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Royal Orders of Kartik Badi 14, 1854Contents

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1. Bichari Jaya Krishna Pathak

Biru Bhandari had been deputed to the Kirat region in the east with Umapati Jaisi as his Bichari. Umapati Jaisi was later given another assignment, so Jaya Krishna Pathak was sent to replace him. His Jagir was reconfirmed and he was also allowed to appropriate ten percent of fines and penalties collected by him in the capacity of Bichari.

RRC, Vol. 25, p. 640.

2. Embankments On Sera Lands In Gorkha

Subedar Parashuran had been deputed to defend the Sheoraj Fort against attacks by the Raja of Bansi. On Kartik Badi 14, 1854, he was assigned the task of constructing embankments on Sera rice-fields in Gorkha Valley. Bire Rokaya was then ordered to proceed to Sheoraj Fort. Half of his 210-musket company was ordered to join Parashuran under the command of Jaya Rokaya. Bire Rokaya was ordered to join Ranjit Pande with the other half for work connected with mines.

RRC, Vol. 25, p. 639.

3. Guthi Endowment in Lokanthali

Eleven ropanis of government lands in the Lokanthali area of Patan were granted to Sudishta Giri Gosain, of Ikhalakhu Tol in Patan, for the installation of a Shiva-Linga there.

RRC, Vol. 25, p. 638.

4. Grant of Newly Reclaimed Lands in Thimi

In the Vikrama years 1851 and 1852, Naina khawas had reclaimed lands at Nakhudol in Thimi which had been left dry by a change in the course of the Manahara river. The lands with the exception of those under guthi and suna-birta tenure, were granted to him under raikar tenure, with tax-exemption for an initial period of ... years.

RRC, Vol. 25, p. 638.

5. Land Grant to Descendant of Lakhan Thapa

King Prithvi Narayan Shah had granted the Bakrang area to Bhimsen Thapa, son of Durga Thapa, a descendant of Lakhan Thapa. The grant was reconfirmed by King Ran Bahadur Shah on Kartik Badi 14, 1854.

RRC, Vol. 25, P. 638.

6. Sulphur Mining In Jharlang-Khola

Royal order to the Mijhars of Jharlang-Khola: "Dittha Ramachandra Thapa and Dittha Kalu Khawas of the Gunpowder Factory have been sent there to extract and produce Sulphur. You are, therefore, ordered to provide labor services, along with the inhabitants of the villages under your jurisdiction, in extracting and refining sulphur, carrying firewood, and transporting the sulphur to the royal palace, as ordered by the Ditthas. In consideration of such services, we hereby grant you exemption from other compulsory labor obligations as well as a 50 percent remission in the Saune-fagu tax. Any one who does not work as ordered will be punished."

RRC, Vol. 25, p. 640.

7. Construction of Makwanpur Fort

According to separate royal orders issued on Kartik Badi 14, 1854, birta and other landowners, as well as all other inhabitants of the following areas, were ordered to reach Makwanpur by the end of the month of Kartik 1854 along with hoes, axes, picks, and other tools, and provide Jhara labor for the construction of a fort at Makwanpur under the command of Sardar Jasowant Bhandari.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Chaurasi | 2. Namdu |
| 3. Makwanpur | 4. Areas South of Pharping and
Lele on both sides of the
Bagmati river. |
| 5. Tistung and Palung | 6. Maidi |
| 7. Richok | 8. Dhading |

RRC, Vol. 25, pp. 641-42.

8. Construction of Fort at Pauwa

Sardar Angad Khawas, Sub-dar Hemakarna Thapa, and Subba Arjun Karki were deputed to construct a fort at Pauwa in Sindhuli. The Amalidars of the following areas were ordered on Kartik Badi 14, 1854, to impress Jhara labor for the purpose in the areas under their jurisdiction:-

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Sindhuli | 2. Chainpur |
| 3. Majhkirat | 4. Lyang Gyang |
| 5. Dingding | 6. Khurkot |

RRC, Vol. 25, p. 651.

