

Differences in approach between Court and Board in 1830. (as indicated Rajpootana Withdrawn Political Draft papers, Drafts 145 to 149 of 1829-30, Procom No 507, in Drafts and Procoms 1829-30 vol 2&3. The final letters ending in the withdrawal are from Board:21.5.1831, to Board:4.8.1831, agreement of Board to withdraw:9.8.1831.)

Proposed para by Court

146. The condition of the people does not appear to have been in any respect better than that of the Rana. They appear on the contrary to have suffered, in an aggravated degree, every evil which the most frightful mis-government can inflict.

Note on above by W.Cabbell, in the Board's Secret & Pol Dept.

The statement in para 146 that the condition of the people in Meywar is not improved, is opposed to the testimony of Bishop Heber and of Captain Cobbe, ( see the quotations in paras 87 and 108 of the introductory memo) and does not appear to be supported by any of the documents contained in the proceedings under review.©

(© Note: Since this was written, the passage, to which the Court probably refer, has been discovered, and it will be found at the end of the quotation from Captain Cobb in para 176: It is to be observed however in reference to this passage that Captain Cobb is depicting the oppression to which the Rajpoot Rana's subjects are exposed from his own officers, which compared with what they formerly endured from Mahrattas and others plunderers, he describes as a comparative blessing. (see the quotation in para 108 of the introductory memo). It is conceived that para 146 ought not to be allowed to stand as it is liable to be misunderstood and that a para should be inserted to the effect as suggested after para 176.

Secret and Political Department  
10 August 1829

W.C.

Para 176 as proposed by Court

176. Captain Cobbe says (15 September 1823), that on comparing the state of Meywar on his arrival with Captain Todd's reports he was reduced to the painful alternative of either supposing that officer either very much misled by his sanguine disposition and his partiality for the work of his own hands, or of giving his successor the officiating agent ( Captain Waugh ) credit for more mismanagement than is easily credible. "In one respect" he adds "Captain Todd was undoubtedly in error, I allude to his supposition that the influx of settlers would annually keep pace with or exceed, that of the first year, whereas, those who entered Meywar in that year were the natives of the country, who during the troubles which agitated the province, had sought refuge in Jodhpoor, Ajmere, and the neighbouring states: they gladly returned to their native spots when assured of the protection which a connection with the British Government always ensures. The influx was consequently very great the first year, but has gradually diminished and is now reduced to a mere trifle. The soil of Meywar is of proverbial fecundity, and inhabitants alone are wanting to make it probably the most productive in India; but it is vain to hope for settlers in any

The treaty with Meywar was signed by Metcalfe at Delhi on 13.1.1818. The terms stipulated a tribute of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the state revenue during the first five years and  $\frac{2}{3}$  of revenue afterwards to be paid by the state annually to the British Government. The state also undertook to provide troops according to its means.



considerable number until there be some security for life and property. The government is a tissue of cheating and oppression, and its influence and example are evident in the demoralisation of all classes. From the prince to the peasant all are thieves and robbers; there is not even an appearance of law or justice.

Note by E. Cabbell (accepted by Board in final Draft)

It is proposed to insert the following after para 176.

We observe however that in his private letter of the 18th September 1823 Captain Cobbe has remarked as follows: "It will be satisfactory to Government, as it is honourable to Captain Ted, that our connection with Meywar is regarded by all the middling and lower classes of inhabitants as the greatest blessing heaven could have bestowed." We are somewhat at a loss to reconcile these two apparently contradictory statements made as they were about the same time, but we infer from the two that notwithstanding the oppression to which the people are still exposed from the Rana's own officers, their condition is infinitely preferable as compared with their former when exposed to Marhatta and other plunderers.

Further quotations in Court's Draft

Captain Cobb in para 178. ... It would be to deceive Government most grossly were I to talk of non-interference. I have been obliged to interfere in everything or more properly speaking to carry on every part of the government myself, and without it the country would be a desert. (20.2.1825)

Captain Sutherland, acting agents 12.11.1826. ... The duties here seem to extend to a minute supervision and control over every part of the Rana's administration.

From Lt Col. J. Sutherland, Agent to Governor General for Rajpootana to Lt Col T. Robinson, Political Agent Meywar, dated 1.10.1846 in reply to Robinson's letter of 26.9.1846.

6. There is no doubt, I fear, that the examples of Cude and Hyderabad to which you refer in the 10th para of your letter, where our interference has been most extensively exercised are the worst governed states in India, but then they are Mahomedan principalities having of course very different institutions from Rajpoot and other Hindoo principalities; to these you might perhaps have added Shepaul and Tonk, the other two Mahomedan states. Yet at Hyderabad when Lord Metcalfe was resident there, and when our interference was extended to a degree before unknown and which latterly unfortunately has ceased, vast improvements were effected through the simple process of establishing British Superintendants throughout the provinces, and entrusting to them the duty of forming and superintending village revenue settlements which lasted for ten years. In Rajpootana in the same manner we were too long in taking a direct share in the administration of Jeypoor, since that was done in 1839 and our political agent has been head of the council of Regency, the state has been relieved from a debt of 70 lakhs of rupees, and on the anniversary of the Maharaja's 14th birthday in last month, only owed one lakh, whilst it had a surplus of income over expenditure of 3 lakhs per annum. In the same manner there can be no doubt I suppose we have conferred immense benefit on Marwar by taking a share in the administration of the principality in 1840.

Rebuke  
to  
Political  
Agent



(i)  
J. Adam, Secretary to the Governor General to Capt J. Tod: 3.2.1818  
(Extract)

JV/②  
9. The object of attention next, in order to the reannexation of such of the alienated possessions of the state of Oudeepoor as are recoverable from foreign powers on the principles above stated, is the reestablishment of the authority of the Rana's paramount government over the feudal lords who have taken advantage of the times to throw off its control and the resumption of the government lands which have been illicitly appropriated by them. The (p 151) information to be collected by you must be the foundation of any instructions on this subject, are of great importance to the due success of the system of which the alliance with Oodeepoor forms a branch. The degree in which this object is to be accomplished or attempted must vary with the situation and circumstances of the several chiefs whose interests are to be effected: considerations of equity or expediency may suggest the adoption of many intermediate modes of settlement between the entire re-establishment of the Rana's authority (p 152) and the confirmation of the acquired independence of the former feudatory. The latter will probably be found equally just and politic with relation to Banaswara, Doongerpoor, Serow (if it be really connected with Meywar and not with Marwar as is asserted) and possibly other principalities of which the Governor General does not at present possess adequate information; some of those above mentioned, Banaswara especially, maintains that it is independent, and tributary to no one; and (p 153) whatever was its ancient feudal connection with Oodeepoor, it would perhaps be on all accounts desirable, under present circumstances to secure to it the real independence with relation to that state which it has no doubt enjoyed for a course of years. Such a procedure in cases of this description can in no wise be deemed a compromise of the Raja's interests or a failure in our performance of the treaty, neither can it on the other hand furnish grounds of expectations of a similar indulgence to inferior feudatories of Oodeepoor whose situation and circumstances are altogether different.

21. You will be pleased to correspond with the Residents (p 166) at Delhi and with Scindia on the several matters to which this dispatch relates as well as with Sir David Ochterlony, Sir John Malcolm and the different political and military authorities with whom it may become requisite for you to act in concert, or maintain an official communication. You will especially keep the Resident at Delhi and Sir D. Ochterlony apprized of the progress of your arrangements with the Rana of Oodeepoor. ...

22. You will assume the official designation of Political Agent in Meywar and Karowlee, and will for the present act under the direct instructions of the Governor General or the Resident at Delhi. Hereafter it will become expedient for the function of the office, (p 168) especially in matters connected with the interests and relations of the chiefs besides those to whom you are directly accredited to be exercised under the general superintendance of the officer who will be vested with the chiefs political and military authority in Rajpootana.

23. You are authorized to draw a personal salary of Rs 1500 per mensem (including your salary as first assistant to the Residency with Scindia which office you will for the present retain) and to charge your actual (p 169) expences to the public in the same manner as at present, maintaining the utmost economy in your disbursements under this head consistent with the necessary appearance of your public situation.

IOR: BOARD'S COLLECTIONS: vol 1104: NO 29702: pp 141-70 :Para 26 pertain to enclosing a letter to the Rana about Tod's appointment.



(ii) J. Tod to J. Adam, Secretary to the Governor General: 27.2.1818  
(Extract)

20. The express poverty of the Rana is a great bar to a commencement of the work of renovation. There is no wealth in any shape at Oudeepoor. I am credibly informed the prince often disburses his own dinner expences. There are no bankers of any credit and the ministers having still less, this little they fear to lend. The consequence is that the inferior officers of government are detached with (p 208) bodies of troops to manage forts and pergunnahs without any provision for their expences, and the industry, tranquility and hopes of the ryots are crushed in the very end (?) by the necessity thus imposed of levying sums on them.

