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Agriculture in Kathmandu Valley

AS commanded by Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere, General Tej Shumshere issued the following order to the Pahad Bandobast Adda on Shrawan 19, 1982:

"The Agriculture Officer shall tour different areas in Kathmandu Valley and inspect the crops sown by farmers. If crops have been infested with insects, or damaged in any other way, or if the land is suitable only for another type of crop he shall take steps to protect the crop from insects, or recommend another crop, or instruct new methods of sowing, so that yields should not go down, and should actually increase. The Agriculture Officer shall also study the impact of high or low rainfall on crops, and determine the crops that will maximize yields.

"In addition, the Agriculture Officer shall determine the type of crops that are suitable for lands situated at an elevation, where the water supply is low, such as ghaiya rice and bajra. If any tax has been imposed on winter crops grown on such lands, it shall be remitted."

Mohinaikes from different districts then submitted the following report:

"The practice of sowing paddy on high lands where irrigation facilities are not available, and where the crop depends on rainfall is due either to the greed for some profit, or else the obligation to pay rents in the form of paddy. When paddy, rather than another crop suitable for such lands, is thus sown, both the tenant and the landlord suffer losses in years when rainfall is inadequate.

"For this reason, an order had been issued to the Mohinaike Bandobast Adda on Baisakh 30, 1979 directing it to have maize, millet, ghaiya, or other suitable crop sown on such lands. The order also prescribed that jagirdars shall accept rents in the form of half of the crop which was actually raised there.

"This year (1982 Vikrama), rainfall has been inadequate, and the paddy crop has not ripened properly. Steps were, therefore, taken to have ghaiya or bajra sown at different places, and remit the tax on winter crops, if any, according to the above-mentioned order. Local inquiries made in this connection revealed the following facts:

"The kut rent on high lands which have no irrigation facilities is assessed at 10 or 12 pathis of ghaiya paddy a ropani. Farmers have traditionally raised the ghaiya crop on lands on which tax is assessed on thek or serma basis. If paddy is grown on such lands, the kut rent ranges between 1.25 muris and 1.5 muris, in addition to 3 or 4 pathis of wheat, per ropani.

"Now if ghaiya or bajra is to be sown on such lands, they will have to be kept fallow without sowing the wheat crops. The lands will then have to be dug or plowed from the month of Falgun. In the month of Aswin, the paddy crop will be harvested with the labor of 22 or 25 laborers, yielding a maximum yield of about 22 or 25 pathis per ropani. If it rains during weeding time, weeding with a hoe will not be possible, and the crop will have to be covered with hay. The yield in that case will not be more than 5 or 7 pathis per ropani and the winter crop too will be lost.

"If, therefore, such varieties of rice as thapachiniya, dudhraj and chiniya-marsi, which ripen in 3 months, rather than ghaiya or bajra, are sown, the labor of only 9 or 10 laborers will be required by the time the crop is harvested. The yield will amount to 2.5 muris or 3 muris in good years. If rainfall is poor, even ghaiya or other crops will not be good. As such, there seems little advantage in sowing ghaiya or bajra.

"At present, farmers sow tauli paddy even in those years when rainfall is poor. But the tauli crop takes five or six months to ripen. Since rainfall this year has been inadequate, at least half of the normal yield can be raised by sowing dudhraj, thapachiniya or other varieties of paddy. It thus seems better to sow dudhraj or thapachiniya rather than ghaiya or bajra. Farmers too have expressed their unwillingness to sow the ghaiya crops. If, however, it is ordered that ghaiya be sown and kut rent be collected at half of the actual yield, and if the tax on winter crops is remitted, arrangements will be made to have farmers sow the ghaiya crops."

Captain Som Shumshere J.B. Rana reported to Prime Minister Chandra Shumshere that "on high lands which depend on rainfall, yields during years of drought will be higher if dudhraj or thapachiniya paddy, which can be harvested in 3 months, rather than ghaiya or bajra, is sown."

