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Petition of the Bhotes of Olangchung

In Ashadh 1968 (June 1911), Wangchuk Bhote of Olangchung-Gola in the East No. 5 district submitted the following petition to Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere:-

"Previously, a monopoly (hatti) had been introduced (for trade and revenue collection) in Olangchung-Gola. Because of that monopoly, the Bhote inhabitants of that area suffered considerable hardships. When we represented our grievances to the government, the monopoly was abolished and the old system was restored.

"Under that system, we had pledged to:

- (a) Maintain 500 yaks in our area for use during war,
- (b) Provide one porter from each household, and
- (c) Maintain eight fords in our area at our own cost.

"Every year, the Dhankuta District Headquarters Office conducts an inspection to ensure that 500 yaks have been maintained, and that the eight fords have been kept in condition.

"We had been using these yaks for the transportation of goods for trade with Tibet. However, a Tibetan called Derukpa has stopped all traffic at a place called Tashitakasara, and thus prevented us from engaging in trade.

"We have been maintaining castrated yaks for providing transportation services to the government when required. We do not maintain any bulls. When any of our castrated yaks die or get lost, we have to replace them through purchases with the proceeds of a cash levy collected from each Bhote household in our five villages. If we do not do so, action is taken against us by the Dhankuta District Headquarters Office. Accordingly, we are incurring heavy losses every year.

"Previously, we had been meeting these losses through the profits we earned from the trade with Tibet. But now the Tibetan has prohibited us from carrying on such trade."

The petition then requested Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere to direct the Nepali Wakil in Lhasa to have the restrictions on trade imposed at Tashitakasara lifted.

On Shrawan 19, 1968 (August 3, 1911) the Prime Minister sent back the petition to the Rakam Bandobast Adda (Revenue Contracts Administration Office) through Captain Bhogya Shumshere Thapa Chhetri with the order that no action need be taken on the petition.

### The Political History of Dolakha

(Continued from the January 1981 issue)

Some changes were made in the administrative system of Dolakha after it was incorporated into the Kingdom of Kantipur. At that time, there was a local administrator known as Pramana (Bada Hakim) in each major settlement, while dwares were appointed in small ones. Accordingly, a Pramana was appointed from the center for the administration of Dolakha. The Malla Kings retained in the position of Pramana the descendants of the displaced rulers of Dolakha who had come over to their side. That is to say, there were two tiers of Pramanas in Dolakha. The Pramana appointed from the center appears to have performed only supervisory functions, while local administration was in the hands of the local (deshawara) Pramanas. The latter were usually appointed on a permanent basis and long remained the chief administrators of Dolakha. A copper-plate inscription of Mahindra Simha, found at the temple of Bhimeshwara, contains clear references to the two-tier Pramana system. (Aitihāsika Samagri, No. 1).

### The Umra

The Umra was the most important administrative functionary after the Pramana. Umras were appointed for each thum and important region. Their main function was to maintain law and order, but they also dealt in matters relating to land. Lands were measured, and boundaries of lands granted by the King were demarcated, under their supervision. (Ibid, Nos. 14 and 20). Umras also performed some functions relating to the collection of land taxes. Only persons possessing military qualifications were appointed to this post, hence the Malla Kings chose their Umras from among people belonging to the Khas and Magar communities. This was the case in Dolakha as well. However, there were complaints that the Khas Umras of Dolakha oppressed the people. King Jagajjaya Malla, therefore, curtailed the powers of Umras to some extent. He promulgated regulations prohibiting the assignment of Khas and Magar officials for the collection of the Sirto tax and directing that this function be performed by two of the deshawara Pramanas of Dolakha. (Ibid, No. 55).

This episode throws an interesting light on the method of communication between the King and his subjects. The subjects used to approach the royal palace to represent their grievances with flowers in their hands. The King accepted the flowers if he was satisfied that the grievances were genuine. (Cf. Copper-plate inscription of King Jagajjaya Malla at the temple of Bhimeshwara as mentioned above).