(iii) J. Adam, Secretary to the Governor General to J. Tod: 26.3.1818  
(Extract)

5. The Governor General laments to perceive the many and serious obstacles to the early attainment of these most important objects. With a view to remove those, arising out of the poverty of the Rana, the Governor General will not object to your affording him moderate pecuniary aid to the (p 234) extent of a lac or two lacs of rupees on your satisfying yourself that it will be faithfully and judiciously applied to the purposes of the grant. The object of the Rana's personal character can only be corrected by his being induced to place his confidence in a minister of capacity and integrity, having at heart the welfare of his prince and his country and disposed to act in concert with the British Government in its views for the public benefit. You are aware of the strong objections that exist to any thing (p 235) like systematic interference in the affairs of the Rana's government which is equally by the treaty and by general considerations of policy. In this actual state of the court of Oudeepoor some more active interposition on your part than would be justifiable in a more wholesome condition of affairs, may not only be excusable, but actually indispensable for the success of the measures in view. All such interventions must be exercised with the utmost moderation, caution and discretion, and in the form of private advice not of authority. It (p 236) will be your endeavour to conciliate the confidence of the Rajah and his ministers and lead them to seek your counsel and assistance rather than make it necessary for you to offer it uninvited; and this will be best effected by your making your ~~exhortations~~ expositions to them display their own fundamental interest instead of any concern of ours to be advanced by enforcement of engagement. The Governor General reposes great reliance on your judgement, address and conciliatory spirit for accomplishing this desirable object, and for a just enlightened (p 237) discretion of the influence you may acquire.

11. The employment of the name and authority of the Rana to their utmost extent in promoting the suppression of the ~~frauds~~ predatory habits among those who recognize his superiority is an object of great importance. The whole of this question is one to which the attention of the Governor General is sedulously directed and it will form the subject of early instructions.

Camp Purser, March 26, 1818

I have &c

J. Adam, Secretary to Government.

IOR: Board's Collections: Vol 1104: No 29702: pp191-210 and pp 230-40  
Cons (No 22..) 15.5.1818.



23. ... There are four grand officers of state. (p 292):

First: The Purdhan or premier,

Second: The Buxshee- details of the troops,

Third: The Poorutnama- keeper of records,

Fourth: The Sukhoie- conducts foreign affairs and puts the seal to documents.

These have each four secretaries, but they, as well as many of the officers are now nominal, and the appointment to the Purdhan (Seolall) alone is filled up, and that temporarily, and by a man of very slender abilities and of no influence whatever.

24. There is another man (p 295) Sheerjee Mehta, who holds no official situation except to the younger prince whose estate he manages, and with whom I have but once entered ~~into~~ on business. I judge ~~him~~ better of him than of any of the others ...

46. This district (Koomulmair ?) consists of narrow contiguous parallel villages, with streams flowing through them, the cultivated spots being so many strips (steps?) supported in many places by ramparts loosely constructed and requiring constant labor to keep in repair. The base of these valleys seldom exceed 100 yards in breadth, but the soil is fertile and (p 324) water at hand throughout, hamlets are thickly scattered, peopled by Rajpoots now become perfect Bhoomeas, and as unwarlike as the common cultivating classes who mix with them. The cultivation of the present Fusil is understood likely to produce in all about 30,000 Rs to the Rana, and from all the information I have been able to collect Jesswant Rao's collection amounted to one lack of rupees. In the statement of my memoir, I believe I assumed 3 lacks as the amount, but (p 325) in my letter from Rowtah of the 27th January, 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> I said had been received. This included the duties in former times as merchandize which passed between Marwar and Meywar, which were collected at Koomulmair, chiefly on the salt of the western lakes of Marwar, which was carried to all parts, and sold under the universal name of Sambhur. Opium of Malwa and Kotah which supplied Mahwa(?), and cloths of Khandesh and Malwah, and other produce exported to Pally. The aggregate amount was consequently great, the present (p 326) value therefore to the Rana of Koomulmair cannot be estimated higher than 80 (thousand ?) Rs, and what may be ultimately expected, from 3 to 4 lacs, with increasing industry and population, and revived commerce.

IOR:Board's Collections:Vol 1104:No 29702:pp 260-3 : Sent to Ochterlony on (pp 241-60) 9.5.1818 by Government.

C.T. METCALFE, S.cretary to Government to J.Tod : 12.6.1819  
(Extract)

7. It seems from your despatch that you recommend an alteration of the existing agreement regarding tribute by the substitution of 5/16 on the whole revenue, in lieu of the 4/16 at present stipulated on different parts of it.

8. The Governor General in Council, however, would not wish to agitate the question of an alteration, unless embarrassments which are not anticipated should actually arise in the execution of the existing arrangement.

IOR:Board's Collections: Vol 1105: No 29074: pp <sup>704</sup>



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The lavish and unwise prodigality with which the chiefs of these states diminished their revenues, in gifts of their best lands and other resources to the different religious orders, and in which we have the most obvious exposition of their decline has trenched (?) deeply on this particular branch, & either by gifts of portions of the collections (p 208) of particular stations to chiefs, or reduction of the rates to the great carriers of the Rajpoot states, the Charans and Bhats. At some stations they pay only half, at others a third of what is levied from other carriers; indeed it may be said that they pay only what they please, for whenever opposition is made to their will they are sure to overcome by having recourse to the dagger on themselves. The wounds they inflict on themselves are in proportion to the provocation (p 209) or object to be gained, from a common gash on the fleshy part of the arm to a death blow. In Rana Umur Sing's time, on this very account, the Bhats made a grand sacrifice at the palace, but being rather a stern character and free from prejudices he banished the whole fraternity his dominions, and thus recovered 84 villages they held free. Descendants of these Bhats came back on the proclamations, and soon proceeded to obtain their ancient immunities, by their old method, and fairly put the Rana in restraint and alarm, and he was actually compelled to beg I would release him, by telling them I would not admit of his submitting to their demands. This I effected by inviting them to come to me to try their arts, and if they committed any extravagances, I should have recourse to Umur Sing's punishment. They obtained two of their old villages and exemption of duties for 500 bullocks. It was necessary to do something to please them, as they had 40,000 ready to pass from Malwa and Boonelkhund (p 211) through Meywar and Marwar with grain, and to return with salt.

/(p 210)

30. The grand and indeed only drawback to the restoration of Meywar, is in the weakness of the Rana's personal character. ...

Its effects were most disagreeable to me, in seeing them able to appropriate to themselves, many of the best Khalisa lands and to an amount far beyond what it had ever been customary to bestow on the individuals of this branch of the household. They were also the medium of others receiving lands and villages, and I used to receive daily private reports of every village thus disposed of. Here I could interfere, and it became my duty to do so, (p 216) as well for His Highness's benefit as that our own interests might not suffer, the these I never mentioned, but placed my anxiety on the score of his alone. ...

... (p 218) ... I also endeavoured to awaken his pride and ambition, by telling him he thus deprived himself of the means of restoring those outward emblems of rank and state, of which his enemies had deprived him, and that it was proper he should think of restoring that splendour of appearance so befitting his House as the first in dignity in Rajiwara (?). I also said it was from this system alone that this dignity had impaired, that (p 219) this was the real cause of foreign enemies having been able to subvert its authority, as well as of the resistance made to it by the omrahs at home, and in short, that he had to attribute every evil that had befallen his House, and all his personal deprivations, to this principle of his ancestors, who had thus so weakened their authority, that they could neither resist foreign invasion or domestic rebellion, and knowing this, he should take every just and favourable occasion (p 220) to reunite all lands (especially those to which direct heirs failed) to his authority. I told him I could not personally be happy till I saw all these comforts and appearances restored, as well as his real dignity and strength, and now it depended chiefly on himself. Much of this was delivered through Kishen Doss, much personally. His Highness invariably receives all I have to say with attention and kindness, is profoundly sensible of its justice, and assured me that (p 221) not a village should be given away henceforth without acquainting me, and I really believe he has been pretty steady in this last determination.



J. Tod, Political Agent, at Oudeypoor to C.T.Metcalf, Secretary to Government: 24.4.1819 (Extract)

63. Before he (Davee Chund) would accept of the office he drew out a paper of articles which he shewed me, and said he would only attempt the affairs of government on the Rana's acceptance of them; they were all much to the purpose, and I anticipated much good from the wariness of such a character (p 190) with the little anxiety he showed for the honor. The principles were:

1. The Rana's limiting and settling his expenditure,
2. That no sunnuds, grants or purwannahs should be issued without his knowledge,
3. That as Purdhan no transactions should be carried on without his knowledge,
4. That his highness should not permit inferior servants to interfere in the administration.

64. These, and several minor ones, were so proper and just that I could (p 191) not but approve of them - and the Rana having given his hearty assent, begged I would be present at conferring the office on Davee Chund. I attended accordingly.

