichaur Village) to make collections."

Kaji Nara Bahadur Shah, in his petition, declared that this action of the Rokas had aggrieved him. He added, "The Rokas reside in a distant place. As such, it will be difficult for them to do the government's work. I had signed an undertaking stipulating (to collect revenue in Khumchaur Village), and the local people are satisfied with my work. I have not caused any obstruction in the government's work. As such, it is not appropriate that I should lose my position of Mukhiya-Jimmawal, even when the Rokas had been removed from that position previously and a decision had been made in our favor. Moreover, the Rokas reside at a place which lies at a distance of 10 or 12 kosh, so that they will not be able to do the government's work. I have been working as a Mukhiya-Jimmawal in that village for the past fifteen years in accordance with the decision mentioned above, and no one has filed any complaint against me. In these circumstances, it is not appropriate that I should lose my position of Mukhiya-Jimmawal. How can a person who had once been removed from that position choose a replacement?" Kaji Nara Bahadur Shah, therefore, prayed that the Adalat Goswara be directed to reconfirm him in the position of Mukhiya-Jimmawal of Kumrichaur Village.

Commander-in-Chief General Deve Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur directed that the petition be forwarded to the Sadar Dafdarkhana. He noted: "In case the contents of this petition are true, a person who had once resigned the position and is now residing at a place located at a distance of 10 or 12 kosh cannot raise any trouble. A formal order (reconfirming Kaji Nara Bahadur Shah in that position) may be issued in accordance with the laws and regulations." The order was communicated to the Sadar Dafdarkhana by Captain Komal Simha Mahat Chhetri, and the Adalat Goswara also directed that the order be complied with.

On Marga Badi 8, 1945 (November 1888), the Sadar Dadfarkhana recommended that the Bakyauta Adda of Pyuthan be directed to reinstate Kaji Nara Bahadur Shah as Mukhiya-Jimmawal in Khumrichaur Village if the contents of the petition were true; and if not, to submit a recommendation for action according to the laws and regulations. This recommendation of the Sadar Dafdarkhana was endorsed by the Muluki Adda and approved by Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on Marga Badi 12, 1945 (November 1888).

The Sadar Dafdarkhana based its recommendation on the following Section 25 of the Law on Evictions (Jagga Pajaniko): "Talukdars shall not be dismissed unless they commit an offense. In case it is necessary to appoint another Talukdar, a person chosen by the local people and capable of collecting the revenue should be so appointed."

Marga Sudi 10, 1945  
(December 1888)

Doti

Order from General Fatte Shumshere Jung Rana Bahadur, Commanding-General for the Southern zone, to the officials of the Doti District Headquarters (Gaunda) Office :

"On Poush Sudi 4, 1945 (December 1888), you had been ordered to obtain tax-assessment registers (teri) from the following Mukhiyas and Jimmawals, who had been appointed during the revenue settlement of 1925 Vikrama (A.D. 1868), and forward such registers (to Kathmandu) within seven days. This action had been taken because these Mukhiyas and Jimmawals had been charged with having suppressed information relating to taxable lands. You had been ordered also to ascertain whether or not Kesari Chan is capable of discharging the functions of Mukhiya-Jimmawal in Purchaudi if appointed in that position, and whether or not the local people are willing to accept him as such."

The Doti District Headquarters Office replied that it had not been possible to comply with the order within the time limit prescribed above because the Mukhiyas and other respectable people of the village had left for the tour camp of Prime Minister Bir Shumshere.

Another order was sent to the Doti District Headquarters Office in the name of Commanding-General Fatte Shumshere on Magh Sudi 4, 1945 (January 1889) directing it to send the tax registers within seven days, since it was not possible that all the local people had left for the Prime Minister's tour camp.

Yet another reminder was sent to the Doti District Headquarters Office on Chaitra Badi 5, 1945 (March 1889), because it still had not sent the tax registers to Kathmandu.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 62, pp. 36-39.

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Revenue Assessments in Jumla

During the nineteenth century, the district of Jumla comprised a number of administrative divisions (dara). Revenue was collected under the thek-thiti system through village headmen (mukhiya). Revenues assessed for some divisions for A.D. 1850 were as follows : (Fractions of a rupee have been ignored).

<u>Division</u>	<u>Revenue-Assessment</u>
Tibrikot	Rs 4,070 <sup>1</sup>
Sija	Rs 4,734 <sup>2</sup>
Asi	Rs 2,792 <sup>3</sup>
Humla	Rs 6,108 <sup>4</sup>
Gam	Rs 3,582 <sup>5</sup>
Soru	Rs 1,341 <sup>6</sup>
Palata	Rs 2,970 <sup>7</sup>
Rakal	Rs 1,543 <sup>8</sup>
Sanni	Rs 949 <sup>9</sup>
Mugu	Rs 1,765 <sup>10</sup>
Barhabis	Rs 2,705 <sup>11</sup>
Kalikot	Rs 1,476 <sup>12</sup>
Khatyad	Rs 2,127 <sup>13</sup>

References

1. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Tibrikot," Shrawan Badi 4, 1903/July 1846, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 329-88.
2. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Sija," Baisakh Badi 13, 1907/April 1850, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 551-56. The figure was Rs 4,536 in 1838: (Chaitra Badi 7, 1894) March 1838, RRC, vol. 35, pp. 590-601), and Rs 4,648 in 1846. (Shrawan Badi 4, 1903/July 1846, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 389-437.
3. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Asi," Shrawan Badi 4, 1903/July 1846, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 437-64.
4. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Humla," Shrawan Badi 4, 1903/July 1850, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 465-85.
5. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Gam" Shrawan Badi 4, 1903/July 1846, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 486-501. The figure was Rs 3,335 in Vikrama 1900 (Chaitra Sudi 7, 1900) March 1844, Itihasa Prakasha, Vol. 2, Part 2, pp. 273-84.

6. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Soru," Jestha Badi 14, 1907/ May 1850, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 547-51.
7. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Palata," Baisakh Badi 13, 1907/April 1850, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 557-73.
8. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Rakal," Baisakh Badi 13, 1907/April 1850, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 573-77. The figure was Rs 1,449 in Vikrama 1894 (Falgun Sudi 3, 1894/ February 1838, RRC, vol. 35, pp. 583-89.
9. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Sanni," Baisakh Badi 12, 1907/ April 1850, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 604-12.
10. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Mugu," Baisakh Badi 13, 1907/ April 1850. RRC, vol. 80, pp. 612-25. The figure was Rs 1801 four years previously. Shrawan Badi 4, 1903/ July 1846. RRC, vol. 80, pp. 247-65. In Vikrama 1937 A.D. 1880), the amount of revenue assessed in the Mugu division had gone up to Rs 2,316. (Marga Badi 8, 1937/ November 1880/ Ibid, vol. 58, pp. 61-75.
11. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Barnabis," Baisakh Badi 13, 1907/April 1850, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 625-35.
12. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Kalikot," Shrawan Badi 4, 1903/July 1846, RRC, vol. 80, pp. 273-92.
13. "Thek-Thiti Arrangements for Khatyad," Falgun Sudi 3, 1894/February 1838, RRC, vol. 35, pp. 566-74.

During the middle of the nineteenth century, revenues from Jumla district were assigned to government employees under the Jagir system. In other words, almost no revenue accrued to the state treasury from the district.

During the early 1890s, four revenue divisions, Humla, Galfa, Soru, and Panchsaya, were removed from the jurisdiction of Jagirdars and placed under the jagera system, that is, under the direct control of the government. Revenues from these divisions were accordingly appropriated by the government. Revenue assessments in these divisions amounted to Rs 13,052 according to the 1868 settlement. The breakdown was as follows :

Humla	Rs 6,176
Galfa	Rs 1,877
Soru	Rs 1,370
Panchsaya	Rs 3,629
	<hr/>
	Rs 13,052

Out of the amount of Rs 3,629 collected in Panchsaya, Rs 1,464 was assigned to Tej Shumshere, a son of Prime Minister Shumshere. The balance of Rs 11,588 was deposited at the State Treasury in Palpa. ("Order to Sur Bahadur Shah Regarding Revenue Collection in Humla and other Areas," Poush Sudi 4, 1949/ December 1892), RRC, vol. 58, pp. 148-94).

A Short History of Nepal

By

Baburam Acharya

(Continued from the August 1983 issue)

Baburam Acharya, "Nepalako Samkshipta Itihasa" (A short history of Nepal), Purnima No. 48, Chaitra 2037 (March-April 1981), edited by Devi Prasad Bhandari; Chapter VIII: "Aghillo Madhyayugako Nepala (I. Sam. 525-880 Am.). (The early medieval period, circa A.D. 525-880), pp. 5-8.

1. Vajrayana, an offshoot of the Mahayana sect of Buddhism, had emerged as a new sect after the fifth century. While adherents of the Mahayana sect regarded the Buddha as redeemer of the world, those of the Vajrayana sect considered him an ideal man who had attained supernatural powers (Siddhi). Till the ninth century, this sect had had several Siddhas, who could display supernatural feats by means of mantras and yogic powers. Among them were a number of philosophers. This was the reason why the Vajrayana sect could survive for several centuries. At the very time when the Vajrayana sect was being founded, a new sect emerged from within the Shaiva sect of the Sanatana religion. It was called the Tantric sect, because its principles are outlined in texts on Tantra. Texts describing the principles of the Vajrayana sect are also called Tantric, hence Vajrayana was called a Tantric sect. The words "Left Path" and "Right Path" were used to distinguish between the Vajrayana and Tantric sects, because the adherents of the former used to perform certain religious rites with their left hand, and also used their fingers leftward in the course of recitation of mantras (Japa).

2. Matsyendranatha introduced the Vajrayana sect in Nepal. The Shaiva Tantric sect had come to Nepal well before the arrival of the Vajrayana sect. The propagation of both these sects thus began at about the same time. The Shaiva Tantrics installed the image of Pashupatinatha, who was then recognized as the supreme god of Nepal. Anshuvarma was deeply devoted to Pashupatinatha. Among his titles was one which literally meant: "blessed by Pashupatinatha." This title was used by his successor Vijaya Deva also. This indicates that the image of Pashupatinatha had been installed at the beginning of the medieval period. At about the same time, followers of the Vajrayana sect had installed the idol of Avalokiteshwara in Kathmandu. It follows that the Licchavis, Abhiras, and other adherents of the Sanatana religion followed the Shaiva Tantric sect, and the Neparas, who had become Buddhists, the Vajrayana sect, for nearly 200 years (AD 570-765). Anshuvarma and his successors did not show any disrespect to the Vajrayana sect. Anshuvarma had, in fact, made arrangements for equal offerings to Pashupatinath and Gum Vihara. Narendra

Deva had installed the idol of Vajreshwara to promote reconciliation between the two sects. Shiva Deva II had made land assignments in favor of both the Acharyas of the Pasupata sect and Bhikshus belonging to the Vajrayana sect.

3. After the establishment of the Pala dynasty, Dhamapala laid great emphasis on the propagation of the Vajrayana school of Buddhism. Consequently, there was a fresh influx of adherents of this sect into Nepal and they converted the Licchavis to Buddhism. Till then, three fourths of the Neparas had mingled with Aryan blood, so that their physiognomy no longer differed much from that of the Licchavis. Inasmuch as the two communities had started following the same religion by that time, they had no difficulty in establishing matrimonial relations between themselves. Finally Licchavis and Neparas became part and parcel of the same community speaking a common language (AD 765-880). Ninety percent of the physiognomy of this community had Aryan features. But it used the language spoken by the Neparas. That is why the Bainsas who later arrived in Nepal called the community "Niwar." This non-Aryan term did not exactly suit the community, but was nonetheless used because it was the name given to it by the victorious Bainsas. "Newar" is the corrupt form of this term and is still used in Nepal. The Vajrayana sect was thus able to bring the Licchavis into its fold, but it was not able to extend its sway over such communities as Magars and Murmis.

4. People belonging to the Mongoloid communities, inhabited the Bramaputra basin also before the Tibetan branch of the Tibeto-Burman group crossed the Himalayas and started living there and harassing them. The Mongoloid community had migrated to that region when the Himalayan passes were opened up during the reign of Srong Tsan Gampo. They assimilated themselves with the Mongoloid communities already inhabiting the Himalayan and hill regions. The process of assimilation lasted several centuries. Legends in this regard have been forgotten by Mongoloid communities, but not by the Yakthumba community. Five of the ten clans of this community are said to belong to the Kashigotra clan, and the other five to the Lhasagotra clan. Both these clans worship Srong Tsan Gampo as a god (Sirjang). The Yakthumbas usually pronounced the latter "kha" as "ka," hence the term "kashi" used by them to denote their clan should be pronounced "khasi." The Khasis of Assam still speak Mongoloid dialects. It thus seems that the Yakthumba community had come into being through the assimilation of Indians and Tibetans belonging to the Mongoloid community.

5. The population of Nepal increased as a consequence of the assimilation of the Mongoloid communities which had migrated from Tibet after the opening of the Himalayan passes. These passes enabled Chinese and Tibetans to travel to and from northern India. New settlements were opened in northern India in the wake of the commercial intercourse which developed as a result.

The Kailashkutabhavana was destroyed during the rule of Shiva Deva II. He therefore, built a new palace named Bhadradhivasabhavana and shifted his residence there. Consequently, Vaishali became depopulated, and the canal constructed there collapsed. It turned into a stream which continued to erode the town. While the town became depopulated, other settlements appeared. At the place which is now called Kathmandu, there existed in incient times a village named Panchakoli. The Bhadradhivasabhavana was probably located in that village. Panchakoli began transforming itself into a city after the construction of the Bhadradhivasabhavana. During the reign of Amshuvama, there were two small villages in what is now called Bhaktapur. Before long the two villages combined and expanded to assume the form of a city. Similarly, there emerged new settlements in Dolakha, Dingla, Nuwakot, and Ridi, which, for their growth, relied on the Phalak, Natiya, Kerung and Mustang passes respectively. It was at that time that the foundation of Gorkha town was laid.

6. Before the time of Amshuvama, such raw materials as wool, musk, honey and medicinal herbs produced in Nepal were all sold in the towns of Tirhut and Magadh, and the capital of Nepal imported from there goods such as salt and cloth. The Nepalis were thus able to carry on trade on a limited scale so that they had not much wealth. But with the opening of routes to Tibet, commercial intercourse between Tibet and the southern Tarai regions began to be conducted through Nepal, thereby inspiring the local Licchavis and Nopars to engage in trade. As a result, Lalitpur became a prosperous town. With the aim of further developing this trade, Amshuvama minted coins of nine or ten types, while Jishnu Gupta issued one coin called Pana. During the rule of these kings gold and silver were scarce, inasmuch as trade was then in its infancy. This explains why these two Kings were able to circulate only coins made of copper extracted from copper mines in their territories. Silver coins called Purana were minted by commercial houses themselves. The value of these coins was equivalent to the actual price of silver. Once the seal of a commercial house was affixed on Purana coins there was no need to weigh them and determine their value, hence they were accepted as coins.

