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1936-57

By

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(Continued)

Chapter 11

INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL

Industrialization is a product of the social attitude, the determination of a people to realise its goal of a materially happier life, and the will, the vigour, and the knowledge which are dedicated to the realisation of this goal; but concomitantly, factors like the availability of raw materials, power, capital and labour and the existence of suitable markets and facilities for easy transportation and communication, provide the physical basis, which is as necessary for the industrial development of a country, beyond the determination to go forward, as food is for the satisfaction of hunger, beyond the will and the desire to eat. An inquiry into these physical factors, indicative of the industrial potential of the country, appears therefore pertinent at this stage.

RAW MATERIALS

Absence of near markets and the difficulties of transportation have retarded the development of the hilly areas of Nepal as a major source of raw materials, including forest products. Only in the case of commodities that comprise high value in small bulk, like herbs and drugs, has any export from the hilly sector of the country developed. Moreover, the trend towards increasing use of foreign manufactured goods that commenced mainly in the first quarter of this century dealt the death-blow to the local production of industrial raw materials like cotton. Consequently the terai regions contiguous to the Indian border, with their relatively advanced transportation facilities, as well as their surplus production and their proximity to Indian markets, have become the chief source of industrial raw materials in Nepal.

Forests - It has been said that the wealth of Nepal consists in her forest resources. Forests at present cover 112 lakh acres, or 31.25 percent of the total land area of the country. The distribution of forest land is as follows:-

New Riverine forest....	512,000 acres
Old Riverine forest....	763,000 acres
Sal (Shorea).....	2,240,000 acres
Foot hill forest.....	1,280,000 acres
Oak.....	5,120,000 acres
Conifers (Soft wood)...	1,280,000 acres

(Government of Nepal, Department of Publicity: Nepal at a glance, 1954 pp 2-5).

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The Nepal Himalayas are divided into three longitudinal zones of climate: the lower, comprising the lowlands at the foot of the mountains; the middle, extending up to the snowline; and the upper or alpine. The first ranges from the plains to 4000 feet, the central from 4000 to 10,000 and the upper from 10,000 to 29,000. This unusual variety of climate has considerably affected the vegetation of the country, and there can be traced out three zones of vegetation, corresponding to the three climatic zones. In the lower region can be found splendid timber trees, such as the Sal and Sisau, Banyans and Pipals, Bamboo and Palms, Teak, Acacia and Catechu, which have contributed to the vast forest wealth of the country, and which constitutes the major source of exports. The central slopes are clothed with oaks, chestnuts, mangolias, laurels, rhododendrons, cherry and pear trees, thorns, ash and elm, and the upper region is that of junipers, larches, yews, poplars, dwarf rhododendrons, bellies, birches and willows. (Brain Hodgson, summarized by Clements Markham, quoted in Sir Richard Temple, Journals kept in Hyderabad, Kashmir, Sikkim and Nepal, Vol. II, pp. 224-225).

Exports of timber at present are estimated at 145,000 cubic feet, and domestic consumption at 24,000,000 cubic feet, or an average of 20 cubic feet per family per annum.

All forest land in Nepal is owned by the state. Even private owned forest land has been nationalized without compensation recently (Nepal Gazette, Volume VI, No. XXXIX, Part II, February, 1957). Annual sale by auction to contractors who come from India for the most part is the rule. So far, the exploitation of forests has been unscientific and wasteful. (Note-the State-Owned Terai forests are over-exploited for fiscal purposes. Because these forests are favourably situated for transport, they are exploited beyond the limits permissible in the interest of their technical development. (S. Rauch: Agriculture of Nepal, Suggestions for its development, Report for the Swiss Coordination Committee for Technical Assistance and the Government of Nepal (FAO/52/4/2290; processed), pp 5-6, quoted in Human Relations Area Files, Inc., The Economy of Nepal, Chapter on Forests by Ravi S. Sharma, pp 42-43). Indiscriminate deforestation for farming, and unscientific methods of extraction of forest products, for example for paper making and preparation of resin from pine trees, have also led to the destruction of forests. (Cf. C. B. Gurung Report on the study of Agricultural Condition of Eastern Nepal Hills - East No. 1 to Ilam. 1949 pp 29). The Government appears to be taking necessary steps to cope with the situation. An act for the protection of forests has been recently passed (Gorkhapatra, 22 June). A sum of Rs 40,000 has been sanctioned for the maintenance of the nationalized forests for the next three months (Daily "Halkhabar", 29 May).