75. In the meeting with Rawut Jowan Sing, Sherjee Mehta in the Rana's confidence, I explicitly said, that without the Rana recalling all the Khalse, from whatever quarter, and introducing one government instead of the hundred which now existed, all I could do was of no avail. That if his highness saw those things as I did, I would labour night and day for his benefit, as I (p 201) had hitherto done, though to little purpose; but that in the present system, nothing but disgraceful disorder prevailed.

82. I accordingly went, and previous to the installation addressed his highness as follows: " Rawutjee and Sherjee Mehta will have told your highness all I had to say, there are some points, though your highness treats me as one of the family, on which I cannot bring myself to speak, but of which they will have (p 205) informed you. The two chief points of which I wish to be assured from your own mouth, are a necessary regard to expenditure, and having but one authority in the country."

The Rana kindly replied, "... I agree to all, and tomorrow (p 206) I shall draw out papers which will show how eager I am to see things set fairly a going." ...



(Contd.)

J. Tod, Resident at Oodeipore, to Government (Metcalf): 24.4.1819  
(Extract)

90. The paper which His Highness had drawn out for his personal expenditure amounted to 800 rupees per day, but which has ~~risen~~ /since to 1,000 rupees. In this is included every branch of his personal expenditure, one half of which goes to the kitchen, for there has always been a royal hospitality in this House, and which the Rana is most solicitous to maintain. He likes above all things to have all his chiefs and officers and inferior dependents (p 213) supplied with their daily food from his kitchen, and there are many of the descendants of old and faithful who have no other means of support. This also includes the food for his horses and other cattle. The rest is distributed for the wardrobe, charity, sacrificial rites, allowance to decayed chiefs, Charuns, Bhauts, repairs of public buildings, tombs erecting &c &c and 1,000 rupees per month exclusive of what he derives from his estate to the young prince.

91. Matters were thus approaching that state preparatory to complete reformation. (p 214)

92. Independent of the reasons already assigned for wishing a general system of renting, I was convinced from what I had witnessed it was the only plan of combining the interests of the Rana, and the welfare of the ryots with the just claims of the British Government.

93. Nine tenths of the lands have been waste from 5 to 30 or more years so that it may be reckoned as land which never knew the plough.

100. From day to day I proceeded in this to the ~~examination~~ completion, when I framed from the whole the Schedule No 1 (No 2 and a copy of the records, I shall soon submit a copy of the jageerdars estates) from which, however, several deductions will I since find, take place, from the causes I mentioned of jageerdar as well as charity lands having crept in, and of many of the villages inserted in the records not (223) a trace is to be found.

112. It was shown in one instance, which was (p233) likely to be attended with the frustration of all my endeavours to extirpate that extensive system of plunder which disgraced the country and kept the ~~merchants~~ inhabitants and merchants in continual alarm for their persons and property. My early endeavours to this end had been very successful, and by the capture of a whole band of the most determined miscreants, who had committed the most atrocious murders and robberies, a dread was instilled into the minds of the most daring.

113. This party in open day had attacked, wounded (p 234) and plundered a party within a mile of the rising town of Bhilara which created great alarm. By rewards, and unceasing intelligence, a month afterwards I discovered their retreat with the chief of Umurgurh.

I obtained a letter to him from the Rana, and with one of my own sent a messenger to read it in his presence and demand their immediate surrender, which was with difficulty complied with from their pernicious ideas of the right of sanctuary, and six of the gang were conveyed to Oodeypoor and tried by the (p 235) Rana himself, and convicted on the evidence of the people robbed. They would have been capitally punished, but as I saw some aversion to it being during this illness, I recommended 7 years labor in the streets of the capital in irons.

114. It was astonishing the surprise it excited in all ranks the capture and trial of these thieves; and its good effects were great



indeed. But what was my surprise when about two months after, I heard from a Mootsuddee stationed in Mandelgurh, that the old spirit of rapine was again appearing from the (p 236) release of the prisoners who were again in their old haunts.

115. On hearing of it I went to the Rana and expressed my astonishment. He laid the blame on his sister, and said he was actually ashamed of what had taken place, but that it was done from a religious motive during his extreme illness.

I had every reason to believe a sum of money to this influence had been the cause of their enlargements, and if something was not done to do away this evil impression I clearly observed the country (p 237) would soon again be over-run. I therefore got the Umurgurh estate instantly attached, and a party sent off, and on the eighth day, I had four of the six sweeping the streets of the capital in irons; at the same time three of another party were captured carrying off the cattle from the very town of Mandlegurh, who were a few days after their capture, executed by orders sent by the Rana.

116. These examples have had the desired effect, and I may safely say no part of India has been more free (p 238) of all depredations than Meywar.

Even to the south west, where the population is entirely Bheel, it is by a similar system of measures to that pursued in Mairwarra (?) greatly got under, and will in time I trust be entirely so.

121. We advanced, however, a most important step in this meeting.

122. They brought a schedule (p 244) containing a list of pecuniary allowances to the females of the family, in lieu of lands, which were once more to be brought under the Rana's authority.

123. In the most flourishing period of the state, and during the reign of the wisest of the Rana's ancestors, the Ranees never had a greater allowance than 5000 Rs annually each, and it was not customary to let them hold lands; but at present the country was actually parcelled out amongst them with the exceptions already specified.

124. In my calculations (p 245) I made out, that for the ensuing year 1876, if the country was farmed out in the most favorable manner the total Khalsa land revenue might realize six lacs of rupees, a small sum, but in comparison with what it was a year ago, a large one, and ample, with other resources, for all the expences and dignity of the Government. Lands, and the best held by these branches of the family, were equal if cultivated to nearly two thirds of this, though producing to them not 1/5th of their value. They only tended to foster that spirit (p 246) of speculation in a numerous train of kaskoons and establishments without providing for the support of the holders, besides the other train of evils already mentioned.

125. The schedule was on the same lavish scale as might have been expected amounting in all to 15,000 Rs monthly or 1,80,000 Rs annually!! An aggregate not realized by the Rana throughout his country during the last 5 years.

126. I saw the difficulties he labored under, I was myself placed in a most delicate situation; but it was necessary to recover (p 247) these lands or drop all idea of restoring order. As this must be a monthly expenditure it was necessary to provide accordingly.

127. The transit and town duties have been accordingly set aside for this purpose, and I am sorry to say it swallows up the whole. I have been assiduous in watching this growing branch of the revenues of Meywar, and by moderate duties, and abolishing those which were vexatious, with perfect safety to the merchant, they are monthly rising in value.



(continued)

J. Tod, Political Agent, at Oodeypoor to Government : 24.4.1829  
(extract)

144. (p 268) One of the evils and the cause of many others existing here is in the total want of all privacy in discussing the measures of government. Every man in the city from the pettiest cloth seller to the Rana, discusses them as if he had a share in them, and from the Rana having been so long a stranger to all its dignities, and but wretchedly attended on, every person from the Purdhan to the Passwan who drives the flies from him, assumes the privilege of giving advice.

IOR: Board's Collections: Vol 1105: No <sup>104</sup> 29074: pp 335-334; Enclosures 335-8, 339-60.

Note: Francis Buchanan makes similar observations in his "A journey through Mysore, Canara and Malabar .." (undertaken 23.4.1800 -5.7.1801) and published in 1807. On pp 342-3 of volume I he says:

"I took an opportunity, in company with this amildar, of examining into the management of the lac insect; and for this purpose we collected all the people who follow that employment. I have always found, that the more of any class of people were assembled, the more likely I was to get just information: not that all of them spoke; some one or two men generally answered my questions; but they did it without fear of reflexions from those who might otherwise have been absent; as every one, if he chose, had an opportunity of speaking. The Hindus of all descriptions, so far as I have observed, are indeed very desirous of having every kind of business discussed in public assemblies. "



Major General Sir David Ochterlony, Bart, Resident in Malwa  
and Rajpootana to Mr Secretary Swinton, on Oodeypoor: 6.4.1823  
(Extract)

14. The honourable the Governor Generak in Council is aware of the present state of Oudeypoor from the letters I have recently transmitted. There appears less violence and bluster, but the (no ?) material change seems to have (p 2) taken place in the wishes or determination of the Rana, if these can be called his, when he is known to be the mere tool of a faction, and without any determination, and if he has wishes they are only to be at liberty to indulge his weak, foolish and prodigal expences.

15. Of Oudeypoor I could wish to say little for the present, in addition to what I had the honour to represent to Government in my Dispatch No 130 (dated 4th Sept 1822).

16. It is however satisfactory to be able to say that time and experience have convinced me, that my picture (p 3) of Meywar and of the prince, is the first and only faithful representation (@) which has been afforded to the view of Government; but when I say faithful, I do not mean to say correct, for my statement of the imbecility of the Maharana, is short of the reality, and if the late accounts at Oudeypoor may be ascribed to him, I can now add to the catalogue of imperfections, a vice I did not suspect, nor merely unjust, but wanton cruelty.