9. The Jagannath Temple

I

The landowners and other inhabitants of different villages in the following areas were ordered to provide Jhara labor for the transportation of timber from Budhasing to Kathmandu for the construction of the Jagannath Temple. They were also ordered to bring their own food sufficient for six months. Only those who had been enrolled as hulakis were exempted from this obligation :

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Kaski | 2. Reginas |
| 3. Lamjung | 4. Siling |
| 5. Phalgudhumi | 6. Jhangajholi |
| 7. Jafe | 8. Timal |
| 9. Phulping | 10. Sipa |
| 11. Namjung | 12. Syartan |
| 13. Jharlang (Other than those engaged in sulphur mines) | |
| 14. Rising | 15. Garhun |
| 16. Salyan | 17. Sikles |
| 18. Dhor | 19. Nayekot |
| 20. Rui-Attharasaya | 21. Bhirkot |
| 22. Sataun. | |

II

On the same date, the inhabitants of towns and villages in Kathmandu, Bhadgaun, and Patan were ordered to supply 20 dharnis of fire wood from each household for the construction of the Jagannath Temple.

RRC, Vol. 25, pp. 642-50.

Control of Interest Rates

I

On Falgun Badi 11, 1851, King Ran Bahadur Shah issued a nation-wide proclamation reconfirming the regulation of King Ram Shah according to which no creditor should collect more than double the amount of cash loans, and three times the amount of loans in the form of grains after ten years. Any creditor who acted in contravention of the regulation was liable to be punished with a fine double the amount of the loan.

RRC, Vol. 19, p. 1.

II

The following regulations were issued on Jestha Badi 5, 1856 in the name of Gajya for the region west of the Trishul-Ganga river:-

1. Notifications had been issued for our territories west of the Trishul-Ganga river up to Kumaun prohibiting the collection of interest at rates exceeding 10 percent a year on cash loans, and 25 percent on loans in kind. In case any person has acted in contravention of that order, punish him with a fine of 10 percent if he belongs to abal category, and 8 annas if he belongs to Chehar category (unclear). The bond shall be changed so as to provide for 10 percent interest only. You will be punished if you harass people who have not collected interest at more than the prescribed rate.
2. Take 25 soldiers of the Amardal Company of Bhirkot, along with a Jamadar, along with you for the purpose of collection. Transmit the proceeds along with escorts of tilangas from time to time.
3. In case any person claims that he has not collected interest at more than 10 percent on cash loans and 25 percent on loans in kind, but is subsequently found to have done so and makes a confession, he shall be fined double the prescribed amount.
4. In case any Amil, Umra, Dware, or Jesthabudha obstructs action being taken against persons who have charged interest in excess of the prescribed rates, or suppresses information relating thereto, he shall be punished with a fine double the amount of information about which has been suppressed in that manner.
5. If no interest has been paid for ten years, (the creditor) shall be allowed to collect two times the amount of cash loans, and three times of loans in kind.

The following expenses have been sanctioned for employees engaged in this work. Such expenses shall be debitted when the accounts of collection are checked.

Gajya	-	100 rupees.
Five Tahasildars	-	375 rupees.
One Clerk (<u>bhaiya</u>)	-	75 rupeest
Four <u>Bahidars</u>	-	300 rupeest

RRCt, Vol. 24, pp 730-33.

III

Royal order to Amalidarst, Madise merchantst, Newar merchantst, Gosain merchantst, and the common people in the region west of the Trishul-Ganga and east of the Marsyangdi: "In the Vikrama year 1856, an edict (thiti) had been promulgated prohibiting the collection of interest at more than 10 percent. We hereby impose fines on those who have collected interest in excess of that rate, and also charged a discount on our mohar coins. Pay the fines to men deputed by the Adalat for that purpose. You shall be punished if you make any complaint or obstruction in this regard."

Baisakh Sudi 5, 1862

RRC, Vol. 5, p. 560.

From the Muluki Sawal of A.D. 1919

I

Amanat arrangements

"In case arrangements cannot be made for the collection of revenue from any source through contract, amanat arrangements may be made subject to the condition that administrative expenses do not exceed 10 percent of the revenue if it amounts to less than Rs 10,000; and 5 percent, if it amounts to more than Rs 10,000.

"This regulation shall not be applicable to khuwa revenue which has remained temporarily unassigned to any Jagirdar (Khalikhanda). That is to say, no additional staff shall be sanctioned for collection of revenue from that source."