7. From the account given by the Chinese with regard to the Kailashkutabhavana built in the early medieval period, it appears that the Nepalis of those days were highly skilled in architecture. Images of the Buddha in Panauti and Nambudha, of Maya Devi at Yangaltola in Kathmandu, and of Avalokiteshwara and Tara, scattered here and there in Kathmandu and Lalitpur, appear to have been made during that period. In design they resemble the images built in Bihar during the later Gupta period. The architects tried their best, without much success, to make the images expressive. The Chaitya at Bhagwan Bahal near Deopatan, and the Khasa Chaitya, were designed during the same period. In these big Chaityas, one gets a glimpse of the medieval state of architecture.

8. During this period, Nepalis used to read Indian literature and philosophy written in Sanskrit. Official decrees too were written in Sanskrit. The Licchavis and Abhirs, however, spoke a language which was a distorted form of Magadhi Prakrit. Later, when Licchavis and Nepars merged into a single community, they stopped using this language and switched to the original form of the modern Newari language, that is, the dialect originally spoken by the Nepars. It originally consisted of harsh-sounding words. But through a mixture of words which formed a part of the distorted form of the dialect originally used by the Licchavis, the words of the new language were pleasant to hear. Dialects used by other Mongoloid communities such as Murmis and Thamis also went through a continuing process of change. However, words belonging to the Aryan languages could not enter into their dialects, as they had not yet embraced any Indian religion.

The Khasas of the Khashanta region, however, used to speak the original form of the Khasa dialect, while the Aryans who had migrated to that region later spoke the Awadhi Prakrit language. During that period, the Kingdom of Kannauj was a center of Indian civilization. The people of that area spoke a distorted form of the Shauraseni language. Many rural songs and poems were composed and read in this language. Because Khashanta maintained day-to-day contacts with Kannauj, a distorted form of the Shauraseni language mixed with the Khasa dialect, which remained in use for several centuries thereafter.

9. The political system followed during that period was the same that was followed in ancient times. However, the people were burdened with various kinds of taxes and labor obligations. Courts were established in the eastern and western parts of the country. Cases relating to the five major crimes (Panchakhat) were disposed of by the state courts while the power to dispose of minor cases was vested in the villages. A few villages were even vested with special powers. Final decision on cases was pronounced by the King, who enjoyed unlimited powers in all matters. Indeed, villagers needed permission from the King to wear gold and silver ornaments. They were able to obtain such permission only by pleasing the King.

End of Chapter VIII

New Kagate-Hulak Lines(1) Dhankuta-Ilam

On Aswin Badi 12, 1938 (September 1881), Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha ordered the opening of a new Kagate-Hulaki line for the transportation of mail between Dhankuta and Ilam. Eight new Kagate-hulak posts were established for this purpose, and 16 local households were assigned to each post. Four households were selected from each village in the area within a maximum distance of 3 kos from the hulak route to provide mail transportation services by rotation. Provision was made for the allotment of 100 muris of rice-lands to each kagate-hulak porter, inclusive of his own holding. In the case of a shortfall, he was allotted lands cultivated by another person in the area, but only if the latter was unwilling to work as a kagate-hulak porter himself.

"Land Allotments to Kagate-Hulak Porters in Ratamate,"  
Aswin Sudi 6, 1944 (September 1887).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 91, pp. 256-62.

(2) Kuringhat-Upardang

On Sarawan Badi 11, 1943 (July 1886), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere ordered the opening of a new Kagate-hulak line for the transportation of mail between Kuringhat and Upardang. Four new Kagate-hulak posts were established for this purpose, with 17 hulak porters, including a dukhiya, in each post. These posts started functioning in Kartik 1943 (October 1886). Because no rice-lands were available for allotment, persons enrolled as Kagate-hulak porters agreed to perform the work on the condition that they were exempted from Jhara (forced-labor) obligations and homestead taxes (Serma, Saunefagu).

According to a report submitted by the Revenue Office (Mal) and the Court (Adalat) of Chitaun on Kartik Sudi 2, 1943 (October 1886), the Kagate-hulak porters enrolled in the newly-created four posts between Kuringhat and Upardang received homestead-tax exemption amounting to Mohar Rs 94-12 and 16-gandi (paisa) Rs 7-12, totalling Rs 102-8.

These arrangements were approved by the Nepal Goswara Hulakghar (General Post Office) in Kathmandu, and sanctioned by Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on Baisakh Sudi 15, 1944 (April 1887).

Magh Badi 3, 1944  
(January 1888)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 91, pp. 497-521.

3) Pilinghat-Udayapur Gadhi

In Poush 1913 (December 1856), Prime Minister Bam Bahadur ordered the opening of a new Kagate-hulak line for the transportation of official mail from Piling-Ghat to Udayapur Gadhi. An order to grant the Kagate-hulaki porters Serna tax remission up to one rupee in each household, as well as exemption from the Saunefagu tax and forced-labor (jhara, beth, begar) obligations was issued on Poush Badi 10, 1914 (December 1857).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 81, pp. 213-14.

4) Kathmandu-Listi

On Bhadra Sudi 8, 1911 (August 1854), orders were issued to open a new Kagate-hulak line from Kathmandu to Listi on the Nepal-Tibet border through Sankhu, with posts at intervals of 1 to 1½ kosh.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 62, pp. 372-74.

5) Kathmandu-Khumbu

On Poush Sudi 7, 1911 (December 1854) orders were issued to open a new Kagate-hulak line from Okhaldhunga to Khumbu on the Nepal-Tibet border through Chisankhu, with posts at intervals of 1 to 1½ kosh.

In both (4) and (5), the orders provided that if the number of persons available for enrollment as Kagate-Hulakis in villages adjoining the route was not adequate, those living within a distance of one day's journey should also be enrolled.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 62, pp. 374-76.

(6) Chhinasim-Tibetan Border

During the Nepal-Tiber war, a new Kagate-Hulak line was established between Chhinasim (Jumla) and the Tibetan border areas adjoining Humla. A total of 29 Hulak posts were created along that line; each post was manned by 16 households. On Baisakh Sudi 13, 1913 (April 1856), Prime Minister Jung Bahadur ordered that these posts be abolished because the war had come to an end.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 66, pp. 162-165.

(7) Reduction in Number of Kagate Hulakis

During the Nepal-Tibet war, the number of Hulaki porters assigned to each Kagate-Hulaki post in the hill regions of the Kingdom was increased from four to eight. On Ashadh Badi 2, 1913 (June 1856), Prime Minister Jung Bahadur ordered the Sadar Dafdarkhana to restore the original figure of four because the war had come to an end.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 66, pp. 180-181.

(8) Kagate-Hulak Services in Gorkha

Twenty households had been enrolled as porters for the transportation of mail under the Kagate-Hulak system at Thantipokhari in Gorkha in the Vikrama year 1866 (A.D. 1809). In 1931 Vikrama (A.D. 1874), Diwakar Rana was appointed Mukhiya of the Thantipokhari post. On Chaitra Badi 9, 1935 (March 1879), an order was issued formally reconfirming his appointment. The order also listed the incumbent Hulaki porters and their rice-land allotments as follows :

1.	Mukhiya Diwakar Rana	...	82 muris.
2.	Rankanta Rana	...	101 "
3.	Khadu Padhya	...	104 "
4.	Bishwanath Padhya	...	98½ "
5.	Ravilal Padhya	...	100 "
6.	Jagu Padhya	...	104 "
7.	Lalitaballabh Rana	...	99 "
8.	Laxmi Das Nyaupane	...	92 "
9.	Lochan Padhya	...	93 "
10.	Monorath Poudyal	...	101 "
11.	Kashidatta Padhya	...	102 "
12.	Shiva Koudal	...	103 "
13.	Punashila Padhya	...	100 "
14.	Gobinda Giri	...	100 "
15.	Ragupati Giri	...	98 "
16.	Bhotu Pande	...	105 "
17.	Nandakishor Padhya	...	90 "
18.	Dayaram Koudal	...	97 "
19.	Kalu Padhya Koudal	...	108 "
20.	Birabhadra Rana	...	100 "
21.	Harka Bahadur Basnyat Chhetri	...	101½ "

Chaitra Badi 9, 1935  
(March 1879)

Regal Research Collection, vol. 67, pp. 515-528.

Revenue Collection in Manang and Other Villages

The dhewa-s of seven villages situated in the Rajya of Lamjung used to pay Rs 1,786.88 as Sirto, as well as one musk pod (Sarbangi-Kasturi) and one pair of docha by the end of the month of Magh (February 12) every year.

These seven villages were as follows :

1. Manang-Gaun
2. Narko-Gaun
3. Khamsur-Gaun
4. Ghyaruwa-Gaun
5. Pisang-Gaun
6. Phru-Gaun.
7. Ehra-Gaun.

Bakhat Bahadur Bista, a resident of Jarkot in Barhagaun, submitted an offer to take up the collection of revenue in these seven villages for a one-year period commencing Baisakh 1 (April 13). He stipulated an increase of 5 percent in the Sirto revenue, thus increasing the amount by Rs 89.34½ from Rs 1,786.88 to Rs 1,876-22½, and offered to remit the entire amount in a single installment during the month of Magh (commencing January 14). The musk-pod and the docha were also to be supplied as usual.

The Pokhara Tahasil Adda submitted the following report to the Simha Darbar Nagadi Tahabil on Bakhat Bahadur Bista's petition :

"For four villages (Manang, Ehra, Khamsur, and Ghyaruwa), a permanent (salbasale) thek-thiti settlement has been concluded with the local dhewa-s (Badsing, Purung Chharan, Sarki, Rinjung Tinema, Jalung Kangaka). Under this settlement, these dhewa-s are under obligation to remit Mohar Rs 1,349 and 9 annas during the month of Magh every year to the Thapathali Palace through revenue-collectors (Tahasildar) deputed to collect revenues in Kaski-Lamjung every year. In consideration of that payment, they are entitled to appropriate income from Sirto tax, fines and penalties collected through the administration of justice, and escheats, and all other sources, except Crown levies (Raja-anka) and fines and penalties collected from persons guilty of major crimes (Panchakhat)."

The report of the Pokhara Tahasil Adda continued : "As regards the other three villages, Narko, (Pisang, and Phru), the dhewa-s have gone to India (Moglan); hence it has not been possible to inspect the relevant orders (Samad)."

Mir Subba Shamsher Man and Naib Dittha Krishna Man of the Simha Darbar Nagadi Tahabil then submitted the following recommendation to Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere :

"Documents relating to the revenue settlement of three villages (Narko, Pisang, and Phru) may not be available, but it is clear that a permanent thek-thiti settlement had been made for the other four villages (Manang, Hra, Khamsur, and Ghyaruwa). Accordingly, it would not have been appropriate to recommend that collection of revenue from this source be given over to the person who has now offered to pay a higher amount of revenue. But because the offer means higher income for the government, it lies at the discretion of the government whether to reconfirm the existing arrangements and reject it, or invite bids on the basis of that offer."

The Muluki Adda endorsed this recommendation of the Simha Darbar Nagadi Tahabil. On Chaitra 27, 1960 (April 9, 1904), Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere decreed that bids be invited.

The Simha Darbar Nagadi Tahabil accordingly invited bids for the collection of revenue in the seven village mentioned above according to the procedure prescribed in Section 7 of its regulations, as well as Section 8 of the "Rakam Bandobast" (Law on Revenue-Collection Arrangements contained in the Muluki Ain. A full translation of this law is contained in Regmi Research Series, Year 12, No. 5, May 1, 1980, p. 66).

Because no other bid was received, Bakhat Bahadur Bista's offer was accepted for a one-year period from Baisakh 1 to Chaitra 30, 1961 (April 13, 1904 to April 12, 1905).

The new Schedule of payments was as follows :

<u>Village</u>	<u>Previous figure</u>	<u>Increment</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Manang-Gaun	Rs 771.50	Rs 38.57½	Rs 810.7½
2. Narko-Gaun	Rs 254.88	Rs 12.74½	Rs 367.62½
3. Khamsur-Gaun	Rs 205.50	Rs 10.27½	Rs 215.77½
4. Ghyaruwa-Gaun	Rs 192	Rs 9.60	Rs 201.60
5. Pisang-Gaun	Rs 96.50	Rs 4.32½	Rs 101.32½
6. Phru-Gaun	Rs 83.50	Rs 4.17½	Rs 87.67½
7. Hra-Gaun	Rs 183	Rs 9.15	Rs 192.15
Total	Rs 1,786.88	Rs 89.34½	Rs 1,876.22½

These payments were in addition to one musk-pod and one pair of docha as usual.

Jestha 13, 1961 (May 26, 1904)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 78, pp. 143-151.

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Income Collection in California

The California, area of East No. 1 District is a good example of how to General Public - for State - Dept of Public Health and Safety.

In 1934, Cavalier with Budget Control, a contract of Division, started a Mass-Plan (contract) for collection of income from this State under a payment of \$5,000.

In 1935, Cavalier with Budget Control was again prepared to pay to you \$5,000, inclusive of \$2,500 in advance, if you will accept, covering, covering the State. Cavalier had been advised of the fact that you had agreed to continue.

In 1936, Cavalier with Budget Control, under the terms of the contract it provided for the advance payment of \$2,500 was received, covering, covering the State. Cavalier had been advised of the fact that you had agreed to continue.

It is further noted that this is the only year (1934-35 and 1935-36) where, there were results.

The Mass-Plan was, therefore, followed by the Dept of Public Health and Safety for the two-year period indicated above.

- 1. The amount of the Mass-Plan was \$5,000.
- 2. The amount of the
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The Mass-Plan was followed by the Dept of Public Health and Safety of the State, which is General Public, for State, and approved by the State - Cavalier - Cavalier - Cavalier. The Mass-Plan was followed by the Dept of Public Health and Safety for the two-year period indicated above.

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(February 1936)

Area - Cavalier - Cavalier, vol. 16, p. 1-10.

### The Gadkhar Birta

On Magh Badi 13, 1918 (January 1862), King Surendra granted Gadkhar and eight other villages in Nuwakot as Sarba-Kara-Akara-Sarbangamafi-Birta-Bitalab. The grant was made in appreciation of Jung Bahadur's services in escorting King Surendra during a pilgrimage to Gosainthan. (Regmi Research Collection, vol. 33, pp. 434-436, and vol. 69, pp. 212-213).

The lands and villages thus granted to Prime Minister Jung Bahadur included birta, jagir, and kipat. The dispossessed birta owners and jagirdars were given lands in exchange elsewhere. On Poush Badi 5, 1933, lands were similarly granted in exchange for 190 muris of kipat lands under the jurisdiction of Mijhar Bhima Danuwar of Labdugaun. Payments on these lands, amounting to 19 muris, 11 pathis, and 2 manas of paddy, and 12 amas as ghiu (khane), had been assigned to a jagirdar. (Regmi Research Collection, vol. 69, pp. 703-715).

The birta lands of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur were confiscated after Bir Shumshere became Prime Minister in November 1885. On Kartik Sudi 9, 1946 (October 1889), the Gadkhar birta mentioned above was granted to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere as Sarbangamafi-Sasim-Birta-Bitalab by King Prithvi Bir Bikram. The preamble to the grant states that "Your (that is, Prime Minister Bir Shumshere's) performance has so far been excellent, and you have done much for the welfare of this country." On Bhadra Sudi 5, 1949 (August 1892), a new order was issued for measuring the birta and specifying the area and boundaries. (Regmi Research Collection, vol. 58, pp. 724-745).