The following order was then issued to the Agriculture Office: "During the Vikrama year 1982, prohibit the cultivation of tauli or other varieties of paddy, which takes five months to ripen, on high lands which depend on rainfall and lack irrigation facilities. Arrange for the sowing of dudhraj, thapachiniya, or other varieties which can be harvested in three months, on half of the area, and of tauli paddy, which ripens in five months, on the other half. If these crops do not ripen because of drought, the jagirdar or other landlord, or the Mal Adda, shall remit the rents. If rainfall is not adequate even for sowing, arrangements should be made to sow other suitable crops according to the previous order. Mohinaikes within Kathmandu Valley should be ordered accordingly."

"From the paddy crop of the Vikrama year 1983, the following arrangements shall be announced for Kathmandu Valley.

"If, on rice-fields which depend on rainfall, tauli and other varieties of paddy which ripen in five months are sown rather than thapachiniya and dudhraj varieties which ripen in three months, and if the crop does not ripen, the tenant shall not be entitled to any remission. If, however, rainfall was not adequate for sowing, and if crops suitable to the land had been sown, action shall be taken according to the order issued to the Mohinaike Bandobast Adda on Magh 30, 1979."

Poush 9, 1982

ERC, Vol. 16, pp. 637-42

Conservation of Musk-Deer
(Abstract Translation)

The following order was sent to the Bada Hakims of the districts of East No. 1, East No. 2, and East No. 3 on Magh 19, 1970 with the objective of protecting musk-deer:

1. Talukdars in villages of the Himalayan region shall maintain registers of hunters in the areas under their jurisdiction and check whether they stay at home or hunt musk-deer. They shall also produce the hunters before the District Office every month.
2. Government officers on the Nepal-Tibet border who are under obligation to supply prescribed quantities of musk to the government shall submit reports specifying the hunters and the places where they have been sent to hunt musk-deer for the purpose of meeting that obligation. They shall be liable to punishment if it is proved that they have procured musk in excess of the quantity stipulated for supply to the government.
3. Inspection teams shall be sent to forests in the Himalayan region which are inhabited by musk-deer to seize poachers, if any. If any poacher has installed any trap or snare, he shall be arrested and produced before the Prime Minister in Kathmandu.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 16, pp. 10-11.

Trade Between British India and Nepal

"Foreign Department (Revenue A) Consultations",
National Archives of India, New Delhi.

No. 2489, dated Lucknow, 31st May 1876

From-CAPTAIN A. MURRAY, Offg. Personal Asst. to the
Chief Commr. of Oudh
To - T.H. THORNTON, Esq., D.C.L., Offg. Secy. to the
Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I Am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 172 R, dated 21st September last, requesting that the Government of India may be furnished with a full report regarding the present condition of trade with Nepal, the restrictions by which it is hampered, &c., together with any recommendation the Chief Commissioner may have to offer on the subject.

2. In reply, I am to say that the Deputy Commissioners of Districts* bordering on Nipal, the Conservator of Forests, and the Superintendent, Excise and Stamps, were called upon to report on the subject, their reports have lately been received\$ and copies, are herewith submitted, from which the following particulars have been elicited.

3. The marts in Nipal with which there is any trade from this province appear to be as follows:-

Banbasi,	Behadurgunge,
Nipalgunge,	Sesiwa,
Gola Mundi,	Captaingunge;

and there is an export trade only from Tanda in the Fyzabad district to the frontier station Batwal, the road to which runs through the Basti district of the North-Western\$Provinces\$. To some of these marts there are one or two indifferent cart-tracks, but in the majority of instances the means of communication are foot-paths, and the mode of conveying goods is on pack-animals, which are, as a rule, ponies\$. No attempt to improve the present tracks or open out any other communications is\$made by the Nipalese Government; and often a fair\$road running up to the border of this province degenerates into a track in Nipal-impassable for wheeled traffic. The only repairs in Nipal territories to cart-tracks are said to be effected by the traders themselves who, after the rains, remove any great obstructions to traffic there may be\$

4. The chief articles of commerce appear to be -

Wheat and other edible grains,	Salt,
Tobacco,	Oil-seeds,
Timber in logs, and fuel,	Spices,
Country and European goods,	

and a considerable quantity of miscellaneous articles\$

* Kheri, Bahraich, Gonda.

5. Correct trade statistics cannot be given: the multiplicity of routes renders anything like accurate registration of imports and exports impossible, and the Deputy Commissioner of Kheri reports that on entering our territory many traders diverge with their loads into foot-paths and many purposely avoid registration.

The traffic returns show the following figures:-

			Exports Rupees	Imports Rupees
1871-72	...	...	2,13,141	3,63,800
1872-73	...	...	1,53,166	2,68,007
1873-74	...	...	1,20,982	2,75,788
1874-75	...	...	1,21,846	1,90,554

These cannot be accepted as representing anything like the real amount of trade with Nipal. An attempt has been made to register merchandize passing down what have been considered the main streams of traffics and the figures bear out the impression of the officers who have reported on the subject that the trade is declining.

6. It is carried on almost entirely by British subjects. The Deputy Commissioner, Kheri, who has obtained most of his information from the traders themselves, remarks: "There are two descriptions of traders from British territories, those who rent shops from the authorities and reside in the Nipal marts for the whole of the trading season from January to May, and those who merely stay long enough to effect their sales and purchases: the former are alone permitted to trade with the Parbuttia or hillmen, and thus, as a result, they are not only merchants on their own account, but act as brokers; there appear to be no Nipal shop-keepers or brokers, the only men from that country who frequent marts are the hillmen already mentioned, who, like the itinerant dealers from those parts, stop only long enough to buy and sell what they desire."

7. Nipal officials are said not to engage in trade, and Nipal merchants but rarely enter our territories; every obstacle is thrown in their ways by the Nipalese authorities who exert their influence to sell the goods brought by the hillmen to the British merchants, and, not unfrequently, rather than allow the hillmen to take their produce south, buy it up with funds provided them by their own government. It is said that if any hill traders attempt to remove their goods secretly for exportation to British territories without paying the export duties, which, as a rule, they are too poor to afford, their goods are seized and sold by auction. The principal marts to which the few Nipalese who enter our territories resort are Tulsipur, Pachperia, Utrowla and Bulrampur in the Gonda district; Ekona, Bhinga, Matagunge and Nanpara in the Bahraich district; and Biscohar in the district of Basti, North-Western Provinces.

8. Trade in the Nipalese marts is conducted on the basis of the money value of the goods, but it is essentially an exchange of commodities. The Nipalese will readily accept rupees in exchange for goods, and our money is received into the Durbar treasury, but the Nipal coinage is so debased, and there is so much counterfeit coin, that merchants from British territories now refuse to receive payment other than in goods or rupees. Currency notes are not accepted in payment by the Nipalese, and credit transactions are very rare.

9. The restrictions imposed upon the trade by the Nipal Government are as follows: An export duty, and import duty, and a chungli on the goods brought to the marts by Nipalese subjects for sale to British merchants. The two first are levied at the marts only. The rates are variously stated, and the information on this subject is evidently not reliable. The rates given by the Deputy Commissioner, Kheri, vary from 12 per cent on ghee to 5 annas per cent on fish, and if he is correct there is a crushing duty of 9 per cent on wheat and other edible grains; some of the duties are levied ad valorem, but the general practice appears to be on weight or the piece. The only custom-house is at Kakrouli close to the border, but no duty appears to be taken there; the goods are merely inspected and sent on with a pass to the mart, the Deputy Commissioner thinks it is maintained as a check on those officers who collect in the marts. He observes that no instances of oppression on the part of the Durbar authorities have come to his notice. The tariff on some of the goods is excessive: but it seldom varies, it is known to all who carry on commerce within the Nipal boundary, and forms an item of exact calculation in respect to the anticipated profits of any venture. He compares the tariff, and sometimes favourably, with the octroi schedule of Lucknow: but he is evidently unaware of what is stated to be the case that all Nipalese goods pay octroi as well as export duty.

10. The export trade alluded to before from Tanda to Batwal is not entered in the trade returns as with Nipal, the goods having to pass through the North-Western Provinces. It consists entirely of cotton goods, the value of which, in 1873, is estimated at Rupees 2,48,045, and in 1874 at Rupees 2,85,398. The import duty at Batwal, which is on the piece, represents an ad valorem duty of 1-9 per cent.; but anything like an export trade in return from Batwal is discouraged by the Nipal Government.