The area under the jurisdiction of each Umra was clearly defined. At times, one Umra encroached upon the jurisdiction of another. In one such case, Prince Bahadur Shah issued an order strictly prohibiting such encroachment. (Ibid, No. 56).

### Chharidar

The Chharidar was another important administrative official during this period. He was the head of a tour and inspection team. The post has been variously described as dagur chharidar and dagur. (Ibid, No. 27) Chharidars were deputed whenever reports of lawless activities in any outlying part of the Kingdom were received at the royal palace. For instance, a Chharidar was deputed to the northern part of Dolakha; when reports were received at Kantipur that the local bhotes had slaughtered cows and constructed forts. (Ibid, No. 18). The deshawara Pramanas of Dolakha were ordered to render all possible assistance to the Chharidar.

Contemporary documents show that Chharidars were very influential. They administered justice and reallocated vacant lands. (Ibid, No. 19).

### Panchas

As mentioned previously, Panchas performed administrative functions in Dolakha before it was incorporated into the Kingdom of Kantipur. They became even more active in administrative affairs in subsequent years. (Ibid, Nos. 46, 50 and 53).

The Mulakot, located in Dolakha town, functioned as a police station. It was at this place that Panchas held their meetings. After they pronounced judgments, these were executed by the Mulakot. Contemporary documents refer to five Panchas as "Pancha Pramana." This means that usually there were five Panchas in Dolakha, known as Pancha Pramanas. Panchas administered justice in disputes relating to landownership, monetary transactions and subdivision of property. They were assisted by a bichari and a mukhiya. (Ibid, Nos. 38, 85, and 87). In addition, Panchas were active in religious and cultural affairs, as when the spire of the temple of Bhimeshwara was changed. They were given some lands as their emoluments, thereby creating the division between birtaowning and dhakre Panchas. (Ibid, No. 58).

### The Pajani System

During the medieval period, government employees were not paid salaries in cash. Instead, they received assignments of land as jagir. It was necessary to make arrangements for the assignment of jagir lands to different government employees every year. This means that the Pajani system was followed during the rule of the Malla Kings also. It was almost like the presentation of the annual budget. Government employees used to call on the Chautara (Prime Minister) before the Pajani to ensure that they were assigned lands of convenient location. (Ibid, Nos. 9 and 30). A bharda of Dolakha was once appointed as the Pramana (Bada Hakim) of Deopatan. He sent a letter to Dolakha expressing his delight. (Ibid, No. 31). This shows that the Pajani system is quite old.

Amali

The administrative system of Dolakha again changed when it became a part of the Gorkhali Kingdom. At that time, officials known as Amali were appointed for each area, replacing the Pramana. Dolakha was then of great importance for economic and other reasons. Prithvi Narayan Shah, therefore, placed Dolakha under the jurisdiction of the Crown Prince, Pratapa Simha Shah. King Ranajit Malla had similarly appointed his son, Ajita Simha, when Dolakha had come under his control.

Prithvi Narayan Shah faced a problem after the conquest of Kathmandu. All his four brothers had participated wholeheartedly in his campaign of conquest. They wanted to become joint rulers according to the practice followed by the Malla Kings, or to become independent Kings in different territories. These demands, if fulfilled, would have thwarted Prithvi Narayan Shah's objective of the unification of Nepal. Accordingly, he refused to fulfill them. At the same time, he wanted to reward his brothers for their assistance in the campaign of conquest. He appointed two of his brothers as Chautaras. (Dhanavajra Vajracharya and Gnyan Mani Nepal, Aitihasika Patra-Sangraha. Kathmandu: Nepal Samskritika Parishad, 2014 (1957), pt. 1, pp. 28-36). He then appointed Dalajit Shah as the Amali of Dolakha. This left the others brothers, Kirtimahoddama and Dalamardana, dissatisfied. Dalajit Shah's assignment mollified him to some extent. There is evidence to show that he occupied a special status among the Amalis of the new kingdom. (Aitihasika Samagri, No. 58). The practice continued for a long time afterwards.

Dware

The dware traditionally played an important role in village administration in Nepal. There were dwares during the medieval period also. They became more active after Dolakha became a part of the Gorkhali Kingdom.

End of Chapter II

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The Naya Muluk

The far-western Tarai region, comprising the modern districts of Banke, Bardiya, Kailali and Kanchanpur, formed a part of the territories of Doti, Dullu-Dailekh, and Salyan rajyas during the early nineteenth century. They were ceded to the British government under the 1816 Treaty of Sugauli, but were restored to Nepal in November 1860 "in recognition of the eminent services rendered to the British Government by the State of Nipal." These services were as follows:

During the disturbances which followed the mutiny of the Native Army of Bengal in 1857, the Maharajah of Nipal not only faithfully maintained the relations of peace and friendship established between the British government and the State of Nipal by the Treaty of Segowlee, but freely placed troops at the disposal of the British authorities for the preservation of order in the Frontier Districts, and subsequently sent a force to cooperate with the British Army in the recapture of Lucknow and the final defeat of the rebels.

Source: C.V. Aitchison, A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sunnuds Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries, Calcutta: Bengal Printing Company Limited, 1863, Vol. 2, p. 223.

Article 2 of the treaty signed between the Government of Nepal and the British (Indian) government on November 1, 1860 stated:

The British government hereby bestows on the Maharajah of Nipal in full sovereignty, the whole of the lowlands between the Rivers Kali and Raptree, and the whole of the lowlands lying between the River Raptree and the District of Goruckpore, which were in the possession of the Nipal State in the year 1815, and were ceded to the British government by Article III. of the Treaty concluded at Segowlee on the end of December in that year.

(Ibid, p. 224).

These territories ceded by the Government of Nepal in 1816 had been handed over by the British government to the Nawab-Vizier of Oudh according to a treaty signed on May 1, 1816. Article 1 of that treaty read as follows:-

The British government hereby cedes to His Excellency the Vizier in full and perpetual sovereignty the District of Khyreegur, also the lowlands between Khyreegur and the hills, and those between His Excellency's territory further to the eastward and the hills; that is, the whole of the late Goorka possessions below the hills,

extending on the west from the River Gogra to the British District of Goruckpur on the east, and bound on the south by His Excellency's possessions and the District of Khyreegur, and on the north by the hills. The Goorka orders of surrender of that tract will accordingly be made over to His Excellency the Vizier, and the British government hereby engages to establish His Excellency's authority in the above-mentioned territory.

(Ibid, p. 164)r

These territories had reverted to the British government when it annexed Oudh in February 1856.

The rulers of Oudh collected land taxes usually through intermediaries known as Talukdars. According to one source:

The greater part of the revenues of the rulers of Oudh was derived from the tax upon land. The Nawab claimed a share of the produce of the soil. Those from whom he claimed land tax were talukdars, community brotherhoods, and individual proprietors. The talukdars were intermediaries between the cultivators and the Nawab, and in some cases, between the Nawab and brotherhood or an individual proprietor.

(Jagdish Raj, The Mutiny and British Land Policy in North India, 1856-68, Bombay : Asia Publishing House, 1965, p. 1)r

At the time when Oudh was annexed by the British government, "The greater part of the province was held by taluqdars" (Ibid, p. 12). Some of these Talukdars appear to have been designated as Rajas.

Soon after the annexation, the British government made a summary revenue settlement "with the parties in actual possession without any recognition of proprietary right." (B.R. Mishra, Land Revenue Policy in the United Provinces under British Rule, Benares, Nand Kishore & Bros., 1942, p. 101)r "Only those Talukdars who could prove very old title, as village proprietors to the estates they held, were allowed to retain their tenure, and even then they were settled with, not under the superior title of Talukdar, but as owners by prescriptive right of the villages." (Loc, cit.)r

The policy was reversed after the 1957 Mutiny and the old Talukdars system was restored (Jagdish Raj, op. cit. p. 22). However, the territories restored to the Government of Nepal were removed from the jurisdiction of Talukdars. Kathmandu, consequently, was left to deal only with the Chaudharis who were responsible for the collection of revenue in each tappa.

The displaced Talukdars included Raj Kulraj Singh of Padnaha and Raja Ranadhwaj Shah of Kanchanpur (Ibid, pp. 70-71). There seems little doubt that the land tenure problems faced by the Government of Nepal in the Naya Muluk territories after the restoration became much simpler as a result of the displacement of the traditional Talukdars. At the time of its restoration to the Kingdom of Nepal in 1860, the Naya Muluk comprised four districts: Banke, Bhagwanpur, Naraharipur (also called Kalkatta) and Kailali.

Particulars of revenue divisions (tappa) and moujas in these districts, the taxable area, and the revenue assessed in each of these divisions at the time of the restoration were as follows. The figures are in Indian (Kampani) rupees; fractions of a rupee have been ignored. According to the system of land measurement followed at that time in the Naya Muluk, a bigha comprised an area measuring 6 lengths of a 15-cubit chain east to west, and 4 lengths north to south, that is, 90 cubits x 60 cubits. If 1 cubit is regarded as equivalent to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet, the area will be 45 yards X 30 yards, or 1,350 square yards. The modern bigha comprises an area measuring 8,100 square yards, or 6 bighas according to the system followed in the Naya Muluk during the nineteenth century. Because of the small size of the bigha, a bigger unit, known as the nasi, was usually mentioned in the revenue records. A nasi was equal to 40 bighas.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 37, p. 63.

Taxable Area and Revenue Assessment in the Naya Muluk, 1860-61

<u>District and Tappa</u>	<u>No of moujas as</u>	<u>Cultivated Area</u> (in bigha)	<u>Revenue</u> (in Indian Rs)
<u>Banke District</u>			
Karkando	85	55,144	Rs 28,534
Daunihar	29	16,462	Rs 6,964
Rajahat	38	38,266	Rs 13,214
Udain	23	20,135	Rs 5,843
Total	175 moujas	130,008 bighas	Rs 54,557
<u>Bhagawanpur District</u>			
Baghaura	40	23,754	Rs 9,954
Bhir	39	16,407	Rs 7,503
Total	79 moujas	40,161 bighas	Rs 17,458



Narahari pur (Kalkatta)

Baisi	26	11,869	Rs 3,322
Selipahad	7	5,324	Rs 1,452
Baitod	3	1,20	Rs 376
Roauteli	3	1,140	Rs 339
Tilachaur	13	3,118	Rs 959
Raikwar	5	5,244	Rs 701
Total	57 moujas	27,983 bighas	Rs 8,142

Kailali District

Raikwar	18	10,981	Rs 3,572
Parihar	6	1,704	Rs 633
Bogtan	11	7,166	Rs 2,362
Lik	7	3,261	Rs 910
Mudhi-Malbura	30	7,327	Rs 2,197
Total	72 moujas	30,441 bighas	Rs 9,674

Grand total: 381 moujas 228,593 bighas Rs 89,8313

The following amounts were debited from the total revenue of Rs 89,831, as mentioned above:-

1. Commission paid to the Chaudharis of each tappa, at the rate of Rs 10 for each Rs 110 of revenue actually collected	...	Rs 8,037
2. Tax remissions	...	Rs 841
3. Nankar lands and cash emoluments of Chaudharis, Panchas, Kanugoyes, Jimidars, Peshkars, Subedars and Jamadars	...	Rs 5,905
4. Birta and Guthi grants	...	Rs 563
Total		Rs 15,346

The net tax revenue collected from the four districts of the Naya Muluk region in far western Nepal during 1860-61 thus amounted to Rs 74,485. The breakdown for each tappa is as follows:-

Banke	...	Rs 45,285
Bhanwanpur	...	Rs 14,317
Naraharipur (Kalkatta)	...	Rs 6,106
Kailali	...	Rs 8,777
Total		Rs 74,485

Source: "Tax Assessment Register for the Naya Muluk," in Regmi Research Collection, vol, 37, pp. 55-56.

Another source gives the figures for 1860-61 in Lathshahi rupees as follows. (Fractions of a rupee have been ignored).

<u>District</u>	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Net</u>
Banke	Rs 65,373	Rs 53,618
Bhagawanpur	Rs 18,925	Rs 13,469
Naraharipur	Rs 13,350	Rs 4,159
Kailali	Rs 19,418	Rs 15,508
Total	Rs 117,066	Rs 86,754

Source: "Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of Nepal, 2018," in Regmi Research Collection (Miscellaneous). The figures are for the year 1918 (A.D. 1860-61).

Kathmahal Revenue in the Naya Muluk  
1861-1866

(In Indian (Kampani) rupees.

1. Mahakali-Dwar Kathmahal

	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Remission</u>	<u>Net</u>
1860-61	30,972	9,901	22,507	-1,436
1861-62	53,971	28,448	2,324	22,498
1862-63	97,353	60,605	35,764	983
1863-64	54,149	24,445	2,794	26,909
1864-65	53,397	19,982	5,671	27,654.

2. Mohana-Dwar Kathmahal

<u>Gross</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Remissions</u>	<u>Net</u>
33,969	16,392	15,501	2,069
913,144	39,001	5,284	46,859
94,584	35,540	14,169	44,875
88,335	45,199	3,759	39,367
10,847	33,987	213,749	52,742.

3. Rapti-Dwar Kathmahal

<u>Gross</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Remissions</u>	<u>Net</u>
20,034	14,177	11,686	X
148,951	613,388	2,186	85,377
212,439	56,886	68,939	106,643
177,926	81,502	104,237	X
167,811	19,537	66,220	82,034.

4. Karnali-Dwar (Birta) Kathmahal

<u>Gross</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Remissions</u>	<u>Net</u>
513,604	32,990	22,230	X
55,877	36,121	16,239	3,517
58,579	21,440	12,069	35,932
71,745	34,979	8,529	28,226
92,646	313,167	17,669	43,808.

5. Babai-Dwar (Birta) Kathmahal

	<u>Gross</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Remissions</u>	<u>Net</u>
1860-61	-	-	-	-
1861-62	51,093	23,979	25,745	1,367
1862-63	78,808	19,053	13,337	46,417
1863-64	65,440	25,644	81	39,714
1864-65	64,940	22,023	14,388	28,528.

"Kathmahal Revenue in the Naya Muluk,"  
Regmi Research Collection, vol. 37, pp. 42-46.

Administrative Arrangements in the Eastern  
Tarai Region and Chitaur

During the early nineteenth century, the eastern Tarai region was divided into several administrative units: Morang, Saptari, Mahottari, Bara, Parsa, Rautahat and Sarlahi. Occasionally, Saptari and Mahottari were placed under a single administrator. Bara, Parsa, Rautahat and Sarlahi were also treated similarly from time to time. (Cf. "Order Regarding Extradition of Dacoits," Shrawan Badi 10, 1892 (July 1835), Regmi Research Collection, vol. 45, pp. 126-28. According to this order there were only three administrators (amali) in the eastern Tarai region at that time, for (1) Morang, (2) Saptari and Mahottari, and (3) Bara, Parsa, Rautahat and Sarlahi).

According to Francis Hamilton (An Account of the Kingdom of Nepaul, p. 151): "Morang, in a general sense, extends in the low country from the Tista to the Kosi." The Tista frontier was brought westward toward the Mechi river after the Nepal-British war. Morang during the nineteenth century comprised five modern administrative districts in that region: Jhapa, Morang and Sunsari. The administrative headquarters of the district were located at Vijayapur, a hill town on the Churia range, which was the capital of the Sen dynasty before the territory was incorporated into the Gorkhali Kingdom.

Saptari and Mahottari had once belonged to another branch of the Sen dynasty based at Chaudandi in the hills. These districts were situated west of the Kosi river and extended up to the Bagmati river in the east, a distance of about 100 miles. The administrative headquarters were located at a place called Naragarhi, which Hamilton has described as "a small fort on the plain." (Ibid, pp. 160-61)!

Bara, Parsa and Rautahat had belonged to yet another branch of the Sen dynasty based at Makwanpur. The headquarters of this division were located at Makwanpur, "but in the cold season, (the Subba) visits the plains and resides at Baragarhi". (Ibid, p. 167)!. Kirkpatrick has described Baragarhi as "a mean place, containing 30 or 40 huts," (An Account of the Kingdom of Nepaul, p. 40).

The district of Sarlahi seems to have been created some time during the 1830s. Hamilton has made no reference to this district in his account of the eastern Tarai region, (Hamilton, op. cit. pp. 160-64).

The inner Tarai district of Chitaur, which once formed a part of the Primapality of Tanahu in the western hill region, was similarly a separate administrative unit.

After the emergence of Rana rule in 1846, these districts were reorganized into seven administrative units: Morang, Saptari, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa. Chitaur retained its status as a separate administrative unit. ("Revenue and Expenditure of the Government of Nepal," 1908 (A.D. 1851), Rajni Research Collection (Miscellaneous)).

In A.D. 1861, the Rana government appointed administrators for each of these administrative units. A full translation of the bond executed by Lt. Colonel Ripubhanjan Pande Chhetri, who was appointed as administrator of Morang district, is as follows:-

"Whereas I, Lieutenant-Colonel Ripubhanjan Pande Chhetri, resident of Tukucha-Pari in Kathmandu, have been appointed Chief of the Mal-Kachahari and the Thana-Kachahari in the district of Morang, with headquarters at Vijayapur, comprising the twelve Pargannas of Harichangadhi, Jethmouja, Laharbhatta, Rajgadh (Jhapa), Katahari-Bariyati, Gograha, Fatteharipur, Bhalebhaleni, Beli-Gaisar, Mangadh, Najarpur and Dhajjan, and Vijayapur and other areas in the hill region, from Baisakh Badi to Chaitra Sadi 15, 1919 (Vikrama), and for one year from the time when (the existing arrangements for the collection of (sair duties) expire to discharge the following functions:-

(1) Collection of revenue from land tax and other sources through the Mal-Kachahari according to the Jammabandi register compiled according to the revenue settlement of 1919 Vikrama, and

(2) Administer justice through the Thana-Kachaharie

"Now therefore, I hereby undertake to:

(1) Attract settlers from different areas and promote land reclamation and settlement in the district, and keep the settlers satisfied,

(2) Comply with the regulations promulgated in my name while discharging the prescribed functions,

(3) Not to accept gifts and presents from anyone, but to accept only what is offered willingly, and credit such gifts and presents to the accounts,

(4) Submit statements of land tax and other revenue collections every month through the Bandobasta-Kachahari, and remit the proceeds to the central treasury (Sadar Mulukikana) through the Bandobast Kachari as soon as the amount reaches Rs 20,000,

(5) Submit accounts at the end of the year to the Kumarichok through the Bandobast Kachahari of amounts remitted to the Central Treasury, and obtain clearance,

(6) Appoint the staff sanctioned in the regulations and pay them emoluments as prescribed therein, and obtain authority to debit such expenses,

- (7) Not to request the debiting or remission of any amount not provided for in orders and regulations,
- (8) Make all possible efforts to realize outstanding arrears of revenue payments,
- (9) Hand over a statement of arrears if any to my successor in the event of my transfer,
- (10) Not to collect taxes and other payments not prescribed in the regulations, impose heavy fines for minor offenses, accept bribes, oppress the ryots, cause losses to His Majesty's Government, exact hospitality expenses and other payments from the ryots, credit to the accounts amounts less than actually collected, defalcate revenue collections, or engage in trade, and to accept punishment in the form of fine or dismissal according to the law in case I am proved to have committed any of these offenses.