17. I have great hope of a favourable change on the arrival of Captain Cobbe, and the (p 4) introduction of something like a steady and impartial system, for I ascribe something of what has occurred there, to a seeming disinclination on the part of the late Political Agent to speak disagreeable truths and to make appeals to that intellect which he so highly praises. He began and ended his political career by universally and improvidently indulging, rather than kindly checking, his propensities to a wasteful profusion and occasionally humbled him by injudicious intermeddling, which he should not have commenced, and from which he did not find it always easy to retreat with dignity. (p 5)

18. To give my sentiments unreservedly and in a few words, I consider the late Political Agent as too much of a Rajpoot himself to deal with Rajpoots: fair exposition, probity and candour are the best weapons to oppose to obstinacy, cunning and deceit. Circumstances may prevent your gaining a single point, but your rise from every discussion with the consciousness that you have not, and need not yield a single principle.

19. I would wish to believe that our late proceedings at Jeypoor will have a most favourable effect on the Rajpoot (p 6) community. The rise, progress and termination of these disputes cannot I think fail to shew to this perverse, obstinate and suspicious race, that we contemn all paltry jealousies of what may or may not be the motives of our conduct, and proceed with the proper dignity of conscious integrity to subvert corruption and reform misrule, and leave time and experience to produce that respect and admiration which the disinterestedness of the measures can not fail to impress on a race, of all other the most alive to, and the most influenced by, a sordid selfishness. (p 7)

20. It would be less difficult to adjust the pending differences at Oudeypoor, would I feel the necessary conviction that the Purdhan is turned out merely because he will not gratify the extravagance of the prince by the sacrifice of the revenues which have been appropriated to the liquidation of his debts to the British Government by his own agreement. But he came into office so fenced on all sides by a number of articles subscribed by the Rana, and has so openly and avowedly enjoyed the support of the late Local Agent and (p 8) his locum tenens that knowing the

IOR: Board's Collections: Vol 1007: No 29707: Con 2.5.1823.

@ Emphasis in pencil



native character, I cannot feel confident he has not presumed on it, to render his refusals more unpalatable than decorum required, and that there may not also be just grounds for the defalcations and exactions of which they accuse him.

(21. Captain Cobbe has been represented to assure the Rana he came without any predilections or prejudices, and that if the ~~Ranik~~ Purdhan has abused his trust, he shall not interfere to prevent his punishment; but if his dismissal is not demanded by misconduct, (p 9) and is only sought by the Rana to indulge a personal dislike, we shall think it an improper exercise of authority and in direct violation of promises given of his nomination to office. But still our reluctance to interfere in internal details will induce us to waive all discussion of that nature and all we shall require is that, whatever minister is appointed shall give us a security of the most satisfactory nature, that the heavy debt due by the Rana is liquidated by regular instalments, and that (p 10) the current tribute is regularly paid as it becomes due.

22. I have suffered much lately from ill health but if it improves and I do not find it both improvident and improper to carry it into effect, my intention is to proceed to Neemuch about the end of this or the beginning of the next month, and from thence, if necessary I can make a night's run by dawk to Oudeypoor should Captain Cobbe think my presence would answer any good or useful purpose.

Capt Cobbe to Ochterloney 17.9.1823  
(Extract)

Sir

The Rana has expressed (p 55) to me his earnest wish that after the Dussaira the Koonwar should make a tour of inspection through Meywar accompanied by me. I feel desirous of obtaining the knowledge with which it would furnish me, and I am of opinion that thrown into such immediate and constant contact with this ill-disposed youngman, I might be enabled to acquire some personal influence and ascendancy over him, which may hereafter be useful. As the consolidated allowance granted me is stated expressly to cover all expences of establishment, (p 56) camp, equipage &c I cannot of course solicit the consideration of Government towards the extra expence to which a tour of three or four months will put me, but as my allowance is by no means calculated to enable me at all times to keep a supply of cattle for this purpose in a country where grain and servants are exorbitantly dear, and as no kind of carriage is procurable for hire, I hope I shall not be thought asking too much in requesting to be allowed to indent on the Commissariat at Neemuch or Nuseerabad (p 57) for the carriage I may require, ... (also additional sowars)... (ends p 59).

Government to Ochterloney: 2410.1823

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of the 23rd ultimo, submitting a copy of a letter from the Political Agent at Oudeypoor, dated the 17th of that month, and to acquaint you in reply, that the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council entirely concurs with you in the expediency of Captain Cobbe accompanying the Koonwar on his intended tour of inspection through Meywar.

2. You are accordingly authorized to supply Captain Cobbe with the camp equipage and carriage cattle required by him, if they can be spared from the public service, and with (p 61) an additional party of 20 or 24 sowars, to be returned to their corps on completion of the tour. I have &c G. Swinton, secretary to Government.

Fort William, 24th October 1823.

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5. I considered this a fair opportunity for taking on myself a more active share in the management of the pergunnahs, nominally set aside for our security and after endless efforts to reduce their superfluous expenditure and meeting with every of underhand opposition from the minister and his adherents I succeeded in farming the whole of them on good security for three years at an increasing rent (the particulars of each lease with the arrangement of the kists (p 246) will be found in statement No 1). I insisted on a rising rent instead of an average one, as the maximum of the present lease will ofcourse form the basis of any future one. I could have obtained more favourable terms had I foregone my right of interference in all cases of dispute with ryots, or had I not stipulated that no remission should be made (as has been usual) for failure of crops, bad seasons &c. I thought it however better to secure a fair sum without chance of failure in preference (p 247) to a large nominal amount of which I might have been disappointed.

11. ... The mode of collection remains for the most part as I found it. The usages of Meywar allotted one third of the produce in kind to the sovereign, and an annual fine under the name of Berar, was levied on each village in proportion to its supposed capabilities. Such a system in the hands of the Rana's Kamdars, without proper checks, would only tend to encourage partiality and oppression towards the ryots, and spoliation of the revenue, with little chance of detection. This appears to have attracted Captain Tod's (p 273) attention at an early period and induced him to alter the whole system of collection, receiving on the part of the Rana one half of the produce in kind, abolishing the Berar entirely. This certainly simplified the collection, prevented in some degree the former oppressions, and enabled the Agent to ascertain with sufficient exactness the actual amount of revenue realized. But in some material points this arrangement was at least as objectionable as the former inasmuch as the burthen which by the abolition of the Berar was removed from (p 274) the trading, handicrafts, and manufacturing parts of the community was by the additional assessment in kind, nearly doubled on the cultivators, the very class it was most desirable to encourage and spare. As might have been foreseen, the husbandmen in some of the pergunnahs have betaken themselves to other occupations.

12. Amongst a people strongly prejudiced in favour of their ancient usages it will in most cases be found advisable, rather to improve the customs, and bend them to your purpose, than attempt (p 275) to substitute others, even if superior. This would have induced me to revert to the former mode of collection, had I not felt too diffident of my own acquaintance with the subject to venture on a change in the system established by Captain Tod, doubtless on good grounds. I have nevertheless yielded to the reiterated petitions of the inhabitants of the pergunnah of Hoorlah and consented for this year to revert to the former usage. I propose fixing the Berar by a committee formed from the heads of each village, a deputy from myself and the (p 276) local Kamdar of the Rana. As this has been done merely on the ground of relieving the agriculturists, during the present dreadful scarcity, it binds me to nothing beyond the present season. The result will be submitted in my next report when the plan can either be abandoned or renewed.

15. In order to avoid occupying the time of Government by a second dispatch, I shall endeavour to submit (p 288) all my little experience furnishes, respecting the chiefs and feudatories of the Rana, as briefly as possible. Should I be guilty of repetition it will arise from my ignorance of how far the Government is



informed of their relative situation to the Rana. The chiefs are into three classes, the first consisting of the sixteen most powerful heads of families, the second of thirty two Thakoors and the third of the descendants of the other classes who have settled themselves in the small villages set aside for their maintenance. (p 289) All these classes are bound to provide for the service of the state a certain amount of Horse and Foot, in proportion to the value of their Jageers. The right of the sovereign to resume these lands has always been distinctly recognised and on the decease of a chief his Jageer is formally taken possession of by the Rana until the heir has paid the usual Nuzzurana and received his investiture. In short it much resembles the renewal of a bishop's lease in Ireland. This form of government nearly assimilates with that (p 290) called the feudal and has all the vices of that system in addition to those arising from the natural disposition of Rajpoots; the prince who has no regular force is on the moment of invasion, deserted by his feudatories who have each their own possessions to defend. Nor is he ever able to punish a disobedience to which every one is a party, and as each chief has from two to ten wives, they are so intermarried and connected with each other, that no dependence could be placed on their (p 291) exertions against their relations. Such a machine could not work well or long, and under a head and hand so weak as the present Rana's the ruin of the country was inevitable. Even in better times the feelings of the chiefs and their line of conduct during the time of the disturbances of the last fifty years I cannot better explain than in the words of Rawat Hameer Sing of Budaiser, a man of some notoriety, when speaking to me of his being abused as a plunderer, "Meywar was then divided into two classes: the plunderers, and the plundered. (p 292) I should have been content to abstain from robbing if I could have secured my own exemption from being robbed. To defend myself I was obliged to keep more men than I could maintain; to feed them I was compelled to plunder my weaker or less courageous neighbours, and the Khalsa of the Rana being the least protected was my most frequent prey. Besides he is our father and should feed us, but now I am ensured in the enjoyment of my own property I have no wish to interfere with that of others." As habits are not however so (p 293) rapidly changed the latter part of this declaration may be cautiously received. On Captain Tod's arrival the whole of the chiefs were summoned to the Durbar and a mutual agreement contracted between them and the Rana, a copy of which is appended marked No 2.