II Mines

"In case no offer is received for mines of copper, lead, or other metal, other than gold and silver, for which contracts had previously been received stipulating payment of 200 rupees in cash, and 10 dharnis in the form of metal each, and in case amanat operation does not seem profitable, such mines shall be left unoperated until fresh offers are received for operating them under contract. Copper, lead, and iron mines yielding not more than 25 rupees in cash and 25 dharnis of metal each may be left unoperated in case it seems that their operation has resulted in the destruction of forests."

III

Revenue From Bazaar Addas in the Tarai Region

In Kampani Rs
(annas and pais as omitted)

	<u>Bazaar Adda</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Administrative Expenses</u>
1. Morang		96,823	6451
2. Hanumannagar		57,643	5350
3. Birgunj		35,055	3197
4. Butwal		133,246	3963
5. Banke		114,284	5043

Allocations for Hospitals

A sum of Kampani Rs 266 was sanctioned every other year for the following hospitals for the following purposes:-

Utensils	- K Rs 64
Clothes	- K Rs 47
Bedding	- K Rs 155
	<hr/> K Rs 266

Hospitals

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Jhapa | 2. Biratnagar |
| 3. Hanumannagar | 4. Mahottari |
| 5. Sarlahi | 6. Rautahat |
| 7. Birgunj | 8. Palhi |
| 9. Khajahani | 10. Nepalgunj |
| 11. Bhankute | |

For the Bhaktapur Hospital, the same amount was sanctioned, out in Mohar rupees. For the Bhimpheedi Hospital, the amount was Rs 200. For the Palpa Hospital, it was Mohar Rs 118, inclusive of Rs 24 each for utensils and clothes, and Rs 70 for bedding.

These allocations were met from the Guthi Fund.

Confirmation of Birta Grants

A.D. 1794

1. Shivadatta Jha's Birta in Mahottari

The King of Makwanpur had granted 93 bighas of lands as Sarba-Anka-Bitalab-Kush-Birta-Srivishnu-Prit to Shivadatta Jha, son of Bhuwan Jha. The grant was reconfirmed by King Ran Bahadur Shah on Shrawan Sudi 3, 1851 on an inheritable basis.

Particulars of the lands, which were located in the parganana of Khesraha in Mahottari district, were as follows:

25 bighas in Chandha mouja

15 bighas in Sarawai mouja

13 bighas in Mahuwa mouja

5 bighas in Jogiad mouja

35 bighas in Mangasha mouja

RRC, Vol. 24, P. 294.

2. Sahasram Rokaya's Birta in Tilpung

Royal order to Sahasram Rokaya: "In recognition of the services rendered by you during the conquest of the kirat region, we hereby confirm the birta comprising the villages of Kathjor and Thathigaun in the Tilpung area, which had been granted to you by the King of Makwanpur. Use these villages as your birta from generation to generation."

Bhadra Badi 6, 1851

RRC, Vol. 24, p. 361.

3. Khanal Brahman's Birta in Madanpur

The following royal order was issued on Aswin Badi 10, 1851 to Nidhi Upadhya, Vishwamitra Upadhya, and Shivanath Upadhya Khanal of Madanpur: "The rice-fields of all Brahmans have been confiscated by the Royal Palace, but no Brahman has been deprived of his homestead (gharbari). Accordingly, we hereby restore your homesteads. Occupy them as birta with full assurance."

RRC, Vol. 24, p. 387.

4. Birabhadra Upadhya's Birta

The great-grand father of Birabhadra Upadhya had occupied lands owned by him under kush-birta tenure jointly with the Basnyat family. He had also purchased 265 muris of rice-fields at Jafe, and homesteads in Dandawa, from the Basnyats, ancestors of Arjun Khawas.

When King Prithvi Narayan Shah conquered Makwanpur, he confiscated lands belonging to members of the Khas Community. However, the Basnyats were allowed to retain a part of their holdings, while the rest was granted as birta to Birabhadra Upadhya during the reign of King Pratap Simha Shah.

Subsequently, Arjun Khawas succeeded in obtaining those lands in his name through a royal order by submitting a false claim. A dispute thus arose between Arjun Khawas and Birabhadra Upadhya. The case was heard at the Nhuchhe-Kachahari in the Royal Palace. A trial by ordeal was held, in which Arjun Khawas lost. The lands were then restored to Birabhadra Upadhya as birta.