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### Revenue Collection in the Hill Region

On Shrawan Sudi 11, 1949 (July 1892), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere ordered the Sadar Dafdarkhana to send the following instructions to Bakyauta Tahasil and Gadhi/Gaunda Offices in the hill region.

"Appoint responsible and well-to-do local persons as Umras in each thum to collect revenue from jagera lands and homsteads. Each such Umra shall be responsible for the collection of revenue amounting to Rs 9,000 or Rs 10,000.

"Redemarcate existing thums for this purpose, if necessary. Specify clearly the area and boundaries of the jurisdiction of each Umra.

"Each Umra shall be entitled to the following perquisites :

- (a) One ox-team from each local household in the months of Ashadh and Marga, or one laborer from each household which does not possess an ox-team.
- (b) A Khangi yielding an income of not more than Rs 100 a year from lands which will be brought under cultivation in the future.

"The Umra shall undertake personal liability for the full collection of the assessed revenue.

Regai Research Collection, vol. 58, pp. 763-770.

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#### Birta Grants to Indian Priests

In the Vikrama year 1937 (A.D. 1880), Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha, accompanied by the three consorts of the late Crown Prince Trailokya Bir Bikram, visited India on pilgrimage. They made ritual donations of money as follows at the following places :

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u> (in Kampani Rs)
<u>At Jagannath</u>	
In the name of the late Crown Prince Trailokya	... Rs 1,000
Eldest Consort of do.	... Rs 1,000
Second do.	... Rs 1,000
Youngest do.	... Rs 1,000
In the name of the late King	... Rs 1,000
Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha	... Rs 5,000
<u>At Rameshwar</u>	
Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha	... Rs 3,000
<u>At Dwarika</u>	
Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha	... Rs 3,000
Total	<u>Rs 16,000</u>

On Bhadra Badi 12, 1938 (August 1881), a royal order was issued in the name of King Prithvi Bir Bikram to Tharghars Makarananda Padhya Banskota, Devadatta Padhya Poudyal, and Shivashankar Padhya Arjyal to measure cultivated lands in Rautahat sufficient to yield an yearly income of Kampani Rs 480, being the return on Rs 16,000 at 3 percent.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 58, pp. 108-113.

Another royal order was issued on the same day directing the Tharghars to measure a total area of 273.75 bighas, inclusive of 143.75 bighas of cultivated lands in Bara, Parsa, and Rautahat yielding a yearly income of Kampani Rs 431-6½, and 130 bighas of waste lands. These lands were to be granted separately to the following Pandas (priests) at the following places for the following purposes :

- (1) Six bighas of cultivated lands, yielding a yearly income of Kampani Rs 18 at the rate of Rs 3 a bigha, to Panda Chhote Narayan at Rameshwar. The grant had been made by Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha.
- (2) 7.75 bighas of cultivated lands yielding a yearly income of Rs 23-6½ at the rate of Rs 3 a bigha. Of this amount, Rs 22-8 was to be paid for the recital of the Rudri once every day at Rameshwar (at the rate of 1 anna for each recital, or Rs 1-14 a month, or Rs 22-8 a year), and 14½ annas as remittance fee. The endowment had been made by Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha.
- (3) 35 bighas of cultivated lands, yielding a yearly income of Kampani Rs 105 at the rate of Rs 3 a bigha, and 25 bighas of waste lands, to Panda Alap Din of Prayag, as follows :
  - (a) 25 bighas each of cultivated and waste lands, making a total of 50 bighas, in the name of the Second Consort of Crown Prince Trailokya Bir Bikram.
  - (b) Ten bighas in the name of Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha.
- (4) 95 bighas of cultivated lands yielding an yearly income of Kampani Rs 285 at the rate of Rs 3 a bigha, and 105 bighas of uncultivated lands, to Panda Krishnalal at Manikarnika in Kaski (Varanasi), as follows :
  - (a) 25 bighas each of cultivated and waste lands in the name of the three Consorts of Crown Prince Trailokya, making a total of 150 bighas.
  - (b) 20 bighas of cultivated lands and 30 bighas of waste lands in the name of Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha.

Bhadra Badi 12, 1938  
(August 1881)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 58, pp. 113-121.

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Allowances for Rana Colonels

Commander-in-Chief Dhir Shumsher used to receive an allowance of Rs 16,000 a year. He died on October 14, 1881.

On Chaitra Sudi 8, 1941 (March 1885), Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha increased the allowances of the following Ranas as follows :

	<u>Previous allowance</u>	<u>Increased allowance</u>
1. Colonel Dhir Narsing Rana	Rs 6,000	Rs 6,400
2. Colonel Tod Narsing Rana	Rs 6,000	Rs 6,400
3. Colonel Fatte Narsing Rana	Rs 4,500	Rs 6,400
4. Colonel Mahendra Narsing Rana	Rs 4,500	Rs 6,400
5. Colonel Nilaran Narsing Rana	Rs 1,800	Rs 6,400
6. Colonel Giriran Narsing Rana	Rs 1,800	Rs 6,400
7. Lt. Colonel Rup. Narsing Rana	Rs 900	Rs 5,000.

The order added that abolished jagir or jakera (pakho) lands be assigned in lieu of these allowances, or, if such lands were not available, the amount of Rs 16,000 previously granted to Dhir Shumshere be used.

Dhir Narsing Rana and Tod Narsing Rana were sons of Dhoj Narsing and grandsons of Badri Narsing, a brother of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur. It has not been possible to identify the others.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 85, pp. 581-83.

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Landholding in Majhkirat, A.D. 1847-50Reconfirmation of Kipat Holding in Khotang

Asik Bir Rai and Kulahi Rai of Khotang in Majhkirat district submitted the following petition to Kathmandu :  
 "Lands in Phogatpur Village, deducted from the holding of Sriharsha Dhakal, which have been assigned as jagir to the Srinath Kampu and the Srirajadal Kampu, had previously been reconfirmed as kipat in the name of Eumajita. When Eumajita died, his son, eloped with another man's wife to India and took the royal order of reconfirmation along with him. Parath Khatri, a resident of that village, obtained grant of the lands under thek tenure. As a result, we have been rendered homeless, while services and payments (doko-boko) due on the holding have lapsed. We too are entitled to a share in it on payment of the stipulated thek and other payments and services. Dhakres should not be allowed to displace us in this manner."

A royal order was then issued on Baisakh Badi 30, 1904 (May 1847) entitling Asik Rai and Kulahi Rai to use "rice-fields (khet), pasture-lands (kharka), payments for the use of such lands (kharchari), cardamom-gardens, fishing rights (titya), honey-combs (mahabhir)" etc in the holding, administer justice, and pay a thek revenue of Rs 41 and 8 annas every year to the jagirdar. The royal order added, "Provide doko-boko services and payments like other members of your community, promote land reclamation and settlement, and use the lands as your kipat in the same manner as the ten Kitat groups (of Pallokirat). We hereby withdraw the previous royal order and reconfirm the lands as your kipat."

Baisakh Badi 30, 1904  
 (May 1847)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 80, pp. 74-76.

For more than two years, these lands, both khet and pakho, remained under the jurisdiction of Asik Bir Rai under this royal order. Subsequently, the khet lands were detached from his kipat holding and allotted to a person from outside the district. Asik Bir Rai then submitted a complaint to Kathmandu through the concerned revenue settlement officials. On Chaitra Badi 10, 1906 (March 1850), an order was issued authorizing Asik Bir Rai to appoint Prithvi Singh Raut to collect payments. Asik Bir Rai was then granted authority :

- (a) To collect and appropriate homestead tax revenue, judicial fines and penalties, escheats, the Saunefagu tax, tax on dyers and printers of cloth (Chhipo-Chhapo), payment in lieu of field-labor (bethi), and fees and servitudes due to the jagirdar (amali) except Crown levies (Raja-Anka), and make a fixed payment of Rs 41-8 to the jagirdar for a one-year period from Baisakh Badi 1 to Chaitra Sudi 15, 1907.



### Reconfirmation of Kipat Lands

Royal order to Jagajit Rai, Prithu Rai and Prithviboli Rai of Khamtel in Majhkirat District, "When your dispute with Buipate Rai about your kipat lands was heard by the Koteling (Adalat), it held that the lands belonged to you and divided the lands accordingly. (Boundaries of the lands follow). Previously, our grandfather (King Girban) had reconfirmed these lands as kipat under the royal seal.

"Subsequently, you submitted a petition to us through revenue settlement officers in the Vikrama year 1901 (A.D. 1844) complaining that dhakres had secured a royal grant on pakho lands forming part of your kipat holdings, falsely claiming that these lands belonged to raikar tenure, and that you were consequently finding it difficult to provide doko-boko services and payments, and the thek payment of four rupees on each household.

"We hereby withdraw the royal order granting to dhakres the lands that had been reconfirmed as kipat in your names by our grandfather and again reconfirm your kipat lands."

The royal order also entitled Jagajit Rai, Prithu Rai, and Prithviboli Rai to use their kipat lands "in the same manner as the ten Kirat groups" (of Pallokirat).

(Chaitra Badi 10, 1906  
(March 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 80, pp. 193-195.

### Jagir Land Allotments in Rawa

In the Vikrama year 1902 (A.D. 1845), the revenue settlement in Rawa, Majhkirat, was revised by Subedar Shivadal Khadka and Jamadar Aiman Khatri. All rice-lands in the area were measured, and, in the process, the actual area was invariably to be in excess of the previously-recorded area. The lands were then reallocated under the raibandi system to the local cultivators (mohi) under the jurisdiction of Jimmawals. All previous allotments were cancelled. These lands had all been assigned to jagirdars. The allotments were subject to the following conditions :

- (1) Cultivators shall not be evicted from their allotments so long as they make the prescribed payments to their jagirdar-landlords.
- (2) Jimmawals and cultivators shall put manure on their fields, irrigate them, repair damaged dams and irrigation channels, sow the fields, and pay the rents (bali) within the month of Falgun in each year to the jagirdar.

Particulars

<u>Jimmawal</u>	Area in muris and pathis		
	<u>Previous Area</u> (in muris)	<u>Actual Area</u> (in muris)	<u>Total Payment</u> (in 16 anna rupees)
1. Srivilas Pandit	518-10	527-10	Rs 238-5½
2. Dharmananda Padhya	389	396	Rs 155-4
3. Datta Padhya and Laxmi Narayan Padhya	1097	1115	Rs 435-9
4. Srikrishna Jaisi Ghimire	224	232	Rs 86
5. Rangalal Padhya	464	469	Rs 152-13½
6. Sarup Khatri	257	274	Rs 125-11
7. Indrabir Karki	140	142	Rs 70-8
8. Ghamanda Rai	232	252	Rs 96-8
9. Yadunath Padhya	122	124	Rs 47-11
10. Gangadhar Padhya	266	293	Rs 121-5
11. Kashidatta Padhya	92	111	Rs 32-9
12. Gangadhar and Shivanidhi Padhya	13	26	Rs 7-13
13. Bisukamalapati Padhya and Ramnaran Jaisi	281	290	Rs 112-6½
14. Balbir and Dasharath Rai	94	108	Rs 25-4
15. Jure Rai	72	94	Rs 22-6
16. Ramakrishna Padhya Adhikari	147	182	Rs 82-8
17. Gangaram Regmi	214	219	Rs 68-2
18. Kahar Singh Khatri, Bandabir Khatri, and Darba Singh Khadka	252	265	Rs 103-1½
19. Chhotu Ghale	x	4	R. 1
20. Chiranjivi Padhya Niraula	92-10	122-10	Rs 50-3½

21. Achaya Singh Khatri	95	105	Rs	38-11
22. Kanak Singh Khatri	157	174	Rs	75-6
23. Dirgha Singh, Ganja Singh, and Uttimbar Rai	51	65	Rs	18-12 $\frac{1}{2}$
24. Ghamanda Rai	175-10	204-10	Rs	69-4
25. Ghamadhar Rai	28	30	Rs	7-8
26. Bargha Rai	39	44	Rs	13-8
27. Badhya Rai	82-10	87-10	Rs	23-6
28. Jogya Rai	57-10	57-10	Rs	15-2
29. Nonya Rai	21	24	Rs	8-14
30. Bhadana Rai	28	30	Rs	8
31. Sarup Rai	65	68	Rs	17-8
32. Asakarna Rai	32-10	38-10	Rs	9-8
33. Simhakarna Rai	27	28	Rs	7
34. Jasbir Rai	134-10	146-10	Rs	38-8
35. Samanta Rai and Adi Singh Rai	71	74	Rs	21-12
36. Harkya Rai	39-10	51-10	Rs	12-14
37. Panche Rai	38	39	Rs	14-4
38. Indra Rai	98	102	Rs	27-13
39. Ajar Singh Rai	62	68	Rs	19-8
40. Himkhabir Rai	32	37	Rs	9-14
41. Bandabir Rai and Bhuktu Rai	217	231	Rs	63-13
42. Ratna Singh Rai	6	6	Rs	2
43. Anbir Rai	59-5	65-5	Rs	17-4
44. Kalu Rai	56	62	Rs	16-12
45. Jashang Rai	59	62	Rs	18-3
46. Hirdi Singh Rai	86	101	Rs	26-4
47. Bhupedal Rai	229-10	243-10	Rs	71-2

48. Bajakarna Rai, Dalbir Rai and Shamsheer Singh Rai	140	167-10	Rs 55-10
49. Bajabarna Rai, Harkas Rai, and Jagman Rai	130-10	153	Rs 43
50. Jitra Singh Rai	23	23	Rs 6-4
51. Dawajit Rai	63	67	Rs 17-12
52. Amukrishna Rai	3	3	Rs 1-6
53. Jan Rai	186	213	Rs 59-7
54. Jagbir Rai	130	142	Rs 37-4
55. Sakhya Rai through Vilochan Padhya	115	137	Rs 36-14
56. Biradhan Rai	130	149	Rs 38-5
57. Biratek Rai	139-6	150-6	Rs 40-13½
58. Birahamsa Rai and Rigahamsa Rai	72-10	83-10	Rs 22-10
59. Jabar Rai and Jitikarna Rai	24	27	Rs 7-14
60. Kripa Rai	16	17	Rs 5-3
61. Gobind Rai	84	93	Rs 23-1
62. Ratna Rai	65	69	Rs 21-2½
63. Madhu Singh Rai	221	243	Rs 75-2
64. Foud Singh Khatri and Kirtiman Gurung	697	733	Rs 244-10
65. Dingmasayakarn Rai and Jurya Rai	39	47	Rs 11-12
66. Balikarna, Harkabadi, Bude Singh, and Haste Rai	14	19	Rs 8-4
67. Kalu Padhya	156	165	Rs 49.1
68. Indrabir Rai	13	13	Rs 2-6
69. Manbir Rai	5	5	Rs 1-4
70. Ajbir Rai	20	20	Rs 4
71. Ranjit Rai	192-10	227-10	Rs 36-8

72. Gajinand Rai, Phepsya Rai, and Gangya Rai	31	45	Rs 5-15
73. Tulya Rai	82-10	116-10	Rs 15-6
74. Jatna Singh Rai	32	32	Rs 5-6
75. Indravinod Padhya	151	158	Rs 25-14
76. Jagannath and Chhabilal Van	230	261	Rs 44-14
77. Jabar Rai	87	90	Rs 14-9 $\frac{3}{4}$
78. Harikrishna Giri	83	112	Rs 18-6 $\frac{3}{4}$
79. Lohare Rai, Tabhya Rai, and Ambar Rai	118	122	Rs 20-15
80. Jasu Gurung	248	252	Rs 44-9
81. Deubar Rai	100	104	Rs 18-8
82. Ransur Gurung	289	293	Rs 43-1
83. Duryodhanji Basnyat	56	56	Rs 9.13
84. Garja Singh Basnyat	50	50	Rs 8-12
85. Bijendra Basnyat	106	107	Rs 19
86. Jiti Rai	61	75	Rs 13-6 $\frac{1}{2}$
87. Dambar Rai	171	185	Rs 25-8 $\frac{1}{2}$
88. Harka Rai	78	79	Rs 27-6.