Other forest products like resin, turpentine, and catechu, as well as medicinal herbs and drugs, also constitute a sizeable amount in the volume of trade. Sabai grass is exported mainly from Nepalgunj in the Western Terai to the paper mills of India. Some quantities are also produced in the hilly districts where it is manufactured into ropes. Annual exports of sabai grass have been estimated at 90,000 maunds.

Agricultural products

Paddy cultivation covers 6,534,000 acres, (Government of Nepal, Department of Publicity: Nepal at a Glance, p. 6), of the total cultivated area in the country. Total annual production has been roughly estimated at about 50 lakhs tons. Bara, Parsa, and Rautahat in the central, Morang and Bhadrapur in the eastern, and Banke and Bardia in the Western Terai regions are major centres for the export of paddy. Because of the inadequacy of processing facilities inside the country, much of the paddy is exported in its crude state.

Oilseeds cover 408,000 acres (ibid, p. 6) Statistics of production are not available. Like paddy, most of it is exported to India in the crude state. Some amounts are produced in the valley of Kathmandu and the hills also, but cultivation is said to have suffered a setback because of the increasing use of imported oil. (Government of Nepal, Department of Statistics: Industrial Survey Report, East No. 1 District).

Jute is the only raw material in Nepal which is consumed by local industry to any significant extent. The total acreage of cultivation consists of 96,000 acres (Nepal at a Glance, p. 6), out of which Morang, which is the centre of the jute industry, cultivates 60,000. Total production is approximately 18,000 tons per annum. The Biratnagar Jute Mills Ltd., alone consumes about 2,75,000 maunds annually. Another consumer is the Raghupati Jute Mills Ltd., also in Biratnagar. The rest is exported to India.

282,000 acres of the total cultivated area consists of tobacco crops. (ibid, p. 6). Statistics of production are not available, but the total volume of exports is said to be negligible. Lack of knowledge of proper methods of curing and storage of tobacco has considerably affected quality, and Nepal is at present a net importer of tobacco, the imports being restricted to high grade material. Sarlahi, Saptari and Mahottari in the terai are the major sources for raw tobacco.

Minerals

In the past some amounts of copper, iron, and other minerals were extracted, but the industry suffered a decline because of imports of cheaper foreign material. Factors like transport difficulties and lack of capital have hitherto stood in the way of proper development of this industry, but the main impediment has been lack of a proper geological survey. Nepal has entered upon the preliminary stages of

such a survey, with help from the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, the Geological Survey of India, and the United States Operations Mission (Draft Five Year Plan, p. 53). A country-wide geological survey is expected to be completed soon.

Investigations so far have revealed the existence of hematite iron ore deposits at Phulchowki-danda in the valley of Kathmandu; limestone deposits near Bhainse; and mica and lignite deposits near Kathmandu. The Draft Five Year Plan also envisages the further investigation of Nangre copper and Morle nickel.