Marga Sudi 14, 1851

RRC, Vol. 24, pp. 514-15.

5. Laxmidhar Pandit Sells Birta Lands in Morang

Laxmidhar Pandit of Tanahu owned three moujas in the pargannas of Harichand-Gadhi, Mangadh, and Futkar-Dahmawa in Morang district under birta tenure. The moujas were known as Kashijan, Simariya, and Baliya respectively. On Bhadra Sudi 1, 1851, Laxmidhar Pandit sold these moujas to Zorawar Khawas for 6,301 rupees.

RRC, Vol. 24, pp. 373-74.

Ownership of the moujas of Kashijan and Simariya had been a subject of dispute between Laxmidhar Pandit and Gaureshwar Aryal, a resident of Makwanpur. The case was referred to the Royal Palace at Kathmandu. Gift-deeds issued by the King of Makwanpur were perused and the case was heard in the presence of bhardars and panchas. It was held that these moujas had been granted by King Kamadatta Sen to the Brahman Woman Vasundhara. Laxmidhar Pandit thus won the case, and Gaureshwar Aryal lost.

Bhadra Sudi 1, 1851,

RRC, Vol. 24, pp. 374-75.

Zorawar Khawas was Subba of Morang at that time. (RRC, Vol. 24, p. 399) On kartik Badi 5, 1851, Zorawar Khawas was granted the village of Nawalpur, as well as 580 muris of rice-fields and the attached homesteads, under Bekh-Bunyad tenure.

RRC, Vol. 24, p. 415.

6. Gaureshwar Aryal's Birta Lands

I

Gaureshwar Aryal had received the mouja of Bathwan in the Khesraha parganna of Bara district as Bitalab-Birta from the king of Makwanpur. After the Gorkhali conquest, he was dispossessed of the birta by the Gorkhali officials (Amil). A royal order was issued on Aswin Badi 10, 1851, restoring the mouja to Gaureshwar Aryal.

RRC. Vol. 24, pp. 387-88.

II

Gaureshwar Aryal of Makwanpur owned 100 muris of rice-fields, along with the attached homesteads and the village of chajuwang. These were located on the eastern side of the Arun river, north of the Seguwa-Khola river. Gaureshwar Aryal sold these lands for 301 rupees to Karnakhar Pande and Siadhikarna Pande of Chuichumba.

Shrawan Sudi 11, 1850

RRC, Vol. 24, p. 336.

Subedar Chandrabhan Khatri

I

On Aswin Sudi 6, 1862, Chandrabhan Khatri of Nuwakot, son of Suryabhan Khatri and grandson of Kalu Padhya, was appointed Subedar of the Ranajung Company in Achham, replacing Basudev Raut.

The Ranajung Company comprised 163 men, including the Subedar. Their assignments totalled 351 khets of rice-lands and khuwa revenues amounting to Rs 695.

The order added, "Do not collect unauthorized taxes from the people. Do not commit injustice, lest peasants and other people should approach us with complaints, but keep them happy and satisfied."

Aswin Sudi 6, 1862

RRC, Vol. 6, pp. 535-36.

II

Royal order to Ditttha Bishram Khatri: "You are hereby ordered to disburse a sum of Rs 337½ against the emoluments of Subedar Chandrabhan Khatri for the Vikram year 1861t."

Aswin Sudi 6, 1862⁰⁰

RRC, Vol. 6, pp 532-33.

III

On Aswin Sudi 6t, 1862, Subedar Angad Khawas was ordered to disburse Rs. 337½ against the annual emoluments of Chandrabhan Khatri from the following revenues:

1. Gadimbarakh revenue collected in 1859 vikrama
2. Arrears collected for the vikrama year 1960
3. Revenue from the Salami fee collected during the Vikram year 1861t

RRC, Vol. 6, p. 533.