Chaitra Badi 10, 1906  
(March 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 80, pp. 212-247.

#### Jagir Land Allotments in Khamtel

A royal order was issued on Chaitra Badi 10, 1906 (March 1850) allotting a total area of 168-10 muris of lands in Bhathubesi, Khamtel (Maghkirat), which had been assigned as jagir to the Srinath Kampu and the Srirajadal Kampu. They were required to pay a thek revenue of Mohar Rs 81-5 on these lands, inclusive of rents on winter crops, the ghiukhane levy, and the chardam-theki fee at rates customary in that area. All previous allotments were cancelled. The royal order added, "Complete payments before the last day of the month of Falgun (March 13), and obtain receipts from the jagirdar. If the jagirdar-landlord is not present, make payments through the Chitaidar of the district. Any cultivator (mohi) who leaves thek payments in arrears shall be punished. Do not clear slash on the upper and lower sides of rice-fields. Do not cut trees."

Particulars of cultivators, holdings, and theek payments were as follows :

<u>Cultivator</u>	<u>Total Area</u> (in muris)	<u>Amount of Theek</u> <u>Payment</u>
1. Muktinath Padhya	45	Rs 23-10
2. do.	15	Rs 5-8
3. Aiman Karki	12	Rs 6-4
4. do.	30	Rs 15-8
5. do.	10	Rs 2½
6. Sakhat Karki and Meghu Karki	42	Rs 22
7. Adi Karki	9	Rs 4-10
8. Sarbat Rana	5	R. 1-4
9. Aiman Karki	1-10	6 annas.

Chaitra Badi 10, 1906  
(March 1850)

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 80, pp. 195-198.

#### Land Allotment Regulations

The following royal order was issued on Chaitra Badi 10, 1906 (March 1850) in the names of the village headmen and other people of the following areas :

- (a) Area situated between Pamakham and the Arun river in Majhkirat.
- (b) Area situated between Dudhkosi/Bahadura and Pamakham in Majhkirat.
- (c) Area situated between the Arun river and Bodhepukhaya (?) in Pallokirat.

"In the Vikrama year 1902 (A.D. 1845-46), Kumbhedan Shivadal Khadka and Jamadar Aiman Khatri had conducted a revenue settlement in that area, issued tirja certificates, and appointed Jimmawals, for allotments of khet and pakho lands in that area. We hereby promote the following regulations in respect to these allotments :

- (1) Cultivators (mohi, kuriya) shall not be dispossessed of their khet lands so long as they make the prescribed payments.

- (2) The level of rents on both khet and pakho lands through competitive bidding until the Vikrama year 1906 (A.D. 1849-50) shall not be reduced.
- (3) Waste lands adjoining rice-fields shall be reclaimed and irrigated where possible. If the cultivator is unable to reclaim and irrigate such lands himself, he shall let others do so.
- (4) The person who reclaims new lands shall appropriate the entire produce for three years. He shall pay rents on such lands from the fourth year.
- (5) The cultivator shall pay the stipulated kut or thek rents to the jagirdar every year.
- (6) Trees shall not be cut within the range of a musket-shot from sources of water, dams, and irrigation channels. Slash shall not be cleared.
- (7) Erect shelters (mach), use water and manure, and sow rice-fields.
- (8) If dams and irrigation channels are damaged, Jimmawals and cultivators shall collectively repair them. If their strength is not adequate, refer the matter to the Chief (chotaodar) of the district, who shall impress compulsory and unpaid labor (jhara, gohar) in the entire division (thum) for undertaking such repairs.
- (9) Payment of rents (bali) to the landlord (talsing) shall be completed before the last day of the month of Falgun (March 13). If the landlord is not present, such payments shall be made through the district-level functionary (jilladar).
- (10) All allotments that may have been made previously are hereby cancelled. Any person who acts in contravention of these regulations shall be severely punished.

Chaitra Sudi 10, 1906  
(March 1850)

Regni Research Collection, vol. 80. pp. 204-212.

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The Advisory Assembly, 1951-52Royal Proclamation

"My Beloved Subjects,

"Whereas the Council of Ministers formed and appointed by us must conduct the affairs of the government according to the interim Constitution approved by us until a Constituent Assembly composed of representatives elected by the people frames a Constitution,

"And whereas it will take some time to make preparations for elections to the Constituent Assembly,

"And whereas it is my desire to enlist the cooperation of representatives of the majority of the people in running the affairs of state during the interim period itself.

"Now therefore, I appoint an Advisory Assembly to help and advise me and our Council of Ministers through this proclamation. Rules for this Assembly will be promulgated shortly. Members of the Advisory Assembly have been appointed by me on the basis of region and population. Members of our Council of Ministers will concurrently be members of the Advisory Assembly.

"We hereby command all our subjects to extend full cooperation to the Advisory Assembly appointed by us.

"It is our firm belief that the formation of this Assembly will greatly help our government to work in the interests of the nation and the people.

"May God grant strength and determination to us and our subordinate authorities in fulfilling our desire to benefit the people."

Aswin 16, 2008  
(October 2, 1951)

Composition of the Advisory Assembly

The Advisory Assembly consisted of the following members :

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Prof Ratna Bahadur Bista   | 2. Shiva Raj Pant         |
| 3. Rajeshwari Prasad          | 4. Radhakrishna Tharu     |
| 5. Mahabir Shumshere          | 6. Dr. Triveni Prasad     |
| 7. Bharat Mani Sharma         | 8. Bharat Bam Malla       |
| 9. Mahendra Bikram Shah       | 10. Shivapati Pratap Shah |
| 11. Parashu Narayan Chaudhary | 12. Dham Prasad Gurung    |

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 13. Bakhan Singh Gurung      | 14. Gopal Prasad Upadhyaya      |
| 15. Lalit Man Tamang         | 16. Khadga Man Singh            |
| 17. Kedar Man                | 18. Sarju Prasad                |
| 19. Dr. Brijnandan           | 20. Gulab Narayan Jha           |
| 21. Raj Das                  | 22. Badri Bikram                |
| 23. Tsering Tenzing Lama     | 24. Narad Muni Thulung          |
| 25. Til Bikram Shrestha      | 26. Shamsar Bahadur Subba Limbu |
| 27. Ram Narayan Mishra       | 28. Mahendra Narayan Nidhi      |
| 29. Rameshwar Prasad Singh   | 30. Surya Nath Das Yadav        |
| 31. Matrika Prasad Koirala   | 32. Narendra Nath Banstola      |
| 33. Krishna Prasad Upadhyaya | 34. Birendra Bikram Shah        |
| 35. Dambar Dhvaj Rana Mahar. |                                 |

Source : Grishma Bahadur Devkota, Nepalako Rajanitika Darpana (Political mirror of Nepal), Kathmandu : Keshav Chandra Gautam, 2016 (A.D. 1960), pp. 104-5.

#### Reorganization of the Advisory Assembly

Greetings to Our Beloved Subjects,

On Aswin 17, 2008 (October 2, 1951) we have announced the formation of an Advisory Assembly consisting of 35 non-governmental members and ministers. The following members have now been appointed as ministers or government officials, or do not remain non-governmental members of the Assembly :

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Ratna Bahadur Bista       | 2. Shiva Raj Pant       |
| 3. Major General Mahabir Shumshere | 4. Mahendra Bikram Shah |
| 5. Khadga Man Singh                | 6. Surya Prasad         |
| 7. Badri Bikram                    | 8. Narad Muni Thulung   |
| 9. Matrika Prasad Koirala.         |                         |

All the 35 non-governmental members of the Advisory Assembly had been selected from different regions of the country. Even then, in our opinion, there are also other elements of special importance who must find a place in the Assembly. So far as representation is concerned, only a regular election can reflect the genuine voice and interest of the people. However, such an election appears to be impossible in our country in the

near future. Accordingly, we hereby nominate the following gentlemen and ladies also as non-governmental members of the Assembly in order to ensure that its character becomes as representative as practicable in the present circumstances; and that the people have full faith and confidence in its work.

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ehanubhakta                | 2. Dilip Singh             |
| 3. Dharma Bahadur Thapa       | 4. Khadga Bahadur Malla    |
| 5. Hora Prasad Joshi          | 6. Ayodhya Prasad Tharu    |
| 7. Hridaya Raj Sharma         | 8. Subba Pashupati Koirala |
| 9. Bishweshwor Prasad Koirala | 10. Mrs. Maya Kumari Shah  |
| 11. Mrs. Punya Prabha Devi    | 12. Dr. Tahir              |
| 13. Laxmi Prasad Devkota      | 14. Shiva Prasad Rauniyar  |
| 15. Tanka Prasad              | 16. Tulsi Mehar            |
| 17. Nripa Jung Rana           | 18. Kulanand Jha           |
| 19. Rishikesh Shaha           | 20. Daya Shankar Munshi    |
| 21. Mrs. Prabhawati Devi.     |                            |

We hope that our beloved subjects will extend necessary help and cooperation to the members of this Advisory Assembly.

Baisakh 1, 2009  
(April 13, 1952)

Grishma Bahadur Devkota, op. cit. pp. 159-60.

Royal Address to the Inaugural Session of the Advisory Assembly  
Ashadh 24, 2009 (July 8, 1952).

Hon'ble Chairman and Members of the Advisory Assembly,

1. I am very happy to have been able to welcome you to this first session of the Advisory Assembly. This day is of great importance in the history of the nation. For many years it had been my desire that the government of the country should function according to the public opinion, and that its administration should function according to the desires and interests of the people. I feel satisfied to see that this old dream is gradually being fulfilled through the cooperation of all. It is my firm desire to carry our government forward for the public good on the strong foundation of fully democratic principles through the Parliamentary system with the strength gained from the hard work, goodwill, and cooperation of all. The selfless service and cooperation of all is highly necessary for the successful attainment of this goal for the welfare of the nation and the people.

2. A major change occurred in the history of the nation in 1951, and the nation and the people took a new step forward. A process of change in the entire governmental system was started. Today, the inauguration of this Advisory Assembly for strengthening this new change has initiated yet another step. This Assembly has been formed with the objective of associating the people to the maximum possible extent and training them in the Parliamentary system even during the interim period until a Constituent Assembly consisting of representatives elected by the people is formed. Such a system is a new one for the nation; hence the members of this Assembly will have a major role and responsibility in safeguarding, nurturing, and strengthening the incipient democracy. I have high hopes that the members will fulfill their duty of always bearing a spirit of selfless service to the nation, eschewing mutual jealousy, malice, and acrimony, and paying attention solely to the larger cause of the progress and welfare of the nation and the people in a friendly spirit. I also hope that you will devote yourselves to the task of laying and developing the foundation of a pure and democratic Parliamentary system in the country. The main function of this Assembly will be to extend help and cooperation to my government in working for the progress and welfare of the nation through truthful and selfless criticism.

3. The international situation is progressively worsening because of differences and tussles between the two super-powers. In this critical international situation, my government will always make efforts to avoid joining any bloc, safeguard the sovereign status of the country, and attain the all-round progress and development of the nation. We have cordial relations with all nations of the world. My government will adopt a policy of peace and friendship with all nations. In the present situation, in which blocs have emerged as a result of international hostility, we are determined to render whatever contribution a small nation can in making successful the lofty objective of arousing feelings of fraternity in the whole of mankind and maintaining international peace. With the objective of ensuring that our nation too should be able to play a proper part in the task of international peace and security, we had applied for membership of the United Nations. Everyone knows how our application has been obstructed as a result of international differences. Even then, we have already obtained membership of the Food and Agriculture Organization, a constituent agency of the United Nations. We have also joined the Colombo Plan.

4. We feel happy over the manner in which a wave of national independence has swept over the continents of Asia and Africa after the second world war, and the independence gained by nations who had remained suppressed for long.

5. From ancient times, we have had very intimate relations with neighboring India. Our two countries are bound together by cultural, geographical, political, and other ties, and there is wholehearted and cordial friendship between us. Every possible type of cooperation and assistance has been exchanged between

the two countries in times of need. The two countries have left no stone unturned in extending such cooperation and assistance to each other, and they will continue to do so in the future. We have received adequate cooperation from friendly India whenever we have sought it for our reorganization, development, and security. My government has recently decided to provide whatever cooperation and assistance it can by supplying food to the Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal States of India. We have been rendering whatever assistance we can whenever any crisis occurs.

6. Our ancient and historical friendship with Britain has been further strengthened by the treaty signed with that country in 1950. Britain's institutions and experience will prove helpful in many ways to the system of Parliamentary democracy which we seek to establish in the country. We maintain friendly relations with the United States of America and France also. The technical experience and assistance of all these countries will contribute significantly to the development of our country. Considerable assistance has been received from Switzerland also. All these countries are expected to provide greater training facilities for our students than they are doing now.

7. Our old relations with Tibet, our northern neighbor, remain intact. We have goodwill for the central government of China. The relations of our concerned officials with the Chinese authorities are good, and our relations with Tibet are friendly. The two countries have relations of friendship and amicable behavior with each other. The new political situation in Tibet has not altered our old relationship.

8. Our country has lagged far behind in development and education. Owing to lack of transport and communication facilities, it has not been possible to properly utilize our natural resources, namely, forests, mines, and water resources. A Central Secretariat has been created to run the administration of the country smoothly and along modern lines. My government has laid stress on the compilation of basic statistics which are essential for any development plan. My government is giving due consideration to the need for proper conservation of our forests. As is known to all, we can derive special benefits from the mineral resources possessed by our country. Experts who have come from the United States and Switzerland to assist us are currently conducting geological surveys in order to prepare a geological map of Nepal and locate mineral deposits. Such surveys of the region from West No. 1 to Mustang are expected to be completed before the end of this year. Plans for power generation at various places for the development of the country are under consideration. Implementation of these plans will go a long way in developing agriculture and industry.

9. My government is making efforts to develop means of transport and communications. Construction of a road from Bhimphedi to the Capital will commence immediately after the end of the monsoon this year. It is expected to be completed

within two years. Construction of main roads in different districts has already been started. The question of which type of roads should be built to facilitate communications in the Terai and hill areas will be decided soon. My government intends to expand postal and telephone facilities all over the country gradually. Wireless stations have already been set up in most of the districts and will be opened in the rest of the country in the near future. Construction of airfields is going on at different places. The development of transport and communications will facilitate the progress of the country, of trade, education, etc.

10. Development of agriculture is essential for a country which is predominantly agricultural. My government intends to reclaim waste lands, make irrigation arrangements as early as possible in every district, organize demonstration of benefits which accrue from the use of improved seeds and scientific techniques, and open laboratories at various places. Compilation of statistics regarding foodgrains is being expedited. My government realizes the need for land reforms. Efforts are also under way for improving the lot of our peasant brothers. With the objective of conducting proper studies and ensuring speedy progress in all these fields, my government has recently established a National Food and Agriculture Agency.

11. Efforts are being made to expand and develop cottage industries and gradually industrialize the country, introduce necessary amendments in Company law, and promote trade and commerce. A factory law will be presented before this assembly as soon as the Labor Commission submits its report regarding benefits to be extended to workers.

12. The process of setting up Panchayats all over the country continues. A total of 1,500 Panchayats will be formed soon. My government intends to introduce appropriate changes in the current Panchayat law to confer greater judicial powers on Panchayats. Arrangements will be made for the installation of water taps at different places. My government is considering plans to open hospitals, as well as mobile clinics to make medical services available to the people. Proper arrangements are also being made for the preparation and supply of Ayurvedic medicines. My government has decided to encourage the homeopathic therapy also. Efforts are being made to obtain membership of the World Health Organization.

13. For the defense of the country, my government is making necessary arrangements in regard to military affairs. A comprehensive plan for imparting education as well as modern training to army personnel has already been drawn up. My government has invited a military group from India to advise on training to our military personnel and on reorganization of the army. That group will work here in conformity with the opinion and instructions of my government. We have also sent qualified military personnel to undergo advanced military training in foreign training centers. We have considered arrangements for the proper organization of the Police Force and for training its personnel in maintaining law and order.

14. My government has attached importance to the development of education. Our students have been sent to various educational centers abroad for higher studies. In particular, it is necessary to make our students proficient in science and technical subjects.

It has been decided to borrow Rs 150 million from the government of India for implementing various constructive projects in the interests of the economic development of the country. My government has to pay full attention to all aspects of the situation. Nothing can be accomplished through wishful thinking. The task of development of the country can be fulfilled if everyone honestly engages in it and cooperates in its implementation.

15. The foremost task of my government is to hold free and fair elections to a Constituent Assembly. Population census operations are underway. The Election Commission formed last year is compiling voters' lists. Announcement of elections will be made immediately after the voters' lists are ready.

16. The country's budget, prepared by my government, will be presented before this session of the Assembly for its consideration. In the future, drafts of all laws which are submitted for my assent shall be first presented before the Assembly. I would like again to express ~~my~~ hope and confidence that all the members will devote themselves to their respective duties, and work according to the rules, keeping the interests of the nation in mind.

17. In conclusion, I pray to God to make the proceedings of this Assembly successful for the welfare of our beloved country. Jai Nepal.

(Source : Grishma Bahadur Devkota, op. cit. pp. 161-66).

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The National Food and Agriculture Organization, 1952

The National Food and Agriculture Organization (mentioned in the royal address to the Advisory Assembly on July 8, 1952) was headed by the Minister of Planning and Development. It consisted of the following members, according to a notification published by the Ministry of Planning and Development in the Nepal Gazette (Vol. 1, No. 46) on Ashadh 17, 2009 (July 1, 1952).

1. Agriculture

1. Bhakta Bahadur Raimajhi,  
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.
2. Ganga Bikram Sijapati,  
Director, Department of Agriculture.
3. Satya Lal Ranjitkar,  
Horticulturist, Department of Agriculture.
4. Hutaram Vaidya,  
Agri-Engineer, Department of Agriculture.

2. Forests

1. Lt. Col. Sher Jung Thapa,  
Secretary, Ministry of Forests.
2. Gobind Narsing Raimajhi,  
Divisional Forest Office, Department of Forests.
3. Emerald Jung Rana, do.
4. Mohan Bikram, do.
5. Sudhir Jung Thapa, do.

3. Finance

1. Himalaya Shumshere J.B.R.,  
Secretary, Ministry of Finance.

4. Commerce

1. Subba Nir Raj Rajbhandari,  
Secretary, Ministry of Industry and Commerce.
2. Mahesh Chandra Regmi,  
Director, Department of Industry and Commerce.

5. Development

1. Sardar Bhim Bahadur Pande,  
Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development.
2. Kularatna Tuladhar,  
Engineer, Public Works Department.

3. Mukund Bahadur Thapa,  
Engineer, Electricity Office.

4. Lt. Col. Khadga Marsing Rana,  
Director, Bureau of Mines.

6. Foreign Affairs

1. Sardar Narendra Mani A.D.,  
Secretary, Foreign Ministry.

7. Health

1. Dr. Siddhi Mani A.D.,  
Director-General, Department of Health.

8. Transport

1. Subba Prem Marsing Pradhan,  
Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development (sic).

2. Mir Subba Kashi Raj Pande,  
Engineer.

\*\*\*\*\*

Legislation Relating to the 1952 Advisory Assembly

Interim Government of Nepal (Second Amendment) Act, 1952  
(Nepal Gazette, Vol. 1, No. 46, Ashadh 17, 2009 (July 1, 1952)).

A Law Enacted to Amend the 1951 Interim Government of Nepal  
Act to Provide for the Formation of an Advisory Assembly.

Preamble :

Whereas it is expedient and desirable to form an Advisory  
Assembly in order to advise and assist His Majesty and his Council  
of Ministers in the discharge of their functions so as to ensure  
greater participation of the representatives of the people in  
the administrative affairs of the country,

Now therefore, the following ordinances have been promulgated :

(1) This law may be called the Nepal Interim Constitution  
(Second Amendment), 1952.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

### Definitions

2. Unless otherwise meant with reference to the content, in this law,

The term Principal law means the 1951 Nepal Interim Constitution.

Assembly means the Advisory Assembly.

Other terms not herein defined shall have the same meaning and significance as in the principal law.

The following chapter has been added after Chapter 1 "Executive Authority" in Part 3 of the principal law.

### Chapter 1 (A) : Advisory Assembly

#### General Provisions

- 28A. (1) An Advisory Assembly shall be formed in Nepal. The number of its members shall be as prescribed by His Majesty. Such members shall be nominated from among the certified citizens of Nepal. All ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers of the Government of Nepal shall be ex-officio members of the Advisory Assembly.
- (2) The Advisory Assembly shall cease to exist after a Constituent Assembly is formed.
- 28B. Persons representing different regions, classes, and ideologies of the country shall be selected as far as possible as non-governmental members of the Assembly.
- 28C. No person shall be eligible to be nominated as a member of the Advisory Assembly unless he:
- (1) Is a citizen of Nepal,
  - (2) Has attained the age of 25 years, and
  - (3) Does not suffer from the disqualifications mentioned in 28D below.
- 28D. The following persons shall not be eligible to be nominated as members of the Advisory Assembly :
- (a) Persons who hold an office of profit under the Government of Nepal,
  - (b) Persons who have been convicted by a court of law of any offense involving moral turpitude or corruption,
  - (c) Lunatics.

Provided that for the purpose of this Article members of the Council of Ministers, ministers of state, and deputy ministers of Nepal shall not be regarded as holding offices of profit.

(2) No person shall be regarded as a member of the Assembly until he has taken oath.

28E. (1) A member of the Advisory Assembly shall be deemed to have vacated his seat in any of the following circumstances :

- (a) If he submits a signed resignation to the Chairman, or
- (b) If he suffers from any of the disqualifications mentioned in Article 28D, or
- (c) If he remains absent from sessions of the Assembly for a period of 25 days without permission.

Provided that this 25-day period shall not include any period of more than four consecutive days for which the Assembly may have been adjourned.

(2) In case any question arises as to whether or not any member suffers from any of the disqualifications mentioned in Article 28C, it shall be referred to His Majesty, and His Majesty's decision shall be final.

28F. The remunerations and allowances of members shall be as prescribed by His Majesty.

28G. If any person participates and votes in the sessions of the Advisory Assembly even before taking oath or knowing that he is not eligible or is disqualified to become a member of the Assembly, he shall be punished with a fine of Rs 100 for each day when he participates or votes in this manner.

28H. The power to fill up vacancies, if any, in the Assembly shall be vested in His Majesty.

#### Office-Bearers of the Assembly

28I. At its first sitting of its session, which shall be presided over by a member or person designated by His Majesty, the Assembly shall elect two of its members as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively. In the event of a vacancy in the posts of Chairman or Vice-Chairman subsequently, it shall elect another member as Chairman or Vice-Chairman as the case may be. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be elected by a majority of the members present at the session. Ex-officio members shall not be entitled to stand as candidates for these posts.

28J. Any member who holds the post of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Assembly :

- (1) Shall vacate his post if he no longer remains a member of the Advisory Assembly.
- (2) May relinquish his post through a signed resignation addressed to His Majesty.
- (3) May be removed through a resolution passed by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at the session.

28K. (1) In case the post of Chairman falls vacant, the Vice-Chairman, and in case the post of Vice-Chairman too falls vacant, a member designated by His Majesty for this purpose shall fulfill the duties of that post.

- (2) In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and in the absence of the Vice-Chairman as well, a person designated by the Assembly according to its rules of procedure, shall preside over any sitting of the Assembly.

28L. The Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman or other person who functions as Chairman of the Assembly, shall have no right to vote in the first instance, but may exercise a casting vote in the event of a tie.

28M. During the debate on a resolution seeking to remove him, the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman, as the case may be, shall not be entitled to occupy his post in the Assembly.

28N. The remunerations and allowances of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman shall be as prescribed by His Majesty.

#### Convening of the Assembly and Its Sessions

28O. (1) The Advisory Assembly shall be convened twice every year and the interval between any two sessions shall not exceed six months.

- (2) Subject to Clause (1), His Majesty may, from time to time :
  - (a) Convene the Assembly at any place and time considered appropriate by him,
  - (b) Prorogue the sessions of the Assembly.

28P. At the commencement of every session, His Majesty shall address the Assembly and acquaint it with the reasons for summoning it.

28Q. (1) His Majesty may address the Assembly and require the presence of the members for this purpose.

- (2) His Majesty may send messages to the Assembly in connection with any item on its agenda or any other matter, and (the Assembly) shall deliberate on the subject of the message as early as possible according to convenience.

### Conduct of Sessions

- 28R. Before taking his seat, every member of the Assembly shall take oath in the form mentioned in the schedule in the presence of His Majesty or the person designated by His Majesty for the purpose.
- 28S. Unless otherwise provided for in this law, decisions on every issue shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting, other than the Chairman or other person functioning in that capacity.
- (2) The proceedings of the Assembly shall not be invalid on the ground that any seat is vacant, or it is subsequently revealed that any unauthorized person has voted or otherwise participated.
  - (3) The quorum for sittings of the Assembly shall consist of 25 members.
  - (4) In case there is lack of the prescribed quorum during any sitting of the Assembly, the Chairman or the person functioning on his behalf shall suspend the proceedings until the quorum is fulfilled or adjourn the sitting.

### Special Privileges of Members

- 28T. (1) Subject to this law and the rules of procedure of the Assembly, there shall be freedom of speech at the Assembly.
- (2) No action can be initiated in any court of law against any member on the ground of anything he might have said at the Assembly or at any Committees thereof. Similarly, no such action can be initiated against any person for having published any report, letter, opinion or report of the proceedings with the permission of the Assembly or under its jurisdiction.

### Powers of the Advisory Assembly

- 28U. The Advisory Assembly may deliberate on any matter relating to the legislative and executive actions of the government other than the following:-
- (1) Matters on which a debate may have an adverse effect on the friendly relations of the Government of Nepal with any foreign nation.
  - (2) Matters relating to the personal conduct of His Majesty and members of the royal family.
  - (3) Matters whose disclosure may harm the public interest, such as the deployment and movements of the army.
  - (4) Motions of no-confidence against any Minister or the Council of Ministers as a whole.

- 28V. No law may be submitted for the assent of His Majesty unless it is debated and voted upon at the Advisory Assembly.
- 28W. Any member of the Advisory Assembly may ask question on any issue concerning the legislative and executive actions of the Government, except those mentioned in Article 28D.
- 28X. Any member of the Advisory Assembly may present a resolution on any bill for its consideration with the permission of the Chairman and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly.
- 28Y. His Majesty may at his discretion withhold his assent to any bill or resolution passed by the Assembly, or send it back to the Assembly with alterations and amendments considered appropriate by him.
- 28Z. In case the Assembly rejects any official bill or resolution, or does not accept the alterations and amendments proposed by His Majesty, and in case His Majesty considers it appropriate from the viewpoint of the public interest to approve such bill, resolution, alterations or amendments, His Majesty may authenticate such bill, resolution, alterations or amendments as having been passed by the Assembly.
- 28AA. Subject to the provisions of this law, His Majesty may frame rules relating to the working procedure and conduct of business of the Assembly.

4. Article 28 of the principal law shall be repealed, and replaced by the following Article 28:-

28. The annual budget estimates shall be presented to the Advisory Assembly, which shall have the power to hold debates and vote thereon.

Provided that The Assembly shall not hold any debate on the privy purse of His Majesty and related matters;

And that the provisions of Articles 28X, 28Y and 28Z shall be applicable to matters within the purview of this Article as well.

5. Clause 2(A) of Article 29 of the Interim Constitution shall be repealed, and replaced by the following clause 2(A):-

It shall be dissolved three months after the beginning of the next session of the Advisory Assembly.

#### Schedule 1

#### 1. Form of Oath of office for Ministers, Ministers of State, and Deputy Ministers

I hereby swear by the name of God/solemnly affirm that I shall remain loyal and faithful to His Majesty, His Majesty's successors, and the Interim Constitution established by law, fulfill my duty as Minister/Minister of State/Deputy Minister

with respect and a pure conscience, and deal justly with all categories of persons according to the Constitution and the law without fear or favor, affection or illwill.

2. Form of Oath of Secrecy for Ministers, Ministers of State, and Deputy Ministers

I ..... hereby swear by the name of God/solemnly affirm that I shall not reveal or express directly or indirectly to any one in any circumstances any matter which may be referred to me or come into my knowledge in my capacity of Minister/Minister of State/Deputy Minister, except when necessary in the course of the proper discharge of my duties.

3. Form of Oath for Members of the Advisory Assembly

Whereas I have been nominated as a member of the Advisory Assembly, I ..... swear by the name of God/solemnly affirm that I shall remain loyal and faithful to His Majesty and His Majesty's successors, as well as to the Interim Constitution established by law, and faithfully discharge the duties pertaining to the post I am about to assume.

\*\*\*\*\*

Imposition of Fines on Sino-Eating Communities

On Ashadh Badi 12, 1862 (June 1805), Kashinath Upadhyaya was granted authority to collect fines from people belonging to the Gurung, Rohani, Bhuyyal, and other communities in the region situated east of the Karnali river and west of the Arun river who ate sino (flesh of dead cattle).

Village headmen and landowners in the region were ordered to help the employees of Kashinath Upadhyaya collect these fines in their respective areas. (Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 89-90).

The following public notification was issued in the name of sino-eating communities in the Karnali-Arun region the same day: "During the time of our father (King Ran Bahadur Shah), you had pledged to give up sino-eating, thereby getting exemption from the obligation to supply hides and skins. Today, however, you have violated that pledge. You eat sino, but do not supply any hides and skins. Fines at the following rates have now been imposed on you in consideration of such violation, as well as failure to supply hides and skins so far. Transmit these fines through the employees of Kashinath Upadhyaya. In the future, you may take sino, but must supply hides and skins to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory. Your life and property will be forfeited if you again pledge to give up sino-eating and demand exemption from the obligation to supply hides and skins.

Rates of Fines

Mukhiya	...	Rs. 3 for each household
Mijhar	...	Rs. 2      -"
Gourung	...	Rs. 1      -"
Umra :		
Abal	...	Rs. 8
Doyam	...	Rs. 4
sin	...	Rs. 2
Chahar	...	Rs. 1
Other subjects (Prajā) :		
Abal household	...	Rs. 2
Doyam      "	...	Rs. 1-12
sim        "	...	Rs. 1
Chahar	...	8 annas.

Ashadh Badi 12, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 90-91.

The letter of appointment issued to Kashinath Upadhyaya the same day listed the rates of the fine as mentioned above, and added: "Remit the proceeds of these fines to us. In case any person causes any difficulty or obstruction in collecting the fines, tie him up and send him to us, and take action as ordered. Collect the fine without any favor, and pay salaries at the prescribed rates to the following employees with the income:

Tahasildar	...	(Not mentioned)
Bahidar	...	-"
Peons (pyada)	...	-"
Tahabildar	...	-"

Employees at the Kathmandu Head Office (Goswara)

Tahabildar	...	(Not mentioned)
Bahidar	...	

Ashadh Badi 12, 1862

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 91-92.

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Raja Mandhir Sahi of Bajura

- (1) Royal order to Raja Mandhir Sahi of Bajura: "We had recognized your father, Ananta Sahi, as Raja of Bajura. Since your father is now dead, we confirm you as Raja of Bajura. Discharge all the functions that your father had been discharging from the throne when that territory was occupied by us."

Kartik Sudi 8, 1869 (October 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 132.

- (2) Royal order to the subedar and other personnel of the Samarjit Company: "The territory of Kadha has belonged to Bajura from former times. During the revenue settlement conducted by Puran Sahi, it was detached from Bajura and placed under the authority of Bahadur Bamba. Today, on the request of Raja Mandhir Sahi, we hereby restore Kadha to Bajura, subject to an annual payment of Rs. 29/ on thek-bandi basis to the Samarjit Company. Accept payment of this amount in installments accordingly."

Kartik Sudi 8, 1869 (October 1812).  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 132-133.

- (3) Royal order to the subedar and other personnel of the Ranabamba Company: "During the revenue settlement conducted by Puran Sahi, Karna Simha, and Laxmi Das Pantha, an amount of Rs. 3,001 had been assessed for Bajura on thek-bandi basis. Raja Mandhir Sahi has now complained to us that the assessment is excessive. We have, therefore, reduced the amount to Rs. 250/ accept payment of this amount in installments accordingly."

Kartik Sudi 8, 1869 (October 1812).  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 133-134.

Morang Affairs, A.D. 1806

- (1) Royal order to Bishnu Padhya and Sardar Gandhya: "The ryots of Morang have come here with the complaint that Sarup Puri has compiled land-tax-assessment records (jammabandi) in an unjust manner in contravention of the arrangements made in 1850 Vikrama (A.D. 1893), and is forcing us even to sell our oxen."

"We have accordingly sent you to Morang to ascertain whether or not these complaints are true, and make arrangements to have lands cultivated and taxes collected, thereby serving our interests. We have sent back the complainants to Morang. Ascertain whether or not their complaints are true, make appropriate decisions to the satisfaction of the ryots, and have the actual revenue collected. Arrange for the refundment of payments collected unjustly by Sarup Puri, if any. You shall be held liable if you leave the path of justice out of favor toward anyone."

Falgun Sudi 5, 1862 (February 1806)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 735-36).

- (2) Royal order to Subba Sarup Puri: "The ryots of Morang district have come here with the complaint that you are unjustly collecting taxes in contravention of the arrangements made in 1850 Vikrama (A.D. 1793). If these complaints are true, and the ryots relinquish their lands as a result, so that the country is ruined, you will be liable to punishment and also to compensate the loss. Understand this, and collect taxes at the rates prescribed in 1850 Vikrama.

Falgun Sudi 5, 1862 (February 1806)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 736-37.

- (3) Royal order to Sahu Ravilal Jani: "Ryots from Morang district have come to us with the complaint that during the Vikrama year 1861-62 (A.D. 1804-5) Sarup Puri unjustly collected taxes from them in excess of the rates prescribed in the Vikrama year 1850. You are therefore ordered to summon both sides in an Adalat, ascertain the truth of the complaint, and obtain a confessional statement. Arrange for the refundment of excess collections, if any. Allow Sarup Puri to collect arrears due for the Vikrama year 1862 in full; let him not collect unauthorized payments, or try to collect in one day what should be collected during a period of two months, thereby compelling the ryots to leave their lands. Arrange for action to be taken in the traditional manner, so that settlements are maintained and revenue collected. Punishment shall be inflicted on any person as a result of whose action ryots may be forced to leave their lands."

Falgun Sudi 5, 1862 (February 1806)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 6, pp. 736-37.

Garhwal Affairs, A.D. 1814

1. Indiscriminate Exaction of Forced and Unpaid Labor

Royal order to military personnel, government employees, revenue functionaries, and common people travelling through different villages in Garhwal district: "We have received reports that the country has been ruined because you exact forced labor services (beth, begar) without paying wages as well as free supplies (Khanu manu) from the local people. We therefore order that no person shall exact such labor services and supplies in the future, except for the transportation of military supplies and sick and wounded persons. Any person who does so and thereby harasses and oppresses the people shall be severely punished.

Marga Badi 12, 1871 (November 1814)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 445-46.

## 2. Collection of Unauthorized Payments

Royal order to military units holding Khangī lands in Garhwal district: "We have received reports that you are collecting payments every year from the ryots in excess of the rates that had been prescribed previously. In the future, collect only the payments stipulated on each Khangī holding. Do not collect extra payments and cause hardships to ryots. In case any person does so, the excess shall be recovered from him. Understand this, and do not commit injustice."

Marga Badi 12, 1871 (November 1814)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, P. 447.

## 3. Unauthorized Collections on Newly-Reclaimed Lands

Royal order to amālis, assignees (bharnadar), and military units (Paltan, Company) in the three divisions (Khanda) of Garhwal: "We have received reports that you are collecting payments on newly-reclaimed lands also in addition to those on the lands assigned to you. Those lands will not be included in your Khangī assignments. Collect payments according to the chakbandi arrangements made previously. We have granted authority to Krishnananda Khadari and Dhanabir Thapa to collect payments on newly-reclaimed lands. Do not cause any obstruction in the collection of such payments; let them do so. In case any person forcibly occupies any land, he shall be liable to pay twice the amount of revenue assessed thereon.

"We have also received reports that you make engagements with merchants (mahajan) for the realization of loans borrowed by the ryots of Garhwal during the time of the former kings. Do not harass the ryots in this manner. Let them pay their debts themselves. You shall be punished if you compel them to do so."

Marga Badi 12, 1871 (November 1814)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 447-48.

## 4. Unauthorized Enslavement

Royal order to bhardars and military companies who have been assigned lands in Garhwal district, as well as to Kamins, Sayanas, Zamindars, and amālis: "We have received reports that you sell the sons and daughters of ryots and subjects to realize arrears of payment. We had previously issued a royal order prohibiting the sale and purchase of human beings. However, you have disobeyed that order, and are still realizing arrears of payment due to you by selling the sons and daughters of others. In case any person disobeys our order in the future, and sells and purchases human beings, his life and property shall be forfeited. Understand this, and do not engage in such acts in the future."

Marga Badi 12, 1871 (November 1814).  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 446-47.

## 5. Illegal Slave Traffic

Royal order to Ditttha Dhanabir Thapa: "We had previously issued orders prohibiting the amalis of Garhwal from accepting boys and girls in lieu of land tax (pota) payments, and other persons too from selling (boys and girls) outside Garhwal. Any person who disobeys these orders, buys boys and girls, and smuggles them to areas outside Garhwal, shall be compelled to restore such boys and girls to their homes, and shall also be punished."

Poush Badi 3, 1871 (December 1814)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 456.

### Mines and Mints, A.D. 1812

#### Copper Mines in the Chepe/Marsyangdi-Bheri Region

Royal order to subedar Ramajit Bhandari and Balabhadra Padhya:

We hereby grant you amanat authority to operate copper mines in the region situated west of the Chepe and Marsyangdi rivers and east of the Bheri river, with the exception of Palpa, Gulmi, Argha, Khanchi, and Salyan, as well as the Beni Mint, as previously operated by Subba Jabar, effective Jestha Badi 13, 1869 in the case of the Beni Mint, and Ashadh Sudi 2, 1869 in the case of copper mines.

We grant you authority as mentioned below for this purpose:-

1. All mines of copper, lead, cinnabar, and iron, with the exception of those in Thuni and Rukum, have been placed under your jurisdiction.
2. Collect and appropriate income from all land, homestead, and other taxes customarily paid by persons holding allotments of mining lands or working in mines, including Crown levies (raja-anka), escheat property, fines and penalties collected in the course of the administration of justice, including those collected from persons guilty of major (Panchakhat) crimes, Walak levies, and income from newly-discovered mineral deposits.
3. Do not let any other person purchase copper in this region; conduct monopoly trade (ekahatti) in the entire copper output and operate mints for minting paisa coins at Pokhara, Baglungchaur, and Beni.
4. Purchase copper with income from the mints and funds made available by the government (darbar).

5. Do not collect arbitrary taxes and other payments in excess of customary rates, thereby leading to complaints from the local people. Keep them happy and satisfied.
6. Do not cause any loss out of greed; do not engage in trade on your own account; do not reduce the output or income of the Vikrama year 1867-68; and do not let arrears accumulate. Transmit to the government the increased output or income, if any. You shall be held personally liable if you let output or income go down or let arrears accumulate.

A sum of Rs. 3,794 is hereby sanctioned as follows from the income collected from this source to pay the salaries of employees every year:

Subedar Ramajit Bhandari	...	Rs. 900
Dittha Balabhadra Padhya	...	<u>Rs. 600</u>
		Rs. 1,500

Employees required for work in mines:-

Brahma Padhya	...	Rs. 200
One Bahidar	...	Rs. 120
One Tahabildar	...	Rs. 75
One Bichari	...	Rs. 50
18 Dwares	...	Rs. 540
18 clerks for dwares	...	Rs. 126
10 peons	...	Rs. 250
One Dittha for weighing copper	...	Rs. 40
Four Katuwals	...	Rs. 38
One Jamadar	...	<u>Rs. 205</u>
		Rs. 1,644

Employees required for the Beni and Baglungchaur Mints

Two Dittas	...	Rs. 150
Two Bahidars	...	Rs. 150
Two tahasildars	...	Rs. 100
Six peons	...	Rs. 150
Two Dittas for weighing copper	...	Rs. 60

Two mahanes	...	<u>Rs. 40</u>
		Rs. 650
Grand Total	...	Rs. 3,794

Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 91-94.

#### Royal Order to Miners

Royal order to miners (agri), smelters (mahars) and their team-leaders (mukaiya) in the region between the Chepe/Marsyangdi and Bheri rivers:-

In matters concerning the exploitation of mineral deposits, you are hereby ordered to work faithfully as directed by subedar Ramajit Bhandari and Balabhadra Padhya. We shall reward those who work faithfully as directed by them, and punish those who do not.

Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 87-88.

#### Public Notifications

On Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812), a public notification was issued in the villages and thums of the region situated between the Chepe/Marsyangdi and Bheri rivers according to which Subedar Ramajit Bhandari and Balabhadra Padhya had been granted authority under the amanat system to operate the copper monopoly in that region, as well as the mints at Beni and Baglungchaur, where paisa coins (of copper) were minted.

The local people were ordered to supply their copper to the mint and receive payment at current prices. The notification added, "Do not sell copper elsewhere. In case any trader or other person smuggles copper to other places, the local authorities shall confiscate it and hand it over to the mints. Any person who acts in contravention of this order shall be severely punished."

Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 89-90.

Public notification in the region situated west of the Vishnumati river and east of Pyuthan: "Mines, as well as the Beni and Baglungchaur mints, have been placed under the amanat authority of subedar Ramajit Bhandari and Balabhadra Padhya. Transport supplies of copper and paisa coins supplied by them without the slightest delay through your area or village. Any person in whose area or village these supplies are held up shall be severely punished."

Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 90-91.

Amanat Regulations for Copper Monopoly in Chepe/Marsyangdi Bheri Region

The following regulations were issued in the names of Subedar Ramajit Bhandari and Balabhadra Padhya for the amanat operation of copper mines in the Chepe/Marsyangdi-Bheri region, with the exception of Palpa, Gulmi, Argha, Khanchi, Salyan, Thuni, and Rukum from Ashadh Sudi 2, 1869, and the Beni Mint from Jestha Badi 13, 1869:-

1. A monopoly (ekahatti) has been introduced in copper produced from mines in the region situated west of the Chepe and Marsyangdi rivers and east of the Bheri river. Procure copper for minting paisa coins at the mints of Pokhara, Baglungchaur, and Beni. Mint separate coins of the denominations of 2 paisa, 2 dam, and 1 dam, affix stamps on them, and transmit them to the Tosakhana (in Kathmandu). Submit accounts after the expiry of each year and obtain clearance. Do not allow surplus copper to be smuggled to the south (madhes).
2. Purchase copper offered for sale by merchants to the Mint and make payments at current prices. If the merchants bring ingots or discs with the request that these be minted into coins or stamped, do so on payment of the customary fees.
3. Check discs brought by merchants and stamp them if no alloy has been mixed. In case the metal is impure, impose fines according to the extent of the offense. In case (merchants) offer copper ingots, make payments at current prices, use the metal to mint coins, and credit the profit to the accounts.
4. Inasmuch as the trade in copper has been brought under a monopoly, if miners, smelters, merchants, and others do not supply their copper to the mint, but smuggle it to the south (madhes), confiscate the copper and hand it over to the mint. Impose fines on the offenders according to the extent of their offense.
5. In case the funds at your disposal are not adequate to finance the procurement of copper produced in the region mentioned above, you may issue permits to other merchants to purchase the metals from miners and smelters. Procure such copper and mint it into coins on payment of the prescribed fees, and hand over the coins to the merchants. In case merchants do not supply the copper to the mint, and sell it elsewhere, confiscate it and hand it over to the mint. Impose fines on the offenders and credit the amount to the accounts.
6. In case old creditors press their demand for repayment of loans supplied by them to miners, do not let work be obstructed. Investigate the matter, and if any amount is found to be actually due for repayment by miners and smelters, make arrangements so as to enable them to pay back their creditors in installments after they collect the money. Do not allow (creditors) to harass (the debtors) in violation of such arrangements.