Other minerals believed to exist in Nepal are coal, iron, copper, graphite, lead, silver, zinc, cobalt, chromium, alum, salt, tale, beryl, garnet, tourmaline, ochre, corundum, sapphires and quartz. (Nepal at a Glance, p. 10). There are extensive marble deposits at Godawari in the valley of Kathmandu, which have been taken up by the Godavari Marble Depot Ltd.,

Recently a team of experts sent by the Nepal-American Cooperative Mineral Service left for Hetaunda and Anlekhgunj to investigate into the possibilities of graphite mining in these areas (Daily "Commoner", 24 May, 1957). A mining engineer and a geologist were also deputed by the Planning and Development Ministry to survey iron deposits at Thase, East No. 2 (Daily "Diyalo" 25 May 1957). The Government has recently passed rules for the issue of mining licences (Gorkhapatra, 5 June).

Altogether, the mineral wealth of Nepal may not be inconsiderable. It is interesting to note that during his recent tour of Western Nepal, King Mahendra inaugurated an exhibition at Silgadi, in which mica, copper, iron, coal and tin found within the 25 mile area around Bijhang, Bijura, and Achham were on display (Gorkhapatra, 13 May). The Draft Five Year Plan provides for a total expenditure of Rs 50 lakhs during the period of the plan for mineral development (Draft Five Year Plan, p. 19).

Other industrial raw materials produced in Nepal are wool, total annual production of which is approximately 3,000,000 lbs per annum, (Metra Bahadur Thapa: Samanya Jyoti, Solomon and Brothers, Juddha Road, Nepal, Fifth Edition 1956 p. 9), hides and skins, bristle, and so on.

POWER

The swift rivers flowing down the Himalayan slopes to the plains of India provide abundant water resources which have been estimated approximately at 1,200,000 cubic feet per second, (Nepal at a Glance, p. 10). Exploitation however, has so far been poor. The first hydro-electric plant was set up at Pharping in the valley of Kathmandu in 1911, and subsequently a second one was installed in Sunderijal. Until recently the total of 4250 K.W. generated from these two sources was all that the valley Kathmandu had available (ibid, p. 10).

To relieve the pressure on these units, a thermal power plant with a capacity of 1688 k. w. has recently been set up in Kathmandu, as a temporary emergency measure. It was formally inaugurated by King Mahendra on March 15, 1957, though actual operation started in May 1956.

In spite of this additional supply, electric power is still scarce in Kathmandu. Domestic consumption absorbs the major part of the supply, and bulk consumers like cinema houses depend for the most part upon their own generators. Except in the case of a few rice mills of small capacity operating in Kathmandu, industrial consumption is negligible.

Biratnagar in Eastern Nepal is another centre of power production in Nepal. The Morang Hydro-Electric Limited was formed in 1959 to generate hydro-electric power from the waters of the Lohendra rivers. The total power generated amounts to 1600 k. w., and recently a thermal plant generating 300 k. w. has been added to the existing capacity. The company supplies power to a few local mills, but the more important mills have developed their own arrangements for the supply of electric power.

The Biratnagar Jute Mills Ltd., for instance, operates 3 diesel generators with a total capacity of 1625 k. w. In addition, another plant capable of generating 1400 k. w. of electricity has been already installed, though not yet in operation. Power used to be supplied by the Biratnagar Jute Mills Ltd. to other industrial units like the Morang Cotton Mills Ltd., but with the expansion of the capacity of the Morang Hydro-Electric Supply Company Ltd., this has been stopped recently.

Other sources of power in Biratnagar exist in the Raghupati Jute Mills Ltd., and the Guhyeshwari Rice Mills Ltds, the former operates two diesel generators of 375 k. w. and 15 k. w. capacity, while the latter has one of 10 k. w. capacity.

The third area in Nepal which has electric facilities is Birgunj. The Birgunj Electric Supply Corporation Limited which was formed in 1948, has a diesel generating plant with a capacity of 110 k. w. Industrial consumption, however, is virtually non-existent. Recurring losses in the company have led to government management as a provisional measure.