11. I am to regret that no information of any value has been obtained regarding the timber trade with Nipal, which consists entirely of exports from that country; the Oudh Forest Department has had no dealings with the Nipal authorities, and the timber merchants consulted by the Conservator merely complain generally of the difficulties

they have experienced on account of the dilatoriness and obstructiveness of the Nipal officials; but the Conservator of Forests is of opinion that the trade has not fallen off so much on account of the high prices asked, as by the deterioration of the timber owing to the indiscriminate fellings and want of conservancy in the Nipal forests which lie to the north of Oudhe

12. I am to express the Chief Commissioner's regret that it has been impossible to obtain more definite information and more accurate figures regarding the trade generally, but from what has been procured he has come to the conclusion that the import duty is probably not sufficient to discourage imports, but that as long as the double tax on exports exists at the marts, and the Durbar discourages the export trade, trade with Nipal must decline. It follows that if by reason of the debased and counterfeit coin in Nipal the trade is generally as stated by the Deputy Commissioner, Kheri, an exchange of commodities, the restrictions placed on the export trade must materially affect the import trade as well. But it is to be doubted whether, if the Durbar were to consent to the removal or reduction of the export duties, which is allowed in fairness expect, there would be any great improvement in the trade relations between the two countries till the communications between their marts and our frontier have been greatly improved. At present there is an absence of anything that can be termed a road: the tracks run through large belts of jungle and forest, large unbridged, and sometimes rapid, rivers have to be crossed; a large portion of the country is very sparsely inhabited, and every natural obstacle lies in the way of the trader; from Gonda the Dundooa range has to be crossed; and of the eleven recognised passes, only three admit of beasts of burden, the rest are fit for foot passengers only. In the face of these disadvantages, no concession by the Nipal Government with respect to the reduction of duties could tend much to develop trade.

13. In conclusion, I am to say that copies of all the reports furnished by officers have been sent to the Resident of Nipal at his request.

No. 681, A, dated 6th April 1876

From- The Deputy Commissioner, Kheri, c

To - The Commissioner, Sitapur Division.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No. 3723 of the 4th October and No. 241 of the 28th of last January, regarding the present condition of trade with Nipal. c

2. And first with reference to the delay which has occurred in furnishing the report, I would beg to point out that, in order to answer all the questions put by Mr. Girdlestone, the Resident of Nipal, a much more extensive enquiry was necessary than that contemplated in your first letter.

3. An answer to those questions will supply the information called for by the Government of India. I will therefore reply seriatim.

(1) The great Nipalese marts of Nipalgunge, Gola Mundi and Banbasi do not lie to the immediate north of Kheri; Nipalgunge is much nearer to Bahraich, and Mundia Ghat to Phillibhit than to this district, and doubtless much more explicit information will be afforded by the Deputy Commissioner and Collector, respectively, of those districts than I have been able to obtain.

Nipalgunge. - The only route through this district is across the Chanka and Kouriala rivers, and through Motipur in the Bahraich district. There is a road for wheeled traffic upto Mathera on the Kouriala, and both rivers can be crossed on boats large enough for any description of conveyance.

Gola Mundi. - The usual route is by Singhai across the boundary stream Mohana by Kakrouli Ghat. There is a road in this district up to Banbirpur within three miles of the Mohana, but garis go right on to Gola Mundi, the Kouriala intervening. The passage across the Mohana is, however, always difficult on account of its stony bedss ss

There are other roads via the Mohana to Gola Mundi, viz, Hollonasa and Kaluapur. These, too, can be used by carts the whole way, but they are much cut up in the rains, and are subsequently more or less repaired by the traders themselves, that is, that any great obstructions would be cleared away. The Nipal Durbar do not appear to make any repairs.

(2) There are but two usual modes of conveying goods, namely, by garis and pack-animals, the latter chiefly ponies. Traders from British territories cannot expect to find means of transport in Nipal, they must carry that with them. This, indeed, is what all do, for, as will be shown further on, trade though conducted on the basis of the money value of goods, is essentially an exchange of commodities. I cannot answer the latter part of the question 2, viz, "whether an increased trade would involve a greater relative expenditure in the item of transport." I presume Mrs Girdlestone is of opinion that the means of transport- carts and ponies-might not keep pace with any sudden expansion of commerce owing to the abolition or reduction of transit dues.

This might be the case at first, but if the profits to be obtained were fairly remunerative, I venture to think that the matter would soon adjust itself, and that beoparis would flock to the new marts in sufficient numbers to supply all needs and to keep down the rates of carriage.

(3) A list of articles which passed southward through the traffic stations of Singhai and Tirkanlia during the last three years is appended. They give a most inadequate idea of the extent of trade. Many traders on re-entering our territory diverge with their loads into foot-paths, many purposely avoid registration; and further, the mohurrirs in charge by no means give unremitting attention to their duties.

(4) A similar list of exports to Nipal is given.

(5) So far as I can discover there are but few customs-houses on the Nipal side of the boundary, the duties being generally levied at the different marts. The evidence of one of the witnesses whom I examined is sufficiently interesting to justify the following extract:-

"I trade with Gola Mundi, Kahanpur, Bhajui, Kahlari and Rajapur-Dullai. I always sell cloth and buy pepper and kach (catechu). The Nipal import charge on European cloths is 3 per cent ad valorem, such value being determined by inspection of the invoice. Upon country cloth (garah) the duty is 6 pies the piece (than) worth from Rupees 1 to 3. These duties are the same at all the places named by me. They are, however, generally farmed out, and arrangements may often be made with the contractors, by which, in the case of large dealers, as much as 25 per cent. is abated. The export duty upon red pepper is Rupees 1-6 the Nipal maund, which is about the same as our standard maund; the same is charged on catechu. The Durbar have a customs-house at Kakrouli on the other side of the Mohana (the boundary of the two territories); and goods en route to Gola Mundi are there inspected and noted in a letter which the dealer has to give up on arriving at his destination. Similarly, when returning with goods, a rawanna is given him at Gola Mundi to be given up at Kakrouli. The import duties are levied at once whether the goods be disposed of or not. Kalapur is between Kakrouli and the Golaghat on the Kouriala. It is the residence of Raja Narind Bikram Shah under whom is the thannah. Anything I sell to the Raja is free from duty. I do not know what is the case with others.

"Bhajui. There is a gari track from Singhai to Korla, about 8 miles, and from the latter place to Hollona on the Mohana. Bhajui is 4 miles the other side I sell to the Lieutenant in charge without paying duty. There is no trade.

"Kahlari, 20 or 25 miles from Singhai, is the seat of a Court of Justice. Duty is nominally levied, but is remitted by the Adalat.

(To be continued)

Royal Orders of Chaitra Sudi 14, 1886Contents

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1. Adoption in Alampur.

A royal order was issued on Chaitra Sudi 14, 1886 permitting Norbui Bhote of Pokharigaun in Alampur to adopt Ratanpati, his elder brother Vamsharaj Bhote's son, as his son.

RRCi Vol. 34, p. 65

2. Water Operated Mill in Kathmandu

Mahabir Khadka had constructed a water operated mill (ghatta) at Poltadhara in the Goldhunga area of Kathmandu, but the mill had fallen into disuse. Jaya Narayan Newar was now permitted to revive the mill with water drawn from the Mudhkhu-Khola. He was required to pay a theke tax of eight annas a year to the Sadar Company Dafdar Khana.

RRC, Vol. 34, P. 65.

3. Reclamation and Settlement in Kaski

Talu Gurung had settled a tract of land at Tarebhir in Kaski and was paying serma taxes amounting to 1 rupee and 8 annas every year to the Sadar Company Dafdar Khanda.

In the Vikrama year 1886, the settlement was given to Vamshu Padhya through a royal order because he had offered to double the amount of serma revenue to 3 rupees.

Talu Gurung submitted a petition saying that he had been rendered homeless. He offered to match Vamshu Padhya's offer of 3 rupees and also to reclaim 10 muris of rice lands in the area subject to a three-year period of tax exemption.

Talu Gurung's order was accepted, but the households settled by him were taken away from his jurisdiction. His own household, however, was reconfirmed.

RRC, Vol. 34, pp 66-67.

4. Thekbandi in Simras

The village of Bhangeri-Gairhi-Pahari Kharka in Simras had been given out on thekbandi basis on an annual payment of 24 rupees. On Chaitra Sudi 14, 1886, the amount was raised to 28 rupees, and the thekbandi was granted to Tularam Khadka and Zorawar Khadka. They were permitted to collect and appropriate the proceeds of all taxes in the village, with the exception of Raja-Anka taxes. They were also allowed to commute in-kind rents on rice-fields allotted to them on raibandi basis into cash at the rate of 15 pathis of paddy a rupee.

RRCs vol. 34, pp. 67-68

5. Thekbandi in Tanahu

I

The village of Kunchhagaun in Tanahu had been assigned as jagir to the Sri Bhairung Paltan. It was allotted to Nandaram and Markandaya Adhikari on thekbandi basis for one year beginning Aswin Sudi 10, 1886 against a payment of 14 rupees. The arrangement covered all existing sources of revenue (Wajbi-Serma, fines and penalties, chak-chakui, escheats, etc.) with the exception of raja-anka taxes, buried treasures and panchakhats.

RRC, Vol. 34, pp 62.

II

The village of Mirlung-Kunchha, belonging to the Sri Kalidatta Company, was allotted on similar terms to Dilliram Upadhyaya, Maharnarsing Adhikari, Purna Gurung, and Jasraj Gurung for an unspecified period beginning Aswin Sudi 10, 1886 against an annual payment of 121 rupees a year. Their duties were to remain in attendance at the Kalimaranchu Hulak Post and arrange for the transportation of military supplies. They were warned not to oppress the local people, or evict them from their homesteads, and not to collect unauthorized payments.

RRC, Vo. 34, pp. 62-63.

6. Thek Arrangements

I

The village of Begnas in Kaski was allotted under thek tenure to Pratiman Banstola against an annual payment of 24 rupees. The arrangement covered all existing taxes, with the exception of raja-anka taxes. Pratiman Banstola was ordered to perform Dashain founctions at the local moula with the income from rice-fields assigned for the purpose, and meet the shortfall, if any, himself. The thek was to be paid to the Jagirdar.

RRC, Vol. 34, p. 64.

II

The village of Alainchigaun at Raginas had been assigned to the Taradal Company. It yielded a thek revenue of 12½ rupees a years. The village was reallocated to Dirgha Simha Kunwar and Foud Simha Kunwar on an enhanced thek payment of 25 rupees a year under gharbari tenures

RRCs Vol. 34, p. 61.

7. Land Allotments

I

A tract of land at Bandipur in Tanahu had been allotted for reclamation to Kalu Gurung subject to the payment of 8 annas a year to the Chapras Company. Kalu Gurung relinquished the allotment, which was reallocated to Sadharam Newar under gharbari tenure.

RRC, Vol. 34, p. 63s

II

A plot of 70 muris of rice-fields at Sakot-Budhyauli in Salyan, which had been assigned as jagir to the Simhanath's Paltan, was allotted to Pashupati Sahu against a payment of 12 rupees a year.

RRC, Vol. 34, p. 61.

8. Land Reclamation in Dhunwakot

Royal order to Maheshwar Padhya and Tularam Padhya: "Dig irrigation channels and reclaim 1 khet of rice-lands through your own resources within an area with the following boundaries in Dhunwakot, other than lands under Jagir, birta, guthi, or other tenures. Enjoy tax exemption on the reclaimed lands for the first three years, and make payments to the Sadar Company Dardarkhana from the fourth year.

Boundaries: East: Gogale-Khola; West: Ganama-Khola; South: Ghoptyabagar; and North: the Toba Hill.

RRC, Vol. 34, p. 68.

9. The Gurungs

Royal order to Gurungs, Ghales, and Lamas throughout the Kingdom through Dhanjay Lama:

"In the year 1883, a copper-plate inscription had been issued with a thiti for Charjat and Sorhajat Gurungs. Men were sent to different areas to collect (the Salamisfee for the thiti).

"However, it was not possible to make collections because of disputes within the Gurung Community.

"A complaint was then submitted to us and we heard the case in the presence of Gurungs of both sides. It was held that there was no distinction between Charjat and Sorhajat Gurungs. The previous copper plate inscription was returned with the consent of all Gurungs and a new one was issued.

"As regards the Salami, it was decided that it should be realized from those who had not made any payment previously. Men were accordingly sent to different areas to make the collection.

"Now we have received complaints that the Gurungs have not allowed their households to be enumerated, nor produced receipts against the previous payments, nor made any payments.

"We have now deputed Man Simha Rana to make the collections at the prescribed rates: Payments made previously will be adjusted in case the receipts are produced. You shall be punished if you cause any further obstruction in this regards."

RRC, Vol. 34, pp. 69-70.

10. Kharidar Tikadatta Pande

Tikadatta Pande, grandson of Kulanidhi Pandit and son of Ram Narayan Pandit, was appointed as Kharidar in the Sri Simhanath Paltan. His duties were to maintain accounts and records and obey the orders of the Captain, Narassimha Thapa.

Tikadatta Pande was assigned 7-2 khets of rice-fields and a khuwa income of 132 rupees as his jagir. He was actually given 4 khets of rice-fields and 25 rupees. The balance of 187 rupees (at the rate of 25 rupees a khet) was charged on the revenues of Salyan.

RRC. Vol. 34, pp. 59-61.

The Chumawan Tax

1. Eastern Tarai
2. Palpa and Pyuthan
3. Gorkha.

1. Eastern Tarai

Royal order to Subba Kulanand Jha:

"In the districts of Morang, Saptari, Mahottari, Bara, and Rautahat, the Chumawan tax, imposed on the occasion of our sacred-thread-investiture ceremony, shall not be collected on birta grants, both old and new, if the deed provides for exemption from all taxes and levies (sarbanga-mafi).

"The Chumawan tax shall be collected from birta lands for which no such exemption has been granted under the royal seals, but where exemption has been fraudulently obtained from other authorities.

"In the past, Mahantas of monasteries (Asthan) and birtaowners used to approach the palace and obtain exemption on payment of a sum of money as salami whenever any new tax or levy was imposed. This year, a thekbandi has been granted for the collection of the Chumawan tax on the occasion of our sacred-thread-investiture ceremony. Accordingly, in case the copper-plate inscription has placed any birtaowner under the jurisdiction of the palace, and its case such birtaowner has fulfilled his (Chumawan) obligation by paying a salami fee at the palace, such payment shall be deducted from the amount stipulated by you under the Ijara."

Kartik Sudi 4, 1879

RRC, Vol. 43, pp. 371-72.

2. Palpa and Pyuthan

Royal order to Colonel Ujir Singh Thapa:

"An ijara for the collection of the Chumawan tax on the occasion of our sacred-thread-investiture ceremony in the vikram year from jagir, birtas, manachamal, chhap, bitalab, and other lands of bhardars, military companies, etc. in the hill regions other than the Madhesh region, has been granted to Hanumanta Singh for the sum of Rs 141,001. Permit his men to collect the tax in the hill region of Palpa. From Baisakh 1880, you are hereby ordered to collect the Chumawan tax in the Madhesh areas of Pyuthan and Palpa according to the prescribed rates."

Magh Badi 13, 1879,

RRC, Vol. 43, p. 394.

3. Gorkha

Royal order to Subba Taranidhi Panta, and the Tharghar families of Tallakot and Upallokot in Gorkha: "You have written to General (Bhimsen Thapa) that traditionally a 50 percent exemption in taxes has been granted to the common people (lata-ganda) of Gorkha town. The matter has been represented to us.

"We hereby order that the Chumawan tax be collected from homesteads and rice-fields in that area at the same rates as those at which it had been collected from birta, jagir, manachamal, chhap, and other lands and homesteads during the sacred-thread-investiture ceremony of our father (King Girban) in the vikram year 1865.

Baisakh Sudi 3, 1880

RRC, Vol. 43, pp. 437-38.

The Mafauni Fee

In the Barha-Khuwa area of Dolakha, kipat-owning jimidars and common people (praja) were customarily forced by the Amali or Dware to carry palanquins in their respective areas. A royal order was issued on Aswin 15, 1894 banning this practice. Amalis and Dwares were, however, entitled to collect a fee (mafauni) in consideration of the exemption on a one-time basis.

RRC, Vol. 27, pp. 460-61a