7. Obtain confessions from persons who incite miners and smelters because of the fact that a monopoly has been imposed on the trade in copper, so that merchants and others are not allowed to purchase copper from them, or who do not abide by arrangements made in respect to creditors and debtors.
8. Supply copper at current prices to traders who need the metal for manufacturing utensils and other goods needed by people within the country; do not let them export such copper to the south. Confiscate copper being smuggled by any person to the south, hand it over to the mint, and also punish (the smuggler) with a fine.
9. Incur reasonable expenses to prospect for new mineral deposits in different areas. If it is found that income from such deposits will exceed the expenses, spend more if necessary. But if it is found that income from such deposits will be less than the expenses, do not spend any money (in working the deposits).
10. Appoint coppersmiths (banda) in the necessary number to smelt copper, make discs, and affix stamps on coins at the mint. Provide them with rations and monthly salaries at the customary rates.
11. Maintain mines properly so that income may be maximized. Give rewards to the employees in proportion to the increased income.
12. Recover arrears of payment due against advances made for the purchase of copper from the property (of the defaulters), or else from their heirs and relatives if any.
13. Incur reasonable expenses for supplies needed for this work, such as paper, ink, oil, cushions, religious ceremonies at mines, bellows, wicker baskets, construction of buildings for mints, clay for making molds, weights, charcoal, acid, and scales for weighing copper.
14. Pay kirana and nirkhi duties on copper covered by the monopoly to the local bhansari for 1867-68 Vikrama as paid by Subba Jabar according to the stipulation made in 1866 Vikrama. From the Vikrama year 1869, (collection of these duties) has been taken over on amanat basis. You are accordingly ordered to pay kirana and nirkhi duties at the following rates on each load of 22 dharnis of copper:-
 

Kirana	...	One rupee and four annas.
Nirkhi	...	Twelve annas.
15. A sum of Rs. 10,000 shall be made available to you to finance this work as in the case of Subba Jabar. Discharge the functions mentioned in the regulations with this amount, as well as with the income collected from the mines. Submit accurate accounts of the principal amount and the profits at the end of the year and obtain clearance.

16. In case you are unable to decide on any matter yourself, refer it to Kaji mbar Simha Thapa of Palpa. Refer to us matters which need our decision, and take action as ordered.
17. One unit of the Kewaljung Company stationed at Jaharitar, and the surplus personnel of the military unit stationed at Nisangadhi, have been placed under your command for functions relating to the collection (of metals and revenue).

Baisakh (1) Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 94-100.

Supplies for Beni Mint

Royal order to the headmen (mukhiya, thari, budha) and other inhabitants (raiti) of Malkawang, Lopre, Kafaldanda-Ramche, Histan, and Salija villages (in Baglung):

From the Vikrama year 1869 (A.D. 1812), the following households belonging to the following villages are ordered to supply charcoal and clay to the Beni Mint. In consideration of that obligation, we hereby order that:

- (a) Landlords shall not evict these households from the rice-lands being cultivated by them on adhiya tenure.
- (b) Ghiukhani tax shall be paid in the customary manner.
- (c) Loans shall be supplied to landlords within the limits of the crop if required.
- (d) These households shall be exempted from payment of the saunefagu and other levies, as well as from forced labor (jhara, beth, begar) and hulak obligations.

Any person who defaults in or obstructs the supply of charcoal and clay to the Beni Mint shall be severely punished.

Particulars

<u>Village</u>	<u>No. of Households</u>
Malkawang	21
Kafaldanda-Ramche	17
Lopre	8
Histan	15
Salija	19

Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 88-89.

Supply of Iron to Kathmandu Munitions Factory

- (1) On Marga Sudi 4, 1869, the following royal order was issued in the name of Siddhi Narayan Newar, who held an ijara for the Richok (Chisapani), Janagaun, and Ruping (Nuwakot) mines:

"You are hereby granted a one-year ijara for mines and rice-fields at Nakhu, Agarkhu, and Kudletar, as well as three copper mines at Badahare (Dhading), Ghyalchok (Gorkha), and Humlichok, previously held by Indra Simha Newar.

"Under this ijara, you must pay Rs. 771 for the iron mines, and 400 dharnis of copper worth Rs. 1000, making a total of Rs. 1771. In lieu of this payment, supply 40 dharnis of iron everyday to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory.

"Do not act unjustly and oppress the people. Do not mix alloy with copper. Punish those who sell and purchase (copper) in contravention of the monopoly. Transmit income from Mahadevakharka to the Amali."

Through the same order, Mahadevakharka was placed under the authority of Siddhi Narayan Newar so that he might recruit (compulsory and unpaid labor) to supply charcoal and extract ore for the Ruping iron mines.

The conversion rates were prescribed as follows:-

<u>Category of Iron</u>	<u>Dharnis per Rupee</u>
Bhanchuwa	8
Dhangle	16
Ingots	12

Marga Sudi 4, 1869 (November 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 169-70.

- (2) Royal order to the inhabitants of Richok (Chisapani), Janagaun, and Ruping (Nuwakot):

Iron is needed at the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory in large quantities. Because supplies of charcoal have not reached Ruping, it has become necessary to work mines at Mahadevakharka also. You are therefore ordered to supply 40 dharnis of iron daily by rotation to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory through the Dware of your village. We hereby grant you exemption from forced labor (jhara, beth, begar) for other work. You shall be punished if you do not supply the iron every day as ordered.

Marga Sudi 4, 1869 (November 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 167.

## (3) Royal order to Bairagi Balak Das.

Work is being held up at the Ruping iron mines in Nuwakot by the scarcity of timber. We hereby order that timber be procured for working these mines from the forests of Brahmans, as well as those raised by you, except forests belonging to the shrine of Sri Machhindra. Any person who prevents the miners from cutting timber from these forests shall be liable to punishment.

Baisakh Sudi 2, 1869  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 120-121

Miscellaneous Ijara(1) Lead Mines in Pangu

On Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812), Sardar Birabhadra Kanwar was granted a one-year ijara for operating lead mines in the Pangu, Nigale, Chandidanda, Chakalkhani, and other areas. The ijara was previously held by Bahadur Khatri.

Under the ijara, Sardar Birabhadra Kanwar stipulated the supply of 1,351 dharnis of lead every year in four installments to the Dittha of the Lead Office in Kathmandu. The figure was previously 1,301 dharnis only.

Sardar Birabhadra Kanwar was granted authority under the ijara to collect and appropriate the proceeds of all homestead and other taxes in the areas under his jurisdiction. He was also granted the right to administer justice and appropriate income from fines and penalties, as well as escheat property up to a limit of Rs. 100 in each case; the balance was to be remitted to the government.

Finally, Sardar Birabhadra Kanwar was granted authority to work lead deposits wherever these might be located in the Kingdom.

Baisakh Badi 10, 1869 (April 1812)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 86-87.

(2) Iron Mines in Nuwakot

Iron deposits were located on lands assigned as Jagir to the Samarsar Company at Chokda in Nuwakot.

On Baisakh Sudi 1, 1869 (April 1812), these mines were granted to Bamshidhar Lama under a one-year ijara effective Baisakh Badi 1, 1869.

The ijaradar stipulated the supply of 301 dharnis of iron a year in four installments to the Kathmandu Munitions Factory. The Samarsar Company was entitled to realize Rs. 15 in cash every year from the Kathmandu Munitions Factory.

The ijaradar was entitled to appropriate income not exceeding Rs. 100 in each case from escheat property and judicial fines and penalties, as well as the proceeds of homestead (ghargani, sirto) and other taxes, and fines collected from persons guilty of illicit sexual relations (chak chakmi). The government also waived its right to exact forced and unpaid labor (jhara, beth, begar) from the inhabitants of the areas under the jurisdiction of the ijaradar.

Baisakh Sudi 1, 1869 (April 1812)

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 113-114.

### (3) Other Ijaras

Some other ijaras, issued on similar terms and conditions during the Vikrama year 1869, were as follows:

- (a) Ijara for Deulang mines (in Dolakha) granted for one year to Tej Abhimanta Newar on Baisakh Sudi 2, 1869 for Rs. 605 in cash payable in four installments. (Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, P. 116).
- (b) Ijara for copper and lead mines at Gyaji and Phenam (in Gorkha) granted for one year to Mani Narayan Newar for supply of 12 dharnis of copper and 601 dharnis of lead to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory. (Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 116-117).
- (c) Ijara for copper and sulfur mines at Jharlang granted for one year to Jabar Adhikari on Baisakh Sudi 3, 1869 for 801 dharnis of sulfur to be supplied to the Dittha of the Gunpowder Factory.  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, P. 123.
- (d) Ijara for iron mines in the area south of Chisapani on the Thotne-khola granted for one year on Kartik Sudi 6, 1869 to Arjun Thapa and Bhanarsingh for 150 dharnis of iron to be supplied to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory. The ijaradar was also ordered to prospect for deposits of copper and lead in that area.  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 126-127.
- (e) Ijara for Mahibal iron mines (in Tanahu) granted for one year on Marga Sudi 4, 1869 to Jasbir Gurung and Cham Gurung for the supply of 401 dharnis of iron to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory in four installments. Homesteads held by Sardar Tikaballabh on Chhap tenure were allotted to miners working these mines.

Marga Sudi 4, 1869 (November 1812)

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, P. 170.

Arrangements to Prospect for New Deposits

Public notification in the region situated west of the Kanaka and Tista rivers and east of the Seti river.

"Copper, lead, and iron are needed in large quantities by the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory. We are sending men to different areas to work new deposits of these metals. You are hereby ordered to locate such deposits in your respective areas. Immediately after the men sent by us to work new deposits reach there, show such deposits to them.

"In case there is a shortage of labor to work the deposits, impress the compulsory and unpaid services (jhara) of the local people according to the requirements of the men sent by us.

"If new deposits are located, but the men sent by us do not reach there, report the matter to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory and work the deposits according to orders.

"Any person who works a new deposit shall be entitled to appropriate one-sixth of the income during the first year; the balance shall be transmitted to the (Kathmandu) Munitions Factory. From the second year, the deposits shall be worked on ijara basis.

"In case the men sent from here to work new deposits face any difficulty or obstruction in any area, persons under whose jurisdiction such area lies, shall be liable to punishment."

Baisakh sudi 1, 1869

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, pp. 114-116..

Royal Order to Subba Achal Thapa

On Baisakh sudi 2, 1869, the following royal order was sent to Subba Achal Thapa, Chief of the State-trading establishment (Kothi) at Bhangaruwa in Saptari district:

We hereby order you to operate a Mint (Taksar) for minting paisa coins. Procure copper from mines and mint such coins according to the prescribed samples and weights. Keep the coins at the Kothi. At the end of the year, submit accounts of the profits and obtain clearance.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 41, p. 118.

The Dware

In the villages of the hill region, jagirdars usually collected taxes and other payments through a functionary known as dware. As the local representative of the jagirdar-lanlord, the dware also exercised his judicial authority. The following documents provide information on the role of the dware as revenue collector and magistrate in the village:

Bisankhu (Lalitpur)

Order to the amali (Jagirdar) and the dware of Bisankhu (Lalitpur) from General Bhimasesn Thapa, Kaji Ranadhvaj Thapa, and Kaji Rewanta Kunwar:

"Harshadeva Joshi has come here with the complaint that the amali has allotted a part of his hulaki holding to another person contrary to the customary practice. If his complaint is true, the holding of a hulaki porter cannot be deducted. If the facts are different, both sides are hereby ordered to appear before us.

1875 (A.D. 1818) Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, P. 532.

Gaikhur (Gorkha)

Order to Dwares Sathuram and Jodhya Khawas of Gaikhur (Gorkha) from General Bhimasesn Thapa and Kaji Rewanta Kunwar:

"Bhakta Thapa has come here with the complaint that you have seized his gelded goat as penalty because his cow damaged the crops of Jaguwa. If the cows and buffaloes of any person damage the crops of another person, the amount of such damage may be realized from him, if the latter is willing to accept payment. Restore the property seized in consideration of the offense. Do not cause any obstruction in this regard. If any other offense has been committed, send both parties here.

Marga Badi 14, 1875 (December 1818)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, P. 533.

Chainpur (Terhatnum)

Order to the amali, dware, and thari of Chainpur from General Bhimasesn Thapa, Kaji Ranadhvaj Thapa, and Kaji Rewanta Kunwar:

"We have received reports that you have imposed a fine on Pashupati Jaisi, a birta owner of Khaptuwa, on the ground that he has not provided hulak portering services. However, his name is not enrolled in the hulak register, hence he cannot be punished in this manner. Do not harass him in this way. If the facts are different, let both parties appear before us.

Poush Badi 4, 1875 (December 1818)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, P. 535.

Raginas (Lamjung)

Order to the dware and the thari of Raginas (Lamjung) under the Srinath Kampu from General Bhimasesn Thapa:

"Gaurikanta Pantha has submitted the following petition: "My birta homestead and pakho lands had not been confiscated in 1862 Vikrama (A.D. 1806), and the amali had, therefore, not collected the serma tax. Now Dware Banu Pande has demanded four annas as serma tax, and seized my utensils (lota) in lieu of payment."

"If the serma tax had not been imposed on the birta lands of Gaurikanta Pantha in 1862 Vikrama, it cannot be imposed now. Do not collect the tax from him."

Magh Sudi 7, 1875 (January 1819)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, p. 537.

Liglig (Gorkha)

Order to Dware Tekanarsingh of Liglig (Gorkha) from General Bhimasesn Thapa, Kaji Ranadhwaj Thapa, and Kaji Rewanta Kunwar :

"Icchananda Devakota, has come here with the complaint that a deduction has been made from his Pakho land allotment. If this allotment belongs to a hulaki porter, do not raise any dispute. Let not any complaint be submitted to us in this regard."

Magh Sudi 14, 1875 (January 1819)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, pp. 538-39.

Sikharkot

Order to Dware Vishnu Narayan of Sikharkot from General Bhimasesn Thapa, Kaji Ranadhwaj Thapa, and Kaji Rewanta Kunwar :

"Kashiram Padhya has come here with the complaint that the tax on his lands, amounting to five rupees, has been raised on the ground that the number of tenants (kuriya) has increased. Since the lands have long been in his occupation, let him retain them if he is willing to pay Rs. 5½."

Magh Sudi 14, 1875 (January 1819)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, p. 539.

Tistung (Chisapani)

Order to the dware, the naike, and the thari of Tistung from General Bhimasesn Thapa and Kaji Rewanta Kunwar :

"Hari Narayan Padhya, a hulaki porter, has come here with the complaint that he is being evicted from lands on which he had paid the chardam-theke fee and sown wheat. If you have actually accepted payment of the fee from him, let him continue occupying the lands. If the facts are different, let both sides appear before us."

Falgun Badi 3, 1875 (February 1819)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, p. 541.

Luggaun

Order to Kale Khatri, amali of Luggaun, and Dware Narayan Bharati from General Bhimasesn Thapa, Kaji Ranadhwaj Thapa, and Kaji Rewanta Kunwar :

"Bishram Khatri has come here with the complaint that he has been ordered to go through the dhunga-chuayi ceremony for the following act: Accompanied by Lata Khatri, Vishram Khatri

had stopped at a cattle-shed, cooked puwa with millet flour and ghee on the fireplace and eaten it, and also taken sour milk poured by a slave, thereby contaminating him through the flow of the milk.

"There can be no contamination by taking bread or puwa cooked in ghee or oil when taken from the hands of a slave boy or girl. Such foodstuffs can be eaten. There can also be no contamination through the flow of sour milk and the drinking of such milk. Do not harass the people in such matters."