In addition to this, the small rice and oil, and other mills that have been set up along the Indian border in the terai districts are all equipped with individual power generating facilities. The total number of such mills in the country along with their location and the total electricity generated, is given in the following tables:-

TABLE XIII

<u>Name of District</u>	<u>Number of private owned rice-oil mills etc.</u>	<u>Total h. p. of electricity generated</u>
Jhapa	26	1032
Dhankuta	1	10
Biratnagar	31	700
Saptari	18	438
Mahottari	69	1360
Udayapur	1	20
Chisapani	1	40
Birgunj	42	710
Pokhara	2	24
Palpa	6	60
Bhairahawa	25	505
Butwaul	17s.	327
Nepalgunj	5	775
Dang	4	50
Kailali	11	254
Total		6255

Inadequate development of the hydro-electric resources of the country has thus led the bulk of industry to depend upon liquid fuels and coal so far as their requirements of power are concerned. Coal is imported from India under a quota system, and industrial consumption amounts to about 1250 tons per month. Figures regarding the import of diesel oil are unavailable, but Kathmandu alone consumes about 600 gallons per day.

Wood, rice-husk and bagasse are other industrial fuels used in Nepal. Until recently, the locomotives of the Nepal Government Railway burned wood. (To be Continued).

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Selected Documents of Magh-Falgun 1887 VikramaPublic Building in Sankhu

Magh Sudi 5, 1887 Vikrama (44/196-97).

Royal order to Kulanaram: "Ganga Rani had made a ritual gift of eighteen ropanis of Jiuni lands for the construction of a public guest-house in Sankhu. Income from the lands was to be used for maintaining and repairing the building, and perform religious functions as stipulated in the Guthi endowment during the Dashain and other festivals. She had also appointed guthiyars to undertake these responsibilities.

"The guthiyars, however, subdivided the rents due from the endowed lands and appropriated the income themselves, but did not perform the stipulated functions.

"We hereby issue this order in your name, permitting you to use these eighteen ropanis of lands from the year 1887 Vikrama, on condition that you repair the public guest-house if it is damaged, perform religious functions as usual during the Dashain and other festivals, and give away two handas every day to mendicants, consisting of rice, pulses, ghee, salt, turmeric powder, and firewood.

"You shall be punished severely if you do not perform the stipulated religious functions in the manner mentioned above. You may appropriate for yourself the surplus income left after performing these functions. You shall not be dismissed unless you commit an offense".

Unpaid Labor Obligations

Magh Sudi 8, 1887 Vikrama (44/197-98).

Royal order to Kaji Jaspau Thapa: "The three villages of Muraligau, Malyagau, and Phalamyagau have been included as Khuwa in the Khangri assignments made to you as a Kaji. (The right to employ the inhabitants of) these villages (without wages) as porters, as well as for the transportation of firewood and other supplies, had been granted to the Kajis who had been assigned these villages as Khuwa previously.

"Subsequently, a royal order was issued to (the inhabitants of) these three villages, ordering them to supply charcoal to the government munitions factory, and removing them from the jurisdiction of the Anali.

"You have now represented to us that the order has given rise to difficulties. We, therefore, hereby rescind that order. In the future, (the inhabitants of) these three villages shall supply six dharnis of charcoal to the munitions factory everyday through you. We also exempt them from the obligation to provide unpaid labor services (Jhara) elsewhere.

Jagir Land Dispute

Magh Sudi 8, 1887 (44/198)

Lands at Chhapthok in the Maidi area (of Dhading district) had been included in the Jagir land assignment of Kaji Jaspau Thapa. Ranajang Karki, who also had been granted Jagir lands in the same area during the time of Kaji Prasad Simha Basnyat, managed in 1887 to secure an order including Kaji Jaspau Thapa's lands in his own assignment.

A new royal order was then issued reconfering in favor of Ranajang Karki the lands granted during the time of Kaji Prasad Simha Basnyat, and to Kaji Jaspau Thapa the lands obtained by Ranajang Karki in 1887. Ranajang Karki was also ordered to refund to the ryots the payments he had already collected on those lands.

Collection of Arrears in Chharka and Elsewhