

Regmi Research Series

Year 16, No. 2

Kathmandu: February 1984

Edited By

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## The Salt Trade During the Nepal-Tibet War

### 1. Suspension of Ijara

In Baisakh 1912 (April 1855) the Ijara for the collection of customs duties on Nepal-Tibet trade at Dana was suspended because such trade was dislocated by the Nepal-Tibet war. In the Vikrama year 1910 (A.D. 1853), the Ijara had yielded a revenue of Rs 29,001. Ditttha Srilal Bhatta was then deputed to Dana to collect the duties under the amanat system.

Baisakh Sudi 11, 1912 (April 1855)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 56, p. 349.

### 2. Supply of Salt

Order to the village headman and revenue functionaries of Thini and other villages in the Panchgaun area: "We had placed the Dana customs under amanat management for the Vikrama year 1911 (A.D. 1854). We have now received reports that you are offering salt to the amanat officials at higher rates than those you had charged the Ijaradar. Indeed, you have held up the supply of salt even at such higher rates. Such action on your part has reduced the amount of revenue accruing to the government, and you may be held liable to meet the loss and also duly punished. You are therefore ordered to supply salt to the Dana customs on a regular basis and obtain payment at reasonable rates".

Jestha Badi 5, 1912 (May 1855)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 56, pp 353-54.

### 3. Ban on Barter Trade with Tibet

Order to Srilal Bhatta: Captain Anbar Simha Kunwar Ranaji has reported to us that supplies of provisions to the army have been held up because you have issued orders that not a single mana of foodgrains should reach Tibetan territory. We had ordered you not to allow traders to take a single mana of foodgrains to Tibetan territory for the barter trade in salt. You have misinterpreted our order and held up supplies of provisions to the army. You are, therefore, punished with a fine of five rupees. Issue orders to traders engaged in bartering foodgrains with salt that they should purchase salt against cash payment, and not procure the commodity through barter with foodgrains. Do not allow traders to barter their foodgrains with Tibetan salt, but do not hold up supplies of foodgrains carried by the common people, or meant for the army. If you again hold up supplies of foodgrains to the army, you shall be punished under The Military Act (Jangf Ain). Use revenues collected at Dana to purchase foodgrains for the army and maintain stocks of such foodgrains.

Jestha Badi 9, 1912 (May 1855)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 56, pp. 356-57

Dittha Srilal Bhatta was ordered not to permit any foodgrains to reach Tibetan territory, but to exchange foodgrains procured for the war with salt from local traders. The order added, "We have sent you to collect customs duties at Dana on amanat basis even though Premaranjan Dami had offered to pay Rs 31,000 a year. Try your best to raise revenue in excess of this figure".

Ashadh 1, 1912 (June 14, 1855)

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 56, pp. 414-17.

#### 4. Imports of Salt from India

The dislocation of the salt trade with Tibet because of the war seems to have led to a shortage of the commodity in Kathmandu and elsewhere. In an attempt to encourage imports of salt from India, on Kartik Badi 2, 1912 (October 1855), customs authorities at Thankot and other points up to the southern frontier were ordered not to charge duty on two-thirds of supplies of salt brought from the south for trade or personal consumption. Duties on the remaining one-third were, however, to be collected at the usual rates.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 56, pp. 454-55.

(An error in the text makes it unclear whether such customs exemption applied to one-third or to two-thirds of the quantity imported).

#### 5. Smuggling of Salt

Traders who smuggled salt from Tibet without paying customs duties at Dana were punished with a fine amounting to half the value of the smuggled salt. Thakali traders, however, were punished with a fine of only one rupee and one anna each. On Chaitra Sudi 4, 1912 (March 1856), Prime Minister Jung Bahadur issued an order to Dittha Srilal Bhatta to discontinue such a discriminatory practice, and collect fines from Thakali smugglers at the same rates as from other smugglers.

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 56, p. 689.