Private Letter from Capt Cobbe to the Resident in Malwa and Rajpootana (Ochterloney): dated 20th February 1825  
(Extract)

The accompanying has already become so bulky that I feel unwilling to ~~hurther~~ lengthen it; (p 334) still as it does not appear a fair or very clear exposition I trouble you with a few lines in a less formal shape. The entire failure of rain destroyed the Kharif (?) crop in toto, the frost has since killed all the grain, and the blight filled ears of wheat and barley, give me a lamentable prospect for the Rabbee. The cattle are dying in numbers for want of fodder and the wells even in the valley are already failing. Reports of failures have during former seasons been so often made to Government, that real and extreme as the distress (p 335) is I feel ashamed to report it, lest I be suspected of attributing to the season the fruits of my own mismanagement. The tribute of Government and instalment, being secured, will be collected with exception to the amount of the benter's of duties defalcation, and the sum so unjustifiably usurped at Jawund (?), as reported on the 7th November. But the sufferings of the ryets will be very severe indeed, and already are their children exposed for sale. Never did the improvidence of former years appear so strikingly as at present when a



moderate sum of ready money (p 336) applied to the repairs of tanks, wells &c would save thousands from starvation by giving them employment, besides ensuring a considerable increase of revenue hereafter. It is right you should know it was not in consequence of any leniency or remission to the ryots that the payment of the tribute was withheld; the revenue was collected to the last anna, nor was a single bund, road, well, or other public work either constructed or repaired by the Rana's Government during these years.

With respect to the employment of a treasurer, I should state (p 337) that the banker is apparently conferring a favour on me by collecting the tribute and the keeping the accounts of it, whilst from it he derives not only a heavy pecuniary profit, but a degree of influence very inconvenient at times ...

Government to Ochterloney: 29.4.1825  
(Extract)

6. The Governor General in Council concurs in opinion with the Political Agent that, adverting to the expectations held out at the period of the negotiations of the Oudeypore treaty, and still more to the extreme misery and depopulation which that country had experienced, the frequent partial failures of the crops subsequent to 1818, and the peculiarly heavy defalcations of the present year, considerations of humanity and sound policy equally suggest the adoption of the most lenient and liberal course in adjusting our demands (357) of tribute from Meywar. The Governor General in Council therefore authorizes you to continue until further orders, the demand for tribute at the existing rate of 4 annas, which is understood to yield about three lacs in an average year season. It is not considered necessary to fix the precise period to which this indulgence shall extend, nor, on the other hand, it is proposed, that at any rate it shall exceed the term of the reigning prince's life. Government observes further that in consideration of the late scarcity and failure of crops, every practicable degree (p 358) of indulgence must be extended to the ryots, both in the reserved pergunnahs, and in the Khalsa generally, in the way of remissions and suspensions, and his lordship in council will be prepared to make a large sacrifice of the tribute of the current year provided you can so arrange as that the benefit of that relinquishment shall reach to the cultivators. It appears very necessary also that to provide in some degree against future calamity, pecuniary assistance should be afforded to the government and the cultivators (p 359) for the repairing of tanks and wells, and Government would propose instead of relinquishing absolutely any part of the debt due by the state of Oudeypore to the British Government, as suggested by Captain Cobbe, to appropriate a portion of the instalments realized on that account, to the above beneficial purposes. Any distinct suggestion which Captain Cobbe may find on this intimation, accompanied with estimates of expence, will receive due attention from Government. Independent moreover of the above extraordinary aid, it is desirable, that the repair (p 360) or construction of public works calculated to extend and improve cultivation in Meywar, should be, at all times, properly looked after; the expences of course to be charged on the public revenues both of the reserved Pergunnahs and the Rana's Khalsa lands.

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Capt Cobbe, Political Agent, Oodeypoor to Resident at Dehlee: 11.3.18  
(Extract) 28.

4. Jehauzpoor is one of the pergunnahs, the proceeds of which were assigned to cover the tribute. It was by far (p 397) the most flourishing and productive in Meywar. It was made over to the uncontrolled management of the Rana's officers in January 1827. I beg to refer to Capt Sutherland's minute report of it two months previous to the transfer; it is impossible to imagine a greater contrast than is presented by its present condition.

5. I informed the minister that nothing but an extreme emergency ever induced the Government to ~~employ~~ employ its troops in the territories of its allies, and that I considered the present case as the very last which could authorize such a step. On the Rana's assurances of (p 398) his ability and inclination to manage his country without help, and fulfil his engagements, all securities had been given up to him. In twelve months an extensive pergunnah had been reduced from a state of almost unequalled prosperity to utter ruin, whilst the other districts were rapidly following the same course; I stated my conviction that Government would receive with much disappointment, if not displeasure such manifest proofs of his highness's Government, and the incapacity of his servants, and whose errors were evidently not those of judgement alone. I advised his immediately making a candid statement (p 399) of affairs to the Koonwur, in order to concert measures for the immediate suppression of disorder so rapidly increasing, and endeavour to reconcile the Rana to such retrenchments from his personal expences as would without encroaching on the tribute, cover the deficiency of revenue and the extra subsidies required.

6. In my letter of the 20th June 1827 I reported some instances of the oppressions, then exercised and my apprehensions of the result; they have been more than verified, for the roads in every direction are now so infested, as to be impassable to unarmed travellers. The country was in a wretched (p 400) state when the present minister came into office; he is quiet, not deficient in sense, and I believe tolerably honest in his own person; but he wants both energy and talent to control the parties which fill this Durbar. I gave all the help and support I possibly could, hoping the Koonwur would through vanity do the rest. He however, has evidently considered Sheer Sing as a tool, bound to obey all his orders, without any claim to being shielded from the consequence. The Prince's Khandar (?) who formerly managed his affairs, and kept him within bounds, has been long dying. This (p 401) check removed, the Koonwur has in a few short months continued to do away every favorable impression formerly entertained and render himself and protege objects of any thing but respect or regard. I shall shortly have to resume this subject as I do not conceive it possible Sheer Sing can maintain his post two months longer.

I have &c , F.A. (?) Cobbe, Political Agent.  
Oodeypoor, 11th March 1828.

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Acting  
Capt Sutherland, Political Agent, Oudeypoor to Sir C. Metcalfe,  
Resident at Dehlee, Agent to the Governor General for the Affairs  
of Rajpootana: (Revenue Report on Jehazpoor): dated 1.12.1826

Sir,

In pursuance of the intention expressed in my letter of the 12th ultimo I proceeded to Jehazpoor and I have now the honour to submit a return of the various heads under which collections were made in that district last year and would (p ) have added to this the amount of each year's collections since the district has been under our charge, but the records containing the information are in Oudeypoor.

2. It is necessary that in addition to the return I should afford some information of the revenue system which altho in most respects similar to that of other parts of India is in some different, and in all the most essential parts simple and perfect. It appears to me to have in it a good deal of the original Hindoo system, vitiated by (p ) later Governments, and I intrude on this subject the more unreservedly, because it is necessarily one of the first importance, and ~~is~~ because I believe that such information from whatever quarter is received with interest.

3. The two principal heads of collection in each harvest are the Mupte and Koote. The ~~first~~ former is a tax on produce without any further reference to soil than that a particular description of produce requires a certain quality of soil. The latter is the share of grain to which the Government is entitled. (p )

4. The Beega is seventy five cubits square, and the Beega of tobacco or any description of garden stuff is taxed at Rs 3-4 $\frac{1}{2}$  as. The Beega of wheat, gram or barley at Rs 2- 12. The Beega of cotton, Indian corn, Kupocam (?) (a die) at Rs 2-4 $\frac{3}{4}$ . Cheaper, and inferior articles of produce, requiring inferior soils, or grown at a great distance from the village are taxed at a lower rate or from Rs 1-8 down to eight annas. The rupee is worth only from 11 to 12 annas in comparison with the Sonat. The Mupte (p ) or measurement seems to take place in each harvest and the tax is the same whether the crops are good or bad, but if they have failed altogether the tax is altogether remitted.

5. The Koote is the division of crops: from each maund or forty seers of produce, fifteen seers are set aside. Of these government takes five seers and the remaining ten go to pay the village officers (Bara Buloota). The remaining twenty five seers are divided whatever the description of produce, one third to the government and two third as to the cultivator. (p ) Thus Government gets one third of the whole.

6. I conclude that the Mupte and the Koote are very nearly equal as to the government's and the cultivator's share, as the cultivator seems to take either indifferently and my calculations have been made on this supposition.