Falgun Badi 4, 1875 (February 1819)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 38, P. 542,

(Brian H. Hodgson has described the dhunga-chuayi ceremony as follows: "A stone (dhunga), the image of Vishnu, is placed before the loser when he is lost, and he is commanded to touch it. He places one rupee and one pice on the stone, and then salutes it with a bow, and retires, leaving the offering. The proceeds go to the Bichari." "Some Account of the Systems of Law and Police, as recognized in the State of Nepal", Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. I, 1834, P. 273).

#### Ban on Begar Labor

Royal order to Subba Dasharath Khatri:

"We have received reports that the Darogas and Mahouts of elephant-depots in Bara, Parsa, and Rautahat are impressing forced and unpaid labor (beth, begar) from the people and also collecting provisions without making any payment. We hereby order you not to permit such practices. They must purchase what is offered willingly by the people.

"We have also received reports that Chandharis and Kamugoyes force the people to plow their fields without paying any wages, and that all this has caused great hardships to the people.

"Any person who disobeys orders issued by us in this regard shall be severely punished."

Aswin Sudi 4, 1850 (September 1793)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, P. 1.

#### Jagir Land Grants for supply of weapons

On Bhadra sudi 8, 1850 (August 1793), Rana Simha Adhikari of Aginchok (Dhading) was granted 900 muris of rice-fields and the attached homesteads in Jafe under jagir tenure. The grant entailed the obligation to supply eight swords (khuda) and eight bows (dhana) when needed.

Several such grants were made on the same day in Rampur (Udayapur?), Palanchok, Narja (Nuwakot), Siranchok (Gorkha), Sipa (Sindhupalchok), Maidhi (Dhading), Lakuwa (Dhading), Jyamruk (Dhading), Jiunpur (Dhading), Bhirkot, Parbat, Lamjung, Sarangkot (Kaski), Kathmandu, and other areas. Some of them required the supply of a prescribed number of muskets as well.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 36, pp. 17-19.

Land Reclamation and Settlement  
in Bichhakhori

Bichhakhori was situated on the main route between Kathmandu and the Nepal-India frontier at Parsa. The distance between Bichhakhori and Parsa was about fourteen miles, according to Hamilton, (P. 196).

Kirkpatrick (p. 32) writes: "Bechiacori is the name by which the Cheeriaghati hills are distinguished in this part of their range. There are a few miserable huts situated on the east bank of the nulla, at no great distance from the entrance of it, which also bear the name of Bechiacori, but which we found abandoned."

According to Hamilton (P. 196): "Bichhakor contains about a dozen huts, and affords no supplies except wood and water, of which last there is a very fine spring, and several small streams in a very wide stony channel, the only clear place in the vicinity ... Bichhakor derives its name from the place abounding in scorpions. There is no cultivation near it, and the only inhabitants are a few Parbatiyas, or mountain Hindus. They reside at the place to collect some duties, and for the accommodation of travellers, and by long habit, have become inured to the climate, and enabled to resist its baneful influence, which, from the end of March, till the beginning of December, is exceedingly destructive to all strangers."

Oldfield (p. 139) has described "Bichakoh" as "a small port situated in the bed of a ravine at the junction of two streams, one of which has its source to the northward, the other to the west."

Perceval Landon (p. 172) mentions "the humps and long javeans of dusty turf that curve and cross and join and divide the footworn channels of hardened sand that have served as the road to Bichako and the valley since long before the Gurkhas captured Kathmandu, perhaps before King Amshuvarmen sat upon the throne of the Valley." He adds (p. 173), "At Bichako the alluvial plain of India has washed up against the backbone of the world and can no more."

In 1871 Vikrama (A.D. 1814), Dalajit Rai had been granted authority to undertake a land reclamation and settlement project in the Bichhakhori area, bounded by the Belpat stream in the east, Adawar in the south, the Bhimval stream in the west, and Dumja in the north. In consideration of that authority, he was placed under the obligation of making a payment of Rs. 151 every year.

However, the settlers brought to that area by Dalajit Rai were unable to stay there. In the Vikrama year 1871 (A.D. 1814), the payment of Rs. 151 was therefore remitted for 1871 Vikrama, and reduced to Rs. 101 from the next year. Provision was also made to remit the amount in any year when the route was closed. Dalajit Rai was instructed to bring back the settlers and promote land reclamation and settlement in the area. He was also placed under the obligation of supplying fifteen parrots and ten mynahs to the royal palace every year.

### Salami Levy in Pallokirat

The Mijhars of Limbuwan submitted the following petition to the royal palace through Subba Prithvi Simha: "In the Vikrama year 1867 (A.D. 1810), a royal order had been issued prescribing the rates of fines and penalties for offenses committed by members of our communities. However, the order was lost, and these days amalis and rakamis (revenue collectors) collect such payments arbitrarily. As a result, ferry services (targhat) too are being affected." On Baisakh Badi 2, 1901 (April 1844), Kaji Narasimha Thapa informed the Mijhars that the petition had been referred to the palace, and that the arrangements made in Vikrama 1867 had been reconfirmed.

In consideration of such reconfirmation, Salami levy was imposed on each household in that area at the following rates:

<u>Category of Household</u>	<u>Rate of Salami Levy</u>
Abul	One rupee
Doyam	Twelve annas
Sim	Eight annas
Chahar	Four annas.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 31, pp. 2-3.

### Ijara Grant to Prime Minister Bhimasen Thapa

On Shrawn Badi 4, 1883 (July 1826), General Bhimasen Thapa was granted a ten-year ijara for land reclamation and resettlement in the mouja of Badaharbani-Sankhara in Khesraha Parganna of Bara-Parsa district.

The grant entitled Bhimasen Thapa to appropriate income from land and other taxes paid by the settlers, with the exception of Crown levies (raja-anka), as well as fines and penalties collected in the course of the administration of justice.

The mouja was detached from the jurisdiction of the local administration and brought under direct central control.

Bhimasen Thapa was instructed to procure settlers from India, as well as from birta and jagir lands, but on no account from taxable mal lands belonging to the government.

The schedule of payments due on the mouja during the ten-year period of the ijara was as follows:-

<u>Year</u> (Vikrama)	<u>Payment</u> <u>Rs./Anna/Paisa</u>
1884	2 - 8 - 0
1885	2 - 12 - 0

1886	3 - 2 - 3
1887	4 - 5 - 2
1888	6 - 15 - 2½
1889	9 - 9 - 1½
1890	11 - 15 - 2
1891	13 - 6 - 2½
1892	14 - 3 - 3½
1893	14 - 11 - 0

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 31, pp. 301-2.

### The Rajya of Achham

#### Falgun Badi 1, 1909

On Falgun Badi 1, 1909 (February 1853), Prime Minister Jung Bahadur reconfirmed land assignments under chhap, manachamal, and halbardi tenures in Achham yielding a total income of Rs. 511 a year, in the name of Captain Lacchu Singh Swanr Chhetri. The figure included Rs. 291-12 from 906 muris of rice-lands assigned to him as his khangi for discharging the functions of Mohinaike-Jimmawal in Achham. In 1939 Vikrama (A.D. 1882) Prime Minister Ranoddip Singh confiscated the khangi on the ground that Captain Lacchu Singh Swanr Chhetri was not entitled to it. The khangi was then included in the assignments made to Raja Dal Bahadur Shah.

In 1947 Vikrama (A.D. 1890), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere took away the khangi from Raja Dal Bahadur Shah and restored it to Captain Lacchu Singh Swanr Chhetri.

Baisakh Sudi 1, 1947 (April 1890)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 50, pp. 343-347.

#### Chaitra Badi 3, 1931 (March 1875)

Lands and revenues as follows had been granted under chhap manachamal tenures to the following members of the former ruling house of the principality of Achham:-

- (1) Kartik Sudi 13, 1859 (October 1802): Rice lands amounting to 305 muris, and homesteads and villages in the Chorpani-Goganpani area granted as chhap to Mor Shahi.
- (2) Aswin Sudi 15, 1894 (September 1837): Chhap and manachamal assignments as follows, made in the name of Ranabhim Shahi:-

(a) Baragaun	...	Rs. 160 - 9
(b) Naubise	...	Rs. 135 - 9
(c) Dharasen	...	Rs. 123 - 8
Total	...	<u>Rs. 419 -13</u>

Subsequently, Dharasen village was removed from the assignment, and the amount from Baragaun was reduced from Rs. 160-9 to Rs. 119-9, thus reducing the total amount from Rs. 419-13 to Rs. 255-6.

These assignments were reconfirmed in the name of Ranabhim Shahi's grandson, Dal Bahadur Shah, on Baisakh Sudi 6, 1910 (April 1853).

- (3) Marga Badi 1, 1907 (November 1850): Manachamal assignments as follows in the name of Dal Bahadur Shah's mother, Tribhuaneshwari Devi :-

Rice Lands in Achham	...	Rs. 60
Baragaun	...	Rs. 41
Dharasen	...	<u>Rs. 129</u>
Total	...	Rs. 230

On Chaitra Badi 3, 1931 (March 1875), these assignments were reconfirmed in the name of Dal Bahadur Shah. He was also granted the title of Raja.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 69, pp. 600-605.

Chaitra Badi 10, 1929 (March 1873)

Order from Commander-in-Chief General Ranoddip Simha Kunwar Rana to the Salar Dafdarkhana:

"Bids were invited in our presence from Captain Kalu Swanr Chhattri and Raja Tikabhupachakrabir Shahi for the collection of revenue in Achham, which has been assigned (as jagir) to the Barakh Paltan. The Raja offered a rate of 19 pathis (or paddy) a rupee, which the captain was unable to match. Accordingly, Prime Minister Maharaj Jung Bahadur has ordered that a contract (patta) for revenue collection in Achham be granted for three years from the crop year of Vikrama 1930 (A.D. 1873) to Raja Tikabhupachakrabir Shahi on the following terms and conditions:-

1. Collect taxes and other payments from landholders (raiti) at customary rates.
2. In case any landholder relinquishes his holding without harvesting crops, taxes shall not be collected from him. However, he shall be liable to pay taxes, wherever he may be, if he has harvested crops. If people from

other areas migrate to Achham, do not permit taxes to be collected from them if they have not harvested crops on their previous holdings. If, However, they have harvested crops there, permit the realization of taxes from them only for the year when they have done so.

3. Remit the amount of tax-revenue commuted into cash at the rate of 19 pathis a rupee in installments as usual and obtain clearance.
4. Collect only such taxes and other payments as are customary. In case any person complains that extra payments have been collected, and the complaint is proved to be true, or in case you collect taxes from landholders who have relinquished their holdings without harvesting crops, or in case you default in the remittance of payments as they become due, your contract will be cancelled even before the expiry of the three-year term."

Rajni Research Collection, Vol. 50, pp. 138-39.

Poush Badi 11, 1934 (December 1877)

Raja Dal Bahadur Shah's petition to Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha: Until the Vikrama year 1929 (A.D. 1872), the Dafdarkhana (headquarters) of the Barakh Paltan, to whom revenue from Achham has been assigned as jagir used to procure supplies (of paddy) at rates ranging between 27 pathis and 30 pathis a rupee, while collecting tax-payments at the conversion rate of one muri a rupee. It thus suffered a loss of seven to ten pathis a rupee. In the Vikrama year 1930 (A.D. 1873), the Swams and we offered bids in competition. Because the territory was once ruled by our family, we were unable to leave it. So we offered a rate of 19 pathis a rupee, whereas collection was actually made at 20 pathis a rupee. We thus suffered a loss of Rs. 7,788 a year, but continued to make payments as stipulated. We can no longer incur such losses, hence we are unable to take up the revenue collection contract for Achham."

Prime Minister Ranoddip Simha then granted Achham the status of a Thakka-Rajya with Dal Bahadur Shah as Raja. A royal order confirming this arrangement was issued on Poush Badi 11, 1934 (December 1877). Its main points were as follows:—

1. Collect land taxes at the conversion rate of one muri a rupee and transmit the proceeds in installments to the headquarters of the Barakh Paltan, in addition to three thetuwa (blankets) a year.
2. Transmit revenue collected from jagera lands, if any, to the Sadar Dafdarkhana (in Kathmandu).
3. Do not collect unauthorized taxes and levies from the people, do not evict people from their homesteads.

4. Reclaim waste raikar lands through your own resources and appropriate both the tenant's share and the landlord's share of the crop.
5. In case such lands are reclaimed by individuals, you may collect rents at current rates from the fourth year after letting the tenant appropriate both shares for three years.
6. Refer cases which are punishable with death, life imprisonment, or degradation of caste status to us through the Itachapli and take action according to the law and our orders. Transmit the income from fines and penalties in such cases to the Muluki Khana in Kathmandu.
7. You are hereby empowered to dispose of cases of other categories according to the law and appropriate the income from fines and penalties.
8. Appropriate income from Kharchari, Jagat, Sape, and other taxes collected from traders of Tibet and Jumla who visit Achham, except when such taxes have been included in jagir assignments or ijara grants.
9. With effect from the harvest of the Vikrama year 1934 (A.D. 1877), we hereby place the territory of Achham, situated east of the Karnali river and west of Chaukhuta, under your jurisdiction as your Rajya.
10. You shall be held responsible if you do not keep the people satisfied, do not administer justice according to the law and oppress the people, cause hardships to them by collecting unauthorised or arbitrary payments, indulge in injustice, or take bribes, and if any person comes here with such complaints.
11. We shall take action at our discretion if you do not make payments in installments as they fall due.
12. According to tradition, the eldest son born of your senior Rani, or your (junior) Rani, the grand-daughter of Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief General Ranoddip Simha Rana Bahadur should inherit the Rajya. However, in Hindusthan it is the custom to place on the throne the child born of a princess of the royal dynasty. Accordingly, in case your junior Rani gives birth to a prince, he shall inherit the Rajya after your death. If the junior Rani is childless, and the senior Rani gives birth to a prince, he shall be regarded as the son of your junior Rani, and the Rajya shall be administered according to her orders. He shall then inherit the Rajya after the death of the junior Rani.
13. In case both your Senior and Junior Ranis are childless, the Rajya shall be inherited by the appropriate person after the death of the junior Queen. God Pashupatinath and Goddess Guhyeshwari will cast indignant eyes on any relative of your Senior Queen or yourself who may make any claim to the Rajya.

14. Collect the gadimubarakh levy this year if paid willingly by the people. Do not use force to collect the levy.
15. Transmit revenue on jagir lands to the appropriate Jagirdars, and on Jagera lands to the Mulukikhana in Kathmandu. Remain loyal to us, and enjoy the Rajya as a Thek-Thiti Rajya from generation to generation.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 55, pp. 681-88.

Ashadh Badi 3, 1950 (June 1893)

In Vikrama 1947 (A.D. 1890) Captain Lacchu Singh Swanr Chhetri was given a three-year contract for the collection of revenue in Achham. The conditions were as follows: (1) 18 pathis in each muri of revenue assessed in the form of paddy should be commuted into cash, and only the remaining two pathis should be collected in paddy. (2) The contractor was empowered to dispense justice in cases other than those relating to Panchakhat crimes. The contract was renewed for another three-year period in Vikrama 1950 (A.D. 1893) subject to an increment of half a rupee percent according to the law. No bids were invited. However, the judicial authority of the contractor was transferred to the Dailekh Adalat. The government retained one-sixth of the income from fines and penalties, and handed over the balance to the contractor.

Ashadh Badi 3, 1950 (June 1893)

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 58, pp. 311-15.

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