#### Kathmahal

(Continued from the January 1984 issue)

#### New Chief of Chhatauna - Jamuni - Dwar Kathmahal

In the year 1954 (A.D. 1897), Subba Gauri Nath Padhya of the Chhatauna - Jamuni - Dwar Kathmahal in Rautahat - Bara districts was dismissed. Captain Krishna Bahadur Kanwar of the Kamala - Sarsor Kathmahal was appointed to fill up the vacancy with the rank of Naib Subba

Particulars of the employees of the Chhatauna - Jamuni - Dwar Kathmahal were as follows:

		(in Kampani Rs)
Naib Subba	-	Rs 1000 a year
(a) <u>For Chhatauna - Dwar (Rautahat)</u>		
One Mukhiya	-	Rs 500 a year
One Naib	-	Rs 200 do
Three Nausindas	-	Rs 324 do
One Subedar	-	Rs 200 do
One Hawaldar	-	Rs 60 do
One Amaldar	-	Rs 50 do
16 Peons	-	Rs 660 do
One blacksmith	-	Rs 36 do
One attendant	-	Rs 30 do
Office expenses	-	Rs 2040 (sic)
		Rs 50
		<u>Rs 2090</u>
(b) <u>For Jamuni - Dwar (Bara)</u>		
One Mukhiya	-	Rs 400 a year
One Naib	-	Rs 200 do
One Hawaldar	-	Rs 60 do
Two Nausindas	-	Rs 216 do
Ten Peons	-	Rs 40 do
One attendant	-	Rs 30 do
One blacksmith	-	Rs 36 do
Office expenses	-	Rs 1342 (sic)
		Rs 50
		<u>Rs 1392</u>

Marga 26, 1954 (December 1897)

Regmi Research Collection, Vola 71, ppa 641-49

New Chief of Banaganga - Dwar Kathmahal

The post of Chief of the Banaganga - Dwar Kathmahal in Butwal fell vacant in A.D. 1897 when Captain Bhariyabhupa Sen died. Lt. Krishna Bahadur Singh of the local Ban Janch (Forest Inspection Office) was appointed as his successor with the rank of Naib Subba. His salary was kept unchanged at Kampani Rs 833, and 10 annas, 2½ paise.

Particulars of the salary bill of the Banaganga - Dwar Kathmahal were as follows:-

		(in Kampani Rs)	
One Naib Subba	-	Rs 833-10-2½	a year
One Mukhiya	-	Rs 500	do
One Naib	-	Rs 200	do
One Subedar	-	Rs 200	do
Three Nausindas	-	Rs 324	do
One Hawaldar	-	Rs 60	do
One Amaldar	-	Rs 50	do
Twelve peons	-	Rs 480	do
One attendant	-	Rs 30	do
One blacksmith	-	Rs 36	do
Office expenses	-	Rs 50	
Total	=	<u>Rs 2763-10-2½</u>	

Magh Sudi 3, 1954 (January 1898)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 71, pp. 655-64.

Rapti Kusma Dwar, Mohana Dwar, and Mahakali Dwar Kathmahals

Similar schedules were approved on Marga Badi 9, 1954 (November 1897) for the following Kathmahals in the far western region.

- (1) Rapti - Kusma Dwar Kathmahal, Marga Badi 9, 1954 (November 1897) Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 76, pp. 477-79.
- (2) Mohana Dwar Kathmahal, Ibid, pp. 479-80.
- (3) Mahakali Dwar Kathmahal, Ibid, p. 480r
- (4) Babai Dwar Kathmahal, Ibid, pp. 480-81.

### Kathmahals in Nawalpur

In A.D. 1901, the areas of Butwal, Dang-Deukhuri, Sunsar, and Surkhet comprised a single administrative unit, with a Goswara (District Headquarters Office).

There were two Kathmahals on the Tribeni river in the Nawalpur area of this administrative district, the Sardi (Birta) Kathmahal and the Tribeni Dwar Kathmahal.

The offices of both Kathmahals were located at the same place near the banks of the Tribeni river. During the monsoon, both offices shifted to a place in the adjoining hill area.

There was a market near the offices of the Kathmahals where their employees bought food and other supplies. However, the market remained closed during the six months of the monsoon. Local jimidars were, therefore, ordered to supply provisions at current rates during that period by rotation to the employees of the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahals.

Jimidars were reluctant to comply with this order because it obliged them to transport food and other supplies to the hill camp of the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal. No such arrangements existed for the employees of the Sardi (Birta) Kathmahal.

A saw-mill had been installed near the offices of the two Kathmahals near the banks of the Tribeni river. It produced ties (sleepers) for the Indian railways for both Kathmahals.