7. Bunnia and Bramin cultivators give only one fourth because they do not labour with their own hands. The quantity of ground which they cultivate is very limited, but the system is naturally offensive to the more industrious ryot.

8. So far the system is beautiful and would in the original form be very favourable to the people but there follows as will be seen by the return, a string of taxes imposed at different times by different governments which are answered according to their extent by an additional tax of forty six, or eight annas on each rupee of the Mupte and Koote. But as these rates whether at the original or extra scale of assessment are apparently defined

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altho perhaps varying in every district. The revenue affairs of this (p ) country are placed in a very manageable form.

9. The Mupte and Koota being last year thirty three  $\frac{3}{10}$  per cent, it required an addition of  $30 - \frac{6}{20}$  per cent to answer the demand of Government, and in an ordinary year an additional  $17 - \frac{4}{10}$  is required or in all  $50 - \frac{7}{10}$ th per cent.

10. The two taxes which last year fell most heavily on the people were Trisala and M Nuzerana. The former is a tax levied every third year, and has no limit. In an ordinary case it necessarily trenches on the capital accumulated in the (p ) two former years, and in an extraordinary one might be made to sweep away all the agricultural capital of a district. The latter is a tax levied on occasions of marriage or rejoicing in the Rana's family and like the other is without limit. Jahazpoor was alone of all the Rana's country subjected to this tax last year. It was injudiciously levied in the same year with the Trisala, and I believe without the Agent's sanction. Both these taxes are however made to fall as much as possible on Potails and Enamdars.

11. I did not in one single instance get hold (p ) of the village accounts of daily receipts and disbursements, and I feared to take any measure to force their production. Our manager and the government officers pretend that they have never been produced. The potails have usurped the office of putwaree, and there are no district zemindars.

12. I had however many tests by which to satisfy myself that the amount shown is that which was collected by the officers of Government.

13. I must notice that a great deal of the information contained in the (p ) return is Capt Black's. The interest which that gentleman evinces in whatever concerns the prosperity and comfort of the people leads most of them to his tent instead of mine, a preference honourable to himself and which I shall not venture to disturb.

14. The only alteration which I have made in the management of Jahazpoor is discontinuing the agency of money lenders. Hitherto the officers of government have received the amount fixed on each village in half yearly payments from this class, who have been allowed to make their collections either in money or in kind (p ) from the people charging two per cent on the transaction if the money were paid when due, and consequently receiving this per centage on the whole amount collected, and two per cent per mensem ~~xxx~~ on/arrears. The collections will now be made without any /all increase of charge by the government officers directly from the cultivators, and in payments corresponding with their returns on the sale of produce.

15. In other respects I consider the management of ~~xx~~our Agent, Chand Khan very creditable to him. His mild system in the last year (p ) is the more appreciated by the people from following that of a person in whose hands the district had unhappily been for eighteen months before, and whose infamous conduct more deserves punishment from the Rana's Government than any public delinquent of whom I have lately heard.

16. The expence of establishment and sebandee in this district is from sixteen to eighteen thousand rupees a year, exclusive of Rs 3000 paid to the manager by us, or from 13 to 15 per cent on the collections. In addition (p ) to the Rs 55,224 were last year spent in the district in maintaining a body of troops. Some part of the district are hilly, inhabited by Meenas, and of some strength, and being on the Boondie frontier the permanent service of one hundred disposable men will be necessary to maintain tranquility to both countries. There will be besides these, 160



sebundies and about the same number of Jageerdar tropps and the remainder I intend to hold available for service in the (p ) Bheel hills.

17. I shall not feel myself at liberty to enter on so minute an enquiry in the other reserved districts, altho farmed to a dependent of our own, for I am not sure that I have a right to enquire into the management of a farmer unless there are complaints that he deprives the people of their just rights.

18. I do not immediately see the utility of holding those districts in reserve. The whole of the Maharana's country and of his revenue is really answerable for our (p ) tribute and equally entitled to whatever protection we may see fit to extend to it. If acting on my own judgement I would place all on the same footing. We do now in fact exercise the same authority and controul throughout, and the less our native agents have to say to the collection of revenue the more to our honour.

19. It had been customary also to reserve the customs for the payment either of arrears or of current tribute. The lease had expired when Captain Cobbe left, and he had not renewed it. I have begged (p ) the minister to make his own settlement, and he has I understand rented it for the same sum to some retainer of his own, as we formerly did to the priest of Natdwara, taking security for its payment by monthly instalments. I conceive that the whole revenue of the country should go into the Rana's treasury without going through any intermediate agent of ours; if his minister be corrupt it rests with his highness to correct him. At all events, it will be more easy and satisfactory for the Agent to inform the Ranah of the amount to which (p ) he is entitled than to check the minister and himself insure its payment, and the regular payment of our tribute may be easily regulated. The Government is in its finances more prosperous than most other governments of India. A month hence it will owe no debt except to our Government for which it pays no interest. That debt is only five or six lacs and to meet it there is a surplus revenue of three.

20. There is a large class of persons in the country who left it in disturbed times and who returned with the return of (p ) quiet which the termination of last Maratta war gave to India. They were invited to do so by us and consider themselves and their property under our guarantee. If so, that guarantee must have a limit. They still confidently appeal to it, but I cannot imagine that they are more entitled to protection than others or that they are to enjoy a monopoly of protection.

21. It appears to me at this short period of my experience that there is a very vitiated tone in the officers of the Ranah's Government from the minister downwards. The people have no hope of (p ) gaining redress or justice at their hands, and the Agent, instead of being a superintending, is an executive authority, in all the minute of interference. If the Agent interfere at all, it is necessary that he should be able to fix responsibility on the agents employed by the Ranah's Government. That they should be made to suffer for their misdeeds and that they should be raised to responsibility rather than depressed by the influence of such as our badged servants, who until committed themselves, as they immediately are by receiving bribes, actually controul the (p ) others.

22. To establish this system it will however be necessary that the Agent be constantly in motion through the districts, and whilst I may be here I intend to exercise myself the duties on which they hitherto been employed.

23. A very great evil is the employment <sup>by</sup> ~~of~~ the minister of his



own relations in all places of power and profit. There seem to be hardly any officers that can be considered those of the state. Others rise and fall with the minister of the day, and (p) his frequent removal occasions constant change and confusion. It is so the more necessary that their conduct should be constantly watched, whilst it is of course more difficult to controul them.

24. The undefined amount of the Trisala or three yearly tax, and that indiscriminate Geonagaree or fine for all offences real or imaginary, criminal or civil, which goes to the benefit of those for whom they are levied, seem to me the great evils under which the people labour.

25. These prominent evils are so well known as common to all vitiated native governments that it is unnecessary at this period of our experience to (p) enlarge on them. It is impossible that any country in which they prevail can prosper and fear that they are yet to be checked in the Oudeypoor territory. If they are to be checked by the Agent he must necessarily have the support and countenance of his Government in doing so,

I have &c

Camp  
1 December 1826

J. Sutherland  
Acting Political Agent.

STATEMENT	<u>Rs</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Mapte & Koote: or one third of the whole produce given (to) Government	48,937	33-33-0
Extra Charges including Nuzerana & Trisala	31,884	21-69-0
One half of the sum levied indifferently on agriculturists and others	12,266	8-96-0
<b>TOTAL Rs and % from cultivators in S.1882</b>	<u>93,087</u>	<u>63-98-0</u>
DEDUCT		
Huzurena	14,254- 971)	
Trisala	7,800- 531)	
	<u>22,054</u>	<u>15-02-0</u>
	71,033	48-96-0
ADD		
One third of the Trisala or three yearly tax	<u>2,600</u>	<u>1-77-0</u>
<b>TOTAL Government Share in money and % in an ordinary year from the cultivators</b>	<b>73,633</b>	<b>50-73-0</b>

( J. Sutherland, Pol Agent)

(p: two pages after foregoing and foallowing detailed statement)

a,	48,937	the third of the produce is	33-33	percent
b.	31,884	Do indifferently on agri- culturists and others )	21-69	"
c.	12,266	Half of what is indifferently on ) cultivators and others	8-96	"
c.	12,266	Half of Ditto	8-96	Total % taken from the cul- tivators
d.	8,625	On Persons not cultivators	<u>5-87</u>	
		Total % from those not out ) agriculturists)	14-83	

( J. Sutherland, Pol Agent)

Note: Metcalfe in his letter of 8.12.1826 concurs with the views of the Acting Political Agent.



Capt Stewart, Political Agent at Jeypoor to Government: 26.11.1821  
(Extract)

Sir,

In consequence of the delay of the Durbar in furnishing me with a satisfactory account of the lands held in Tunkha, Jageer &c I have not been able until now to transmit a statement of the settlement of the revenue which has been made. The following documents which I have now the honour to submit will, I trust, convey to his excellency the Governor General in Council a tolerably (p 17) correct notion of the revenues of this state.