Trade Between British India and Nepal
(Continued)

Questions	Answers										
2. What is the usual means of conveyance, and if necessary, is more means of conveyance available at existing rates, or would an increased trade involve a greater relative expenditure in the item of transportt?	2. As has been stated above, the usual, and indeed only, means of conveyance of goods is by beasts of burden or by coolies. Such means of conveyance can doubtless be had to an extent considerably in excess of the present demand at existing rates, though it is probable that a steadily increasing trade between the two countries would, have a tendency to raise these rates.										
3. A list of all articles exported from Nipalese to British territory, with a statement of the estimated yearly value of each of such articles, in regard to routes where registration of trade has been in force, a copy is requested of the returns for the last five years or for any less period for which they are forthcoming.	3. The following are the principal articles exported from Nipal to British territory: <table> <tr> <th>Estimated quality</th><th>Approximate Value</th></tr> <tr> <td>Tangans or ponies 350</td><td>Rs 1,500</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dry ginger 50 mounds</td><td>350</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cardamom 2 "</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Timur (spice) 5 "</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	Estimated quality	Approximate Value	Tangans or ponies 350	Rs 1,500	Dry ginger 50 mounds	350	Cardamom 2 "	20	Timur (spice) 5 "	30
Estimated quality	Approximate Value										
Tangans or ponies 350	Rs 1,500										
Dry ginger 50 mounds	350										
Cardamom 2 "	20										
Timur (spice) 5 "	30										

Ghee	10 maunds	120
Thakries, Nipalese combs,	1,000	12
Iron	50 maunds	600
Copper	10 "	125
Girlails	500, "	30
Bhungra, coarse mats,	200	100
Ginger	2 maunds	10
Nipal pepper	2 maunds	10
Loban (incense)	2 "	10
Dhup, fragrant wood,	50	20
Nigalis	4,000	15
Tejpata	2 maunds	30
Bamboo paper	19 maunds	30
Chowries, yak's tails,	50	100
Kostori (musk)	10 bags	50
Rice	75,000 maunds	50,000
Lahi	4,000 maunds	6,000
Kutha (catechu)	25 maunds	150
Timber	450	20,000

4. A list of all articles imported from British to Nipal territory, with a statement of the estimated yearly value of each of such articles and with a copy of registration returns as requested above.

4. The following is a detail of the articles exported from British territory into Nipal through the passes mentioned above:

	Annual value Rs
Country stuffs	90,000
European fabrics	15,000
Kansa utensils	13,000
Sugar and molasses	2,500
Salt	1,500
Potatoes	100
Tobacco	50
Black pepper and small cardamom	2,000
Lac and glass churis	1,000
Cotton	Nil.
Dried fish	3,000
Shawls	1,000
Gunpowder	
Gun-caps	
Tat	1,000
Native caps	500
Sundries	2,000

These figures are of course only approximate, and I do not for a moment believe them to be really accurate; but they may serve to give some idea of the relative extent of the trade at present existing between the Gondei, and Baraich districts and Nipal. There have hitherto been no recorded statistics of the trade between the two countries in this district, which renders the information I have able to obtain somewhat unreliable.

5. A list of existing custom-houses on or near the border in Nipalese territory

5. There are no such custom-houses along the border of this district.

6. Is the duty in Nipalese territory levied in one lump sum or in several items, is it levied by load ad valorem or in what way of levying the duty, what is the average percentage of it on the value?

6. With regard to this question I regret that it is not in my power to supply anything approaching accurate information. Appended to this report will be found two statements showing, according to Chowdhiri Sheopershad of Bazaar Nipalgang and Chowdhiri Bishumber Dyal of Bazaars Captaingungei, Sisewa and Bahadoorgunge, the rates levied on the different articles of export and import which come into those marts. These rates would appear to be ad valorem rates on the load for the most part.

7. Is the trade more in the hands of the British or of Nipalese subjects? is it conducted by many independent persons of small or moderate resources, or by a few wealthy persons? Of what castes are the traders? Are any articles the subject of monopoly? Is there reason to believe that Nipalese officials engage in trade themselves, and is there ground for suspecting that they make an improper use of their positions to the detriment of private traders, or that they enrich themselves by unauthorized exactions?

7. The existing trade is more in the hands of the British than the Nipalese subjects. The transactions of the former are for the most part wholesale, while those of the latter are generally confined to petty purchases and speculations. There is no reason to suppose that the trade is in the hands of a wealthy few; on the contrary, it would appear to be conducted on both sides by a plurality of small and petty traders. The traders on this side are chiefly Banias of the Agarwal caste, Khatries and Brahmins. No articles, as far as I have been able to discover, form the subject of monopoly. Nipalese officials certainly do not engage in trade in a public manner if they are engaged in it at all. But though I believe that many of them have interests in connection with the trade, I have no reason whatever for supposing that they make an improper use of their position to the detriment of private traders. At the same time there are grounds for believing that here and there the gains of some are enhanced by unauthorized exactions.

8. Is barter anywhere practised, and if so, in regard to what articles ?

8. The practice of bartering prevailed formerly to a considerable extent, but has now almost entirely died out. The following articles are still, however, alleged to be the subjects of barter in some bazaars, viz:

Goor or molasses in exchange for iron, tobacco for dry ginger, and ghi for salt.

9. In cash transactions what silver and what copper coinages are used ? Are currency notes in demand in Nipalese territory, and if so, do they fetch a premium ?

9. In cash transactions the government rupee appears to be extensively used. The Gorukhpuri pice enjoys a large currency, but the Government double pice is not regarded with any more favor in Nipal bazaars than it is in British territory.

There are two Nipal silver coins, the "lababi" or Nipal rupee equivalent to 14 annas, and the "mehdur" or 7 annas pice which are in use in some bazaars. Currency notes do not appear to be employed in transactions between Nipalese and British traders.

10. Are there credit transactions, and if so, to what extent, and is the payment of debts easily enforced, as the case may be, in British or Nipalese Courts ?

10. Credit transactions obtain to a limited extent, and in such cases the rate of interests is usually 2 annas in the rupee; with regard to the enforcement of the payment of debts in British or Nipalese Courts, I have no data whatever for affording the requisite information; I know of no cases in which the Nipalese trader appears as a party in our Courts.

11. What are the chief local marts on either side of the border ? Are Nipalese subjects disinclined to resort to British marts, and if so, for what reasons ? What periodical fairs are held, and what business is done at them ?

11. The principal marts frequented by the Nipalese in British territory are Tulsipur, Pachperwa, Utrowla and Balrampur in the Gonda District; Ekona, Bhinga, Matagunge and Nanpara in Bahraich, and Biscohar in the district of Busti.

On the Nipal side are the previously mentioned marts of Nipalgunge, Captaingunge, Sisewa and Bahadoorgunge. There is a fair annually held at the Shrine of Debi Patan, close to Tulsipur, to which number of Nipalese resort, and which has hitherto been

famous for the extensive sales of Tangan ponies which there take place. Latterly, however, this, in common with the rest of the trade with Nipal, has been languishing in consequence of the severity of the restrictions imposed by the Durbar on Nipalese traders. In exchange for the Tangans, the Nipalese carry away considerable supplies of European fabrics and country stuffs and dried fish.

12. Is the bulk of the trade merely local, that is to say, does it consist mostly of articles purchased in British territory near the border to meet the wants of the Nipalese low lands and vice versa, or is there a through trade of any extent from large commercial centres, as Calcutta, Patna, Allahabad, Cawnpore, to the hill districts of Nipal, and beyond them to the north, and if so, what are the main articles of such trades, what is taken in exchange, and if the balance is against Nipal, how is it adjusted?

12. As far as I can ascertain, the trade which is carried on between Gonda, Bahraich, and Busti and the neighbouring districts in Nipal, is of a purely local character. The appendices to this report show the principal articles of this trade in which the balance does not appear to be against Nipal.

13. Is the course of trade between British and Nipalese territory hampered by unnecessary restrictions or exactions, and if so, what are they, and what relief is needed?

13. There can be no reasonable doubt but that the course of trade between the two countries is hampered by the arbitrary nature of the restrictions. I will not say exactions imposed by the Nipalese authorities. The precise nature of these restrictions it is, under existing circumstances, not possible to ascertain, owing to the fear entertained by all Nipal traders of the consequences of any disclosures affecting the commercial policy of the Durbar, and until the commercial relations between the two countries are placed on a more cordial and unrestricted basis, we can entertain no hopes of any change for the better.

14. Have the increased prices demanded by the Durbar of late years caused the timber trade to decline?

14. Undoubtedly.

(To Be Continued)