The following orders were issued on Ashadh 10, 1958 (June 24, 1901):-

1. Employees of these Kathmahals shall not shift to their hill camp during monsoon because railway ties must be produced all the year round.
2. Food and other provisions shall be purchased in the local market so long as it remains open. After the market is closed, such provisions shall be purchased at current prices from local jimidars as designated by the Palhi Mal (Revenue Office).

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 89, pp. 1-13.

### Abolition of Tribeni Dariyaburdi Adda

Dariyaburdi means trees washed away by floods. Prime Minister Bir Shumshere appears to have opened separate offices in different areas to collect such timber for export. These offices were known as Dariyaburdi Adda (s). One of them was located on the Tribeni river in Nawalpur.

On Bhadra Sudi 12, 1955 (August 1898), Prime Minister Bir Shumshere ordered the abolition of the Tribeni Dariyaburdi Adda. The Adda had 21 employees and an annual salary bill of Kampani Rs 1,606, but it collected only 500 or 600 flood-uprooted trees a year.

The work done by the Tribeni Dariyaburdi Adda was then assigned to the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal.

For the Vikrama year 1955 (A.D. 1898-99), the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal issued a contract for the collection of dariyaburdi timber. The contractor was required to collect Sissoo, Sal and other dariyaburdi timber measuring more than 3'x20" and supply it to the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal, against payment of the expenses incurred in cutting and transportation. He was allowed to export timber of smaller sizes to India.

No individual was willing to accept the contract for the Vikrama year 1956.

The Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal, therefore, undertook the collection of dariyaburdi timber on amanat basis during that year. It collected 454 pieces of timber and sold 61 of them accordingly.

However, the Tribeni Dwar Kathmahal faced a shortage of men to do the work. The area under its jurisdiction extended over a stretch of 18 or 19 Kos along the banks of the Tribeni river, but it was not provided with additional employees to perform the work of the abolished Tribeni Dariyaburdi Adda.

On Magh Sudi 14, 1957 (January 1901), the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal submitted a petition to Prime Minister Bir Shumshere requesting an annual allocation of Kampani Rs 328 for appointing six employees to collect dariyaburdi timber. Particulars were as follows:-

		<u>In Kampani Rs</u>
1 Nausinda	-	Rs 108 a year
1 Hawaldar	-	Rs 60 do
4 peons	-	Rs 160 do
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= K</b>	<b><u>Rs 328</u></b>

In its petition, the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal also pointed out that six additional employees with a similar annual salary bill of K Rs 328 had been sanctioned for the Kosi-Pachhuwari Dwar Kathmahal when the local Dariyaburdi Adda was abolished and its functions were assigned to the Kathmahal.

In support of its request, the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal wrote, "In case timber is not collected from the banks of the river, it will be carried away, thereby causing loss of revenue to the government. The work cannot be done only with the help of Indian boatmen (maldaha). Money is needed to collect the timber from inaccessible river flats, cut it, and transport it by river with the help of Indian boatmen, who must be supplied with dadani credit".

The request of the Tribeni-Dwar Kathmahal was approved on Jestha 1958 (May 1901) by the new Prime Minister, Deva Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

Regmi Research Collection, V 1. 89, pp. 46-60.

Introduction of Paper Currency  
(Summary Translations)

Order to Sadar Mulukikhana

On Bhadra 18, 2002 (September 3, 1945), the Commander-in-Chief, Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, sent an order to the Sadar Mulukikhana (Treasury) to receive paper currency notes of the following denominations, which had been printed abroad, and credit the amount to its accounts:-

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Non of Notes</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rs. 100	45,000	Rs. 4,500,000
Rs. 10	300,000	Rs. 3,000,000
Rs. 5	600,000	Rs. 3,000,000
Total		Rs. 10,500,000

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 86, pp. 189-91.

Order to the Sadar Public Niksari

Commander-in-Chief Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana sent the following order to the Sadar Public Niksari: "A Note Bibhag Adda (Currency Department) has been created under the Sadar Mulukikhana, and arrangements have been made to introduce paper currency from Ashwin 1, 2002n (September 17, 1945). The newly-created Note Bibhag Adda will be accommodated in the Southern Wing of the Gaddi Baithak where goods of the Jinsikhana are kept. You are hereby directed to undertake necessary constructions there as directed by the Chief of the Mulukikhana, and have the necessary expenses debitted according to current regulations."

Bhadra 25, 2002 (September 10, 1945)

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 86, pp. 191-92.

Report of the Muluki Adda (Ain Sawal Phant) (Legal Section)

Approved (by Prime Minister Juddha Shumshere) on Bhadra 28, 2002 (September 13, 1945).

An order has been issued to this office by the Commander-in-Chief (Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana) to frame necessary orders and regulations regarding the introduction of a paper currency in Nepal, and also to submit proposals regarding staff for that purpose.



At present, mohar rupee coins are in circulation in our country. In recent times, there has been progress in business and commerce, hence the use of coins alone creates great difficulties. In particular, there is the danger of theft and dacoity as well as carelessness when coins have to be sent in large quantities to destinations in the hill and Tarai regions. Accordingly, the introduction of a paper currency will benefit both the government and the people. This was also the conclusion reached through discussions with persons designated for the purpose. Businessmen and other people can conclude large transactions quickly if a paper currency is introduced, thereby making it possible for them to expand their business and avoid losses. Introduction of a paper currency, therefore, appears desirable.

"We hereby submit the following recommendations for the introduction of a paper currency with effect from Aswin 1, 2002 (September 17, 1945). Appropriate orders may be sent accordingly to the Kausi Tosekhana, the Jangi Bali Talab (Military Pay Office) and other concerned offices. In addition, a public notification may be issued as follows.

1. According to an order issued on Bhadra 18, 2002 (September 3, 1945), currency notes worth Rs. 10,500,000 in denominations of Rs. 5, Rs. 10, and Rs. 100 have already been credited in a separate register at the Sadar Mulukikhana together with the serial numbers. Particulars are as follows:-

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>No. of notes</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rs. 100	45,000	Rs. 4,500,000
Rs. 10	300,000	Rs. 3,000,000
Rs. 5	600,000	Rs. 3,000,000
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rs. 10,500,000</u>

2. The Sadar Mulukikhana shall transfer the currency notes in the full amount of Rs. 10,500,000 to the Note Bibhag (Currency Department). The Note Bibhag, on its part, shall credit the amount in its accounts together with the serial number of each note. It shall retain currency notes in the amount of Rs. 2,500,000, and credit the balance of Rs. 8,000,000 in the deposit account of the Bhandarkhal Treasury. Currency notes thus deposited at the Bhandarkhal Treasury may be withdrawn for circulation, if necessary, with prior permission. Currency notes shall be kept safely in both the Note Bibhag and the Bhandarkhal Treasury.

Particulars of currency notes to be retained by the Note Bibhag are as follows:-

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>No. of notes</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rs. 100	5,000	Rs. 500,000
Rs. 10	100,000	Rs. 1,000,000
Rs. 5	200,000	Rs. 1,000,000
		<u>Rs. 2,500,000</u>

3. The Note Bibhag shall record the serial number of each note retained by it under the overall responsibility of the Chief of the Sadar Mulukikhana.

4. Currency notes retained by the Note Bibhag shall be put into circulation in the following manner:-

- (a) Amounts to be transferred from the Sadar Mulukikhana to the Kausi Tosakhana shall be half in coins and half in currency notes.
- (b) Amounts to be transferred by the Sadar Mulukikhana to the Tejarath Adda for its loan operations shall also be half in coins and half in currency notes.
- (c) Coins shall be exchanged at par with currency notes if so demanded by any person.
- (d) Currency notes which may revert to the Sadar Mulukikhana in the course of circulation may be used to transfer funds to the Kausi Tosakhana in the manner mentioned above.
- (e) The Note Bibhag shall maintain a minimum reserve of Mohar rupee coins at all times for the purpose of such exchange transactions.
- (f) While recording transactions in currency notes, other government offices shall mention the serial number of currency notes only of the denomination of Rs.100.
- (g) The office of the Note Bibhag shall be located in the Gaddi Darbar below the Sadar Mulukikhana. The Sadar Public Niksari has already been ordered to construct the office as instructed by the Chief of the Sadar Mulukikhana.
- (h) The Jinsikhana will be ordered to import four safe-type almirahs for storing coins and currency notes at the Note Bibhag. Until these are received, the safes of the Sadar Mulukikhana shall be used for the purpose.
- (i) A sum of Rs. 150 has been sanctioned for the purchase of the following pieces of furniture on the basis of the lowest bid in the presence of the Chief of the Sadar Mulukikhana:-

One table and one chair each for the Naib Subba, the Kharidar, and the Tahabil Dittha.

One table and one bench each for the Mukhiya and the Nauginda.

One carpet of the appropriate size.

(j) Accounts of exchange transactions shall be submitted to the Nepal Pahila Phant of the Kumarichok (Audit Department).

(k) The Sadar Taksar (Mint Department) has already been ordered to prepare a brass stamp inscribed with the words "Sadar Mulukikhana Note Bibhag" for the use of the Note Bibhag.

5. Because there is no time to revise military pay forms for the current year, the Jangi Bali Talab shall receive funds from the Kausi Tosakhana wholly in Mohar rupee coins. It shall then exchange half of the amount for currency notes from the Note Bibhag. Military personnel receiving a salary of six rupees or less a month shall be paid wholly in coins, while others shall be paid half in coins and half in currency notes of the denominations of Rs. 5 or Rs. 10. From the next year, a separate column shall be inserted in military pay forms for payments in currency notes.
6. Other disbursements to be made by different government offices for salaries and other expenses shall also be made half in coins and half in currency notes as far as possible.
7. The following expenses have been sanctioned for the additional work involved in the introduction of paper currency:-

1. For the Note Bibhag

		<u>Per year</u>
One Naib Subba	...	Rs. 1,200
One Tahabildar	...	Rs. 800
One Mukhiya (Accounts)	...	Rs. 400
One Tahabildar (Accounts)	...a	Rs. 200
One Nausinda	...	Rs. 144
One Sarafi	...	Rs. 120
Two peons	...	Rs. 144
One attendant	...	Rs. 48
Stationary	...	Rs. 60
		<hr/>
		Rs. 3,116 a year

2. For the Sadar Mulukikhana

	<u>Per year</u>
One Mukhiya	Rs. 360

3. For the Kausi Tosakhana

		<u>Per year</u>
One Mukhiya (Accounts)	...	Rs. 360
One Naib Writer	...	Rs. 204
One Tahabildar	...	Rs. 204
		<hr/>
		Rs. 768 a year

4. For the Jangi Bali Talab Adda

		<u>Per year</u>
One Naib Subba	...	Rs. 240
One Tahabildar	...	Rs. 180
		<hr/>
		Rs. 420 a year

5. For the Tejarath Adda

The Chief of the Tejarath Adda has represented that no additional staff is necessary for his office for functions relating to paper currency if his previous request for additional staff to perform the increased volume of work relating to the supply of bans is accepted.

8. 50,000 copies of the following public notification shall be printed and sent to all district headquarter offices as well as to the Central Police Headquarters Office (Sadar Police Goswara) in the capital to the effect that a paper currency system will be introduced from Aswin 1, 2002 (September 17, 1945).

Public Notification

So far, mohar rupee coins issued by our government have been in circulation in this country. Recent changes, however, have led to considerable progress in the field of business and commerce, but only coins are available for concluding transactions, so that large quantities of coins have to be exchanged. Moreover, there is the danger of theft, dacoity, and carelessness when sending coins to the hills and the Tarai. For all these reasons it has become difficult to work quickly, and losses are inevitable.

In these circumstances, it has been decided that both the government and the people will benefit if a paper currency is introduced. Currency notes can be exchanged at par with coins, and the currency note issue will be fully backed by a reserve of mohar rupee coins. Currency notes of the following

numbers, denominations, and value will be issued for the time being, and the numbers of notes to be issued in the future will be published in the Gorkhapatra. Government office shall accept and make payments in currency notes at par with mohar rupee coins. Any person who needs such coins, rather than currency notes, may get them in exchange for notes, at the Note Bibhag of the Sadar Mulukikhana. In case any government office or others refuse to deal in currency notes, or exchange them for coins with a premium or discount, punishment shall be inflicted at our discretion.