First settlement of the Khalsa lands &c for three years as it has now been made.

Second Statement of the lands held in Tunkha, or for the payment of the salaries of the officers of Government &c.

Third Statement of the lands held in Jageer by the different Thakoors of the state for the maintenance of horse for the service of the Government.

Fourth Statement of the lands granted for religious and charitable purposes.

Fifth Abstract of the above statements. (p 18)

On each of these documents it is necessary to make a few observations.

2. With regard to the first statement his lordship in Council is already aware of the unfavorable circumstances under which the settlement was made. I did all in my power to inspire such of the farmers as made a reference to me with confidence, that the terms of the engagement would not be violated. But it is not to be supposed that men who have for a series of years been accustomed to a system of violence, oppression and corruption (p 19) should believe it possible that an end could be put at once to such a system. Besides, though the farmers often suffered injustice, yet it more frequently happened that a corrupt bargain was made between them and the ministers and Mootsuddies of the Durbar to defraud the Government, first by obtaining the lands at an under valuation, and, secondly, by obtaining remissions of the rent on pretence of a failure of the crops and c.

The greater part of the farmers who have rented the lands for three years, have, I am convinced, taken them under the supposition (p 20) that the same practices would continue to prevail. Hence many of the pegunnahs are rented much under the full value. If the farmers alone benefit by this, the present loss of revenue to the Government will be of little importance compared to the advantages which it may expect to derive at the next settlement, from the confidence of security with which the circumstance will inspire the farmers. But that the ministers and Mootsuddies of the Durbar will participate in these profits, notwithstanding the utmost vigilance of any British Agent stationed here, I have no doubt. Still, (p 21) however, the knowledge that an appeal now lies to British authority against any undue demands will, I trust, operate as a salutary check on the ministers, and by degrees inspire the farmers with confidence sufficient to induce them to resist such demands altogether.

unjust

3. ... I have discovered one of the ~~urgent~~/sources of emoluments to the Mootsuddies. This is a sum of money under the name of "Warisee" paid by each farmer (p 22) to the person through whose interest he is supposed to have obtained the lease. ... The amount of the whole of the Khalsa lands cannot be less than half a lac of rupees. Other similar and more corrupt sources of (p 23) emolument will I doubt not by degrees come to light.

10. I have only further to observe, with regard to the Khalsa lands that the rent of them, as given in the statement, is the net amount

IOR: Board's Collections: Vol 1091: No 29676: pp16-60; Encl 61-75.



paid into the treasury at the capital (p 32) in the best Jyepoor rupees, which are somewhat better than Sonauts, and altogether independent of the expences of collection, pay of sebundies, and all the other ordinary expences of the pergunnahs. The amount of these expences is, on the average, about 15 or 16 percent on the collections.

11. With regard to to statement No 2, of the lands held in Tunkha, it will be observed, in the first place, that the amount ~~of~~ which for these lands are granted, greatly exceeds the jumma which they actually yield. (p 33) This arises from the mode of making grants, either in Tunkha, Jageer &c, which prevails here, and is I believe peculiar to this Government. Almost all grants of this kind are over-valued, and, according to to the proportion by which the valuation exceeds the real jumma, the grants receive their name. Thus a grant, in which the estimated value is double the real jumma is called a six months grant. One in which the estimated amount is one third greater than the real jumma is called an eight months grant. (p 34) One in which the estimated amount is one fourth greater than the real jumma, is called a nine months grant, and so forth. If the estimated amount is equal to the real jumma, it is called a "Wuscolee" grant. The deduction, therefore, which is made in the statement on account of the excess of the Tunkha valuation above the real jumma, is calculated from the nature of the different grants, whether of six months, eight months, or nine months &c. But the great proportion of them is of six months, that is, of that description (p 35) in which the valuation is double the real jumma.

12. It is to be remembered, however, that this statement of the Tunkha lands is taken entirely from the records of government and not from any actual survey or examination at present, and I have reason to believe that, in this department, considerable abuses prevail. Grants have been obtained of villages in Tunkha nominally called six months, but in which the actually jumma equals, and in some cases exceeds, the estimated amount. Again, when a village is granted in Tunkha for a certain (p 36) sum, and is brought by care and cultivation to exceed that amount, the overplus should be paid to Government. But no such payments are I believe made, though there is no doubt that many of the Tunkha grants now much exceed the amount for which they were originally given.

13. I have urgently recommended to this Government to make a regular investigation into the whole of the Tunkha grants; to resume such as are not held by any proper tenure; and where the jumma exceeds the amount for which the Tunkha (p 37) is granted, either to resume a portion of it, or cause the overplus to be paid into the treasury.

14. It would probably be the most advantageous plan for this Government to resume all the Tunkha grants entirely, and to make the payments in money from the treasury. It is obvious that in that case the revenue of the Tunkha lands, like the Khalsa, would gradually improve in each succeeding year; whereas now they can only be estimated for the second and third years the same as for the present. But (p 38) altho as a portion of the revenues of this state, in which the British Government will eventually have a share, and consequently a right to see that they are properly managed, yet I should doubt the policy of insisting, at present, on the entire resumption of the Tunkha lands, as too great an innovation on the ancient institutions of the country. There may, however, be no good reason for not making the strictest investigation into these tenures, and correcting the abuses that exist.

15. I have considered (p 39) it is sufficient for the information of Government to give in the statement the amount of the Tunkha grants in each pergunnah, instead of giving a detailed list of the Tunkhadars, who amount to five or six hundred, many holding single villages, and some half, some one third, and some even smaller portions of a village.



16. The amount of the lands held in Jageer will no doubt appear very great in proportion to the extent of the state. But, in a kind of feudal government like this, the object is not so much to form an army of the best (p 40) and cheapest description as to give employment and subsistence to all the military retainers of the tribe.

17. The Jageer tenures in the same manner as the Tunkha are nominally for a much larger amount than the real jumma, and, in the same manner, are denominated six months grants, eight months grants &c. The highest sum granted in Jageer for the maintenance of one horse-man is 500 Rs per anum. In a six months grant consequently the sum actually realized is 250 Rs. In a nine months grant (p 41) it is 375 Rs, and so forth. Almost the whole of the Jageers are of the description called six months, or in which the nominal amount is double the real jumma. But, some of the chiefs who are more nearly connected to the reigning family or whose forefathers have performed some signal service to the state, hold jageers at the higher description of eight, at nine, and of ten months.

18. The number of Jageerdar Horse at this Government is 4,286. If the total amount of the Jageers be divided by the number of Horse, it would (p 42) appear that, on the average, about 400 Rs per anum is allowed to each horse-man. But it is to be taken that there is a personal allowance to many of the Jageerdars of a considerable amount for keeping up an elephant, Palkee &c. There are also some chiefs, such as the Thakoor of Jheelaeah (?), whose Jageers are entirely personal, and on account of which they not obliged to muster any Horse. ... (p 43)..

19. The same abuses prevail in regard to the Jageer as in the Tunkha grants. ...

21. The lands granted for religious and charitable purposes are over-valued in the same manner as those held in Jageer and in Tunkha are, and a similar deduction from them is made to find the real jumma. With regard however, to the lands held by this tenure my information is more defective than with respect to any other description of lands belonging to this state.

22. It will be observed that I have, in the statement, given an estimated sum for the number of villages, the (p 47) accounts of which have not been received. I have further added a sum on account of detached portions of land held by this tenure, independently of the number of villages in the statement. This, in 25 of the Muhals amounts to no less than 4,10,431 Beeghas and 14 Beeswas, which I have estimated at the low rent of one rupee per Beegah. Much more land, however, is held by this tenure, the accounts of which have not been received by me, nor, indeed, by the Durbar: The Potails, Ganongoes &c of the villages doing all in their power (p 48) to conceal them.

with

23. Without wishing to interfere in the charitable or religious motives of the Government, yet I conceive it would be at least advisable to ascertain the real amount which is held by this tenure; and where lands have lapsed to the Government, but have been usurped by persons who have no right to them, (which I believe in many instances to be the case) that they should revert to the state.

26. As I have stated in a former dispatch, I calculated as great advantage to this state, and to the British Government in any future settlement of the revenues from a strict adherence to the one which has now been made. (p 52) It is supposed that the amount levied from the ryots on the Khalsa lands is generally one half more than the net rent paid to Government. I have stated that the expences of collection &c may amount to about 16 per cent, or say one sixth of the net revenue. There will remain, therefore, an



an amount nearly equal to one third of the net revenue as a profit to the farmer and their securities, or rather to be divided between these and the ministers and Mootsuddies of the Durbar. Now I conceive that, if, during the ensuing three (p 53) years, the farmers are secured in the possession of their leases, and protected as much as possible from all unjust exactions, they will naturally, in the ensuing settlement, offer nearly the full amount of the lands securing a moderate profit for themselves.

NOTE: the letter ends at para 30 on page 60 and is followed by the statements etc referred in the first para, on pages 61-75. The Government's reply approbating the report etc is on pp 76-8. The report was forwarded to Government by Ochterlony with his letter dated 4.12.1821 and precedes the report in this collection.



2. First with regard to the revenues of the country. You are aware that the three settlements of the revenue which was made soon after my arrival here totally failed, in the second year; about one third of the farmers failed in bringing forward securities for that year and the pergunnahs they held were consequently rented to others, at a reduced rate. By this operation the amount of the revenue of the Khalsa lands for Sumbut 1879, amounted ~~to~~ (p 50) only to Rs 25,90,813-9 instead of Rs 28,58,289-15, the a second year of the triennial settlement. And even of the former/sum of Rs 1,11,498-9-3 remained as yet unrecovered. For the present year 1880, it appears by the statement which has only been sent to me very (p 51) late; y, that the total amount of the Khalsa lands amount only to Rs 26,30,974-9 whereas by the triennial settlement the amount this year ought to have been Rs 30,21,098-1.

3. From these facts it it may be inferred, first that in as far as regarded the revenues of the state no very baneful influence could have been exercised by the (p 52) Zenana faction since the settlement of the present year is only about forty thousand/better /Rs than that of the last year, which was made under the influence of Jhotah Ram. In the second place it may I think be inferred that under the present system, no very rapid improvement of the revenues of the state can be expected, under any administration. There are a regular set of renters who have it in their power ~~to~~ by combining, in a great measure to defeat an attempt (p 53) on the part of Government to raise the rent of the land to its real value. When in consequence of the failure of a renter or any other cause, a pergunnah is kept in the hands of Government itself and an amil is sent thither, he invariably cheats the Government and it is sometimes several years even before the rent can be realized from him. This was exemplified in regard to Sambhur Lake, which you will perhaps ~~remember~~ recollect was two years ago retained in the hands of Government, on the plea that more would thus be made of it, than (p 53A) any renter would give. It was placed under the management of the Dewan ~~to~~ Umwaur Chand and Nonid Ram, and the consequence was, that by the accounts of those persons, much less was realized than the renters had offered for it, and even that amount has not been all recovered from the Dewans.

4. Another cause of the little progress that is made in the ~~improvement~~/of the revenues of the state is, the total /improvement ignorance of every one concerned with the Durbar, or the administration in regard to the real resources of the (p 53B) country. There is not one at the present moment who can tell the quantity of land under cultivation in any particular pergunnah, the nature of the crops, or the mode in which the produce is divided between the contractor (? Cultivator) and the government. Hence the ryots are left ~~entirely~~ in a great measure to the mercy of the renters or the amils excepting in such parts as Jaurawatttee (? ) where the strength of the country enables the ryots to resist the Government, and where consequently they pay ~~what~~ what may be called atribute rather than arrent. (p 54)

5. To remedy these evils I know of no plan (that) can be adopted which would not involve a degree of interference on the part of the British Government in the internal administration of the country, quite incompatible with the appearance even of any authority on the part of this Government. As I cannot suppose it to be the wish of Government to resort to a measure of this kind, therefore, I have been led to consider how the British Government may derive the benefit which we have (p 55) a right to expect from an alliance with this state, without bending on its authority



over its own subjects. For this purpose I know of no better plan than the one which has already occurred to you, and indeed been hinted to this Government, that is to give up the claim to five annas in the rupee on the excess of revenue above forty lacs, and to obtain in lieu of that an increase to the present tribute, and to make it permanent, although the five anna share may ultimately much exceed any amount that this Government (p 56) would at present agree to pay, above the stipulated tribute. Yet I conceive that the former plan whenever it comes to have effect must occasion such constant disputes with this Government, as would probably terminate in our being obliged to take the management of the revenues into our own hands.

61 But although on the most mature consideration I think it would be advisable to abandon the claim of the five annas in the rupee for an additional permanent tribute, (p 57) yet I would by no means on that account think it right that the Political Agent here should relax in the least his endeavours to effect an improvement of the revenues of the state, more especially during the minority of the Rajah. We are I conceive bound to protect his interest, and indeed unless we do so, I fear that instead of an increase to the tribute, this state would soon from mismanagement become incapable of paying even the stipulated tribute to the British Government.

7. Two years ago along with the revenue settlement I transmitted (p 58) a statement of the Tunkha lands of this Government, made out from the documents which your Meetsuddies had obtained from the records of the Government before my arrival. By that settlement it appearing that what is called, Tunkha amount, was about twenty lacs of rupees. Making what I thought an ample allowance for the excess of Tunkha above the real jumma, I estimated the actual amount at Rs 11,93,889-4-10. As this Durbar alleged that this (p 59) far exceeded the real amount of Tunkha grants, I urged them to give me a correct statement of the amount as it stands at the present time. A statement of this kind has now been sent to me, which makes the amount little more than three lacs of rupees. I have not yet had time to examine this statement particularly, but I am partly sware of the causes of the extraordinary difference. In the first place the amount of Tunkha grants has been taken from the statements of the Tunkhadars themselves, and in the second (p 60) place every grant, which can be construed into a Jagheer instead of a Tunkharee grant, has been carefully excluded from the present statement. Among others the whole of the grants for the support of the Zenana which alone amounts to several lacs of rupees, and which the Durbar insists are Jageers. Should the plan I have proposed for a permanent increase of the tribute be adopted it will render the discussions which must arise on this subject also unnecessary, as it will then be a matter of indifference whether the grants are Tunkharee or Jageer.

81 The Jageers granted (p 61) since the year Sumbut 1860 and which still remained unresumed have at last been sequestered, and an investigation into the right of each individual will take place, when it will be decided which shall be continued and which permanently assumed. ...

NOTE: The Tunkha amount was added to the revenue realized for calculating the additional tribute above the revenue realization of forty lacs. Hence the tussle indicated in para 7 above.

The Government appreciated Capt Stewart for this report and asked Ochterlony his views on the raising of the tribute as suggested by Stewart.

Government's letter to Ochterlony is on pp 82-5 of this Collection.



Vol I

(p 141) It appears doubtful whether the Khalsa lands amounted to one fourth of those distributed in grants to the chiefs. The value of the crown demesne as the nerve and sinew of sovereignty, was well known By the former heads of this House. ... But the lavish folly of the present prince, out of this tract, twenty five miles in circumference, has not preserved a single village in his Khalisa.

(p 142) Revenue and Rights of the Crown: ... The land tax in the Khalisa demesne is, of course, the chief source of supply; the transit duties on commerce and trade, and those of the larger towns and commercial marts, rank next. In former times more attention was paid to this important branch of income, and the produce was greater because less shackled. The liberality on the side of the crown was only equalled by the integrity of the merchant, ...

(p 143) the mines were very productive in former times, and yielded several ~~hacs~~ to the princes of Mewar. (reference to tin mines, silver, copper, iron, lead, marble quarries follows briefly)

Burrar: is an indefinite term for taxation, and is connected with the thing taxed: as ganeem-burrar 'war tax', ... (ganeem : enemy)

(p 161) In Amber the most extensive benevolence, or burrar, is on the marriage of the Raj-Cumar, or heir apparent. ...

(p 439) Rana Bheem Sing (the reigning prince) who succeeded his brother in Sumbut 1834 (AD 1778), was the fourth minor in the space of forty years ..... (Bheem Sing died in Mar-April 1828) (@)

(p 478) Such was the chaos from which order was to be evoked. .. To call them forth demanded only the exertion of moral (p 479) interference, and every other was rejected. The lawless free-booter, and even the savage Bhil, felt awed at the agency of a power never seen .. Accordingly at the mere name of the British power, rapine ceased, .. a single individual of no rank the negotiator. ...

(p 505) The feudal lands, which were then double the fiscal, did not exhibit the like improvement ...

(p 507) Religious Establishments: ... There is scarcely a state in Rajpootana in which one fifth of the soil is not assigned for the support of the temples, their ministers, the secular Brahmins, bards, and (p 508) genealogists. But the evil was not always so extensive; the abuse is of modern growth. ... In Mewar, the land in Sahsun, or religious grants, amounts in value to one-fifth of the revenue of the state, and the greater proportion of these has arisen out of the prodigal mismanagement of the last century.

(p 511) The Brahmin threatened to spill his own blood if he did not obey the command, and gave himself a gash in a limb; but the Jat was inflexible ....

(p 531) Nathdwara: ... the personal grant (App XI) to the high priest ought alone to have sufficed for his household expenditure, being twenty thousand rupees per anum, equal to £ 10,000 in Europe. But the ten thousand towns of Mewar, from each of which he levied a crown, now exist only in the old rent-roll, and the heralds of Apollo would in vain attempt to collect their tribute from two thousand villages.

James Tod: Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan, 2 vols; Pub 1829-32. @ Maharana Bheem Sing's death, (Ben Pro 2.5.1828) was reported in the Pol Letter of 8.5.1829 (para 119). It mentioned "Seven Ranees of different ranks and one favourite concubine, sacrificed themselves on the funeral pile of the deceased prince." The succession was allowed to Jeewan Singh.