Marga Badi 8, 1918  
(November 1861)s

Regmi Research collection, vol. 10, pp. 189-91s.

The following persons were similarly appointed for the following districts on the same day (Marga 8, 1918):-

- (1) Lt. Colonel Jitman Singh Adhikari Chhetri of Kathmandu for the district of Saptari, comprising the thirteen Pargannas of Bhaginikhola, Khalisa, Pakari, Jagadar, Majhuwa, Gudigaun, Maljhamuna, Rayajhamuna, Pakaria, Dhanchhawar, Pihar, Mahisoth and Rampur.
- (2) Lt. Colonel Prabhuram Bista Chhetri of Bagmati-Pari, Kathmandu, for the district of Mahottari, comprising the three Pargannas of Kodari, Khesraha and Mahottari.
- (3) Lt. Colonel Bir Bahadur Thapa Chhetri of Kathmandu, for the district of Sarlahi, comprising the five Pargannas of Sirabhata, Asibhau, Brahmapuri, Kodraha and Hariharpur.
- (4) Lt. Colonel Surya Prakash Shah of Tukucha-Pari, Kathmandu, for the district of Rautahat, comprising the five Pargannas of Jhaj South, Jhaj North, Pharroha, Matiwan and Jataha.
- (5) Lt. Colonel Himmat Bahadur Shah of Kathmandu for the district of Bara, comprising the nine Pargannas of Tokani, Khesraha, Bariyarpur, Tokani, Cherwant, Basantpur, Mewa, Simraun-Gadh, Pachrauta and Dostiya.
- (6) Lt. Colonel Bhim Bikram Singh Thapa Chhetri of Kathmandu for the district of Parsa, comprising the three Pargannas of Sidhmas, Naurangiya (Jagatpur), and Naurangiya (Baluwa)s.
- (7) Lt. Bharat Karki of Panauti for the district of Marjyadpur, comprising Chitoun, Belod, Madi and other Pargannas, as well as other areas in the hill and inner Tarai regions.

(Ibid, pss 191-95).

Jagir Rents in Bode Village

Tilak Man, a clerk (bahidar) at the office of the Sri Bard Bahadur Paltan, had been allotted 19 muris of rice lands in Bode Village (Lalitpur) as his khangi. The tirja certificate entitling him to collect rents stipulated crop-sharing under the adhiya system. The tenant, however, did not harvest the crop in his presence, but only offered to pay 2 or 3 muris of paddy. Tilak Man, therefore, prayed that he be allowed to collect rents on adhiya basis, or else on kut basis at current rates.

On the recommendation of the Sadar Dafdarkhana, the Prime Minister issued the following order on this petition:

- (1) If the jagirdar has not accepted rents for the years 1943, 1944 and 1945 Vikrama, and if the crop has not been harvested in his presence, the actual yield, and the quantity of rent payable on adhiya basis, shall be determined through a local inquiry. The quantity of rent so determined shall then be realized from the tenant.
- (2) From the Vikrama year 1946, the jagirdar shall have the crop harvested in his presence and collect half as rent under the adhiya system.

The report of the Sadar Dafdarkhana has cited in full Section 7 of the Law on Rent Disputes (Balika Jhagadako) contained in the Muluki Ain, presumably in the 1945 Vikrama (A.D. 1888) edition: An abstract translation of this section is given below:

"In case the amount of rent mentioned in the tirja certificate is lower than the figure mentioned in the tax-assessment register on jagir lands, remission shall be granted if both the area of the rice-land holding and the amount of rent had been reduced to the level of the tirja figure during the A.D. 1853 revenue settlement.