Particulars

<u>Serial Number</u>	<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Total Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nosr 000,001-005,000	Rs. 100	5,000	Rs. 500,000
Nos. 000,001-100,000	Rs. 10	100,000	Rs. 1,000,000
Nosr 000,001-200,000	Rs. 5	200,000	Rs. 1,000,000

9. In Customs, revenue, and other government offices and courts in the hill districts, currency notes shall be accepted and disbursed at par with mohar rupees.
10. In Nawalpur, Dang, Udayapur, Makwanpur, Chitwan, and Surkhet, where tax assessments are in mohar rupees but payments are accepted in Indian rupees, currency notes shall be accepted and disbursed at par with mohar rupees. In other Tarai districts where tax assessments are in Indian rupees, action shall be taken according to current orders and regulations.
11. Worn-out, torn, or damaged currency notes may be exchanged for new ones in case the serial number and the denomination are intact.
12. Only currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 100 may be cut into two portions in such a way that the serial number and the denomination are not cut. Currency notes of lower denominations shall not be cut into two portions in this manner.
13. In case the half-portion of currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 100 as mentioned above is lost or destroyed, payment shall be made against the other half to the extent of 50 percent only, that is, Rs. 50 for each Rs. 100 note. Six-monthly reports of such payments shall be submitted through the Ain Sawal Phant of the Muluki Adda.

Mir Subba Krishnar Bahadur

Naib Subba Indra Man Singh

Khardar Sher Man

Mukhiya Jaya Bahadur

Approved on Bhadra 28, 2002 (September 13, 1945).

Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 86, pp. 193-241.

(To be continued)

Copper and Lead Mines in  
Western Nepal

Jimidar Ujir Bahadur Hamal applied for permission to exploit mineral resources in the region east of the Bheri river up to Dang, Salyan, Pyuthan, Jajarkot, and Panchthapaula, other than the Baiskhani Mines (in the Parbat-Baglung region) in case he was granted authority to do so under the amanat system. He also offered to commute copper at Rs. 2½ a dharai. In addition, he stipulated that he would personally bear losses if any.

Ujir Bahadur Hamal's petition was referred to the Dang Mal Office for necessary inquiries. In Shrawan 1957 (July 1900), Subba Khechar Nath Upadhyaya, Chief of that office, submitted the following report:

"Losses have been incurred in the operation of mines which had been placed under the jurisdiction of Pittha Ganesh Datta Pande. Jimidar Ujir Bahadur Hamal has defaulted in the payment of revenue due from the mauja under his jurisdiction, hence it is not appropriate to give him the amanat authority he has asked for. The Baglung Mines Office (Khan Goswara) may be ordered to study whether or not the mines can be exploited with profit. Ujir Bahadur Hamal has stipulated that he will accept a salary only if at least Rs. 1,920 is raised every year. It lies at the discretion of the government whether or not to accept his offer."

The Kausi Tosakhana submitted the following report on the petition of Ujir Bahadur Hamal and the report of the Dang Mal Office:-

"Previously, the mines (mentioned in Ujir Bahadur Hamal's petition) had been operated under the amanat system, but losses were incurred. A sum of Rs. 468 was therefore, sanctioned to the Dang Mal Office to appoint necessary staff for operating these mines under contract.

"The Dang Mal Office has reported that arrears of revenue are due from Ujir Bahadur Hamal, hence it will not be appropriate to recommend that he should be granted amanat authority to operate the mines. However, the government is already spending Rs. 468 a year in making contractual arrangements for the operation of mines through the Dang Mal Office, since amanat operation through Pittha Ganesh Datta Pande had led to losses, and more losses will result if the mines are not worked. It, therefore, seems appropriate to conduct a study of the mines mentioned in Ujir Bahadur Hamal's petition. Mines are the treasure-house of the government, which can be used at any time. Even if mineral resources are not searched for, they do not disappear. They are, in fact, immovable property which can neither be pilfered nor embezzled. Action should, therefore, be taken through the Baglung Khan Goswara to ascertain whether or not the mines will yield profits if worked in this manner. Because Subba Khechar Nath Upadhyaya, Chief of the Dang Mal Office, has not

specified what arrears are due from Ujir Bahadur Hamal, and because he has submitted his report without ascertaining the actual condition of the mines, he may be punished with a fine at the discretion of the government.

"Ujir Bahadur Hamal has offered to operate eleven copper mines and five lead mines and stipulated a yearly payment of Rs. 1,920 as the commuted value of 252 dharnis of copper and 734 dharnis of lead. He has also stipulated that in case he is able to meet this commitment, he will receive expenses, amounting to Rs. 1,280 a year, and that, in case he is not able to raise Rs. 1,920, he will transmit one-third of the income to the government and use the remaining two-thirds to meet salaries and other expenses. He has signed a bond to this effect at the Dang Mal Office.

"The law prescribes that revenue contracts shall not be issued in the name of defaulters, but not that this should not be done in the case of those against whom only charges of such default are pending. If, therefore, he is entitled to get the contract according to the law, his offer may be accepted. If not, the Salyana Gaunda Office may be directed to make a settlement with regard to these mines according to normal procedure on contract or amanat basis as deemed appropriate."

The Muluki Adda endorsed the recommendation of the Kausi Tosokhana. Prime Minister Bir Shumshere then approved the recommendation on Kartik Badi 13, 1957 (October 1900). Subba Khecher Nath Upadhyaya was punished with a fine of half a mohar rupee.

Marga Badi 13, 1957 (November 1900)  
Regmi Research Collection, Vol. 70, pp. 683-95.

### The 1954 Advisory Assembly

#### Royal Proclamation

In his New Year Day message on Baisakh 1, 2011 (April 13, 1954), King Tribhuvan announced that a new Advisory Assembly would be formed soon. A full translation of the royal message is given below:

"On the auspicious occasion of New Year's Day today, I offer my hearty felicitations to all of you. I humbly pray to God that the new year may see the continued growth of the prestige and glory of this beloved country and of the happiness and prosperity of the countrymen.

"I am glad to have the opportunity to confer new colors on the Kalibahadur Battalion of our national army at this function. It is the sacred duty of the army to uphold the glory of its colors. I am fully confident that our army, which is famous all over the world for its courage and gallantry, will, under the leadership of our competent and popular Commander-in-Chief, further enhance the glory of the nation by maintaining its shining tradition of patriotism.

"Everybody is aware of the situation through which the country is passing now. The situation, of course, is not what it should be. But there is no reason why we should feel disheartened. The future of a country which is endowed with natural wealth, and whose people are courageous and hard-working, cannot but be bright. I have no shred of doubt on this account. What is needed is collective effort for the upliftment and development of the country, and continued cooperation to the government in this task. I trust that due cooperation will always be forthcoming to the government from you. Let all look to the future with hope and self-confidence. Given that, we shall never fail to realize our goal.

"My government faces several questions, which have not so far been solved properly. Among others, two things seem specially important and indispensable. One is the improvement and reorganization of the administrative machinery, and the other is the need to make arrangements for holding general elections for a Constituent Assembly soon. As everybody knows, in the absence of a good and effective administrative machinery, no plans and programs of the government can be implemented properly, and every effort of the government will fail. For this reason, it shall be the primary duty of my government to make the administrative machinery efficient, economical and effective, totally separating it from politics.

"It is no less important and indispensable to maintain stability in the country. It is beyond doubt that no progress can be achieved unless we ensure stability. It will be easy to ensure stability once the government to be formed after the general elections assumes charge of the country's administration. It is, therefore, imperative to accomplish this task as early as possible. My government will make constant efforts in this direction. Until then, you should all extend all possible cooperation to the government I have formed, taking into account the situation and your sentiments. In this lies the interests of the country.

"You are all aware that I have expanded and reorganized the Cabinet with the intention of forming a national government through the cooperation of all political parties. To those parties and individuals who have kept out of the cabinet, I request that they too should contribute to the best of their capacity to the happiness, peace, and prosperity of the country through constructive effort in a spirit of responsibility and patriotism. Nearly two years ago, an Advisory Assembly had been formed with the objective of fostering democratic and parliamentary practices and procedures in the country and enlisting full public cooperation in the administrative system. Some time later, it became necessary to dissolve the Assembly because of the changed circumstances. But I am again proclaiming the formation of a more broad-based Advisory Assembly today, as such an assembly will enable the people to participate in the administrative affairs of the country more actively. The names of the members will be announced separately. This step is being taken in keeping with my own desire for the full growth of democratic institutions in the country. I hope that



all members will serve the country by offering such suggestions as they may deem proper, and lay the foundations of parliamentary practice which is vitally essential for democracy. On the occasion of the last Democracy Day, I had said that the country belongs to all and could prosper only through the collective endeavors of all. I would like to repeat that view now. May God give us wisdom." Jai Nepal.

Narainhiti Durbar,  
Baisakh 1, 2011 (April 13, 1954)

Source: Nepal Gazette, Vol. 3, No. 35, Baisakh 7, 2011 (April 19, 1954) pp. 71-73.

(To be continued)

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