"If the tax-assessment register has been prepared in such a manner that only the amount of rent has been increased, but not the area of the rice-land holding, or if the land had been damaged by floods and washouts during the settlement but had subsequently been brought back into cultivation, any increase in the rent shall accrue to the concerned jagirdar."

"Order to Bahidar Tilak Man from the Sadar Dafdarkhana," Kartik Sudi 5, 1946 (October 1889).

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 83, pp. 4-9.

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### Levy on Jagir Incomes, 1891

In the Vikrama year 1948 (A.D. 1891), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere implemented a scheme for the supply of piped water in Kathmandu. As Perceval Landon has recorded: "Much progress was made with the supply of water to the Valley during Maharaja Bir's period of office. The new works were put in hand in 1888, and the opening ceremony took place at Kathmandu in the autumn of 1891." (Perceval Landon, Nepal (reprint of 1928 ed.), Kathmandu: Ratna Pustak Bhandar, 1978, vol. 2, p. 77)e

Transportation of pipes procured for the project from Bhimphedi to Kathmandu was financed through a levy on jagir incomes. The levy amounted to 1 percent of the official value of incomes from the jagir lands of government employees in all parts of the Kingdom.

#### References:

1. "Order to Samar Jung Company Regarding Levy on Jagir Incomes to Finance Transportation of Pipes from Bhimphedi to Kathmandu," Baisakh Sudi 15, 1948 (April 1891), Regmi Research Collection, vol. 83, pp. 396-99.
2. "Order to Palpa Gounda Headquarters Office Regarding Levy on Jagir Incomes to Finance Transportation of Pipes from Bhimphedi to Kathmandu," Ashadh Sudi 1, 1948 (June 1891), Regmi Research Collection, vol. 84, pp. 189-92.

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### Supply of Timber to Munitions Factory

On Poush Badi 1, 1909 (December 1852) an order had been issued to local authorities at Narjatar in Nuwakot to allot about 884 muris of rice lands to 41 Newar households in the village on the following conditions:-

- (1) 48 pieces of timber should be supplied for the manufacture of rifles to the Jangi Megjin (munitions factory) in Kathmandu every year.
- (2) Rents on the rice-land allotments mentioned above should be paid regularly to the concerned jagirdars.

These Newars were employed as porters during the Nepal-Tibet war in 1911 Vikrama (A.D. 1854) for the transportation of military supplies.



When all the able-bodied Newars were employed in this manner, their wives and children were unable to provide portage services for the transportation of timber to the munitions factory in Kathmandu as mentioned above. Nor were they able to cultivate their rice land allotments and pay rents to their jagirdars. They were, therefore, persuaded by local functionaries to relinquish their allotments until their men returned from the front.

However, after the war, the allotments were not restored to the Newars, but their obligation to transport timber to the munitions factory in Kathmandu remained intact.

In 1948 Vikrama (A.D. 1891) Naika Birmani submitted a petition to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on behalf of the dispossessed Newars praying that the allotments be restored to them, or else the obligation to transport timber to the munitions factory in Kathmandu be remitted.

The Sadar dafdarkhana recommended the following action on this petition: "According to Section 18 of the Law on Land Allotments (Jagga Pajaniko), rakam lands belong to the person who performs the prescribed labor services. He cannot be evicted so long as he is willing to perform such services and cultivate the concerned land-allotments. It is not proper that these Newars should be dispossessed of their allotments without any fault on their part simply because these had been cultivated by other persons during the time when they were providing labor services for the Nepal-Tibet war. Accordingly, the allotments shall be restored to them."

This recommendation was approved by the Muluki Adda and endorsed by Prime Minister Bir Shumshere on Ashadh Sudi 12, 1948 (June 1891). The West No. 1 Bakyauta Tahasil Adda was, therefore, ordered to take appropriate action accordingly.

Regmi Research Collection, vol. 84, pp. 194-201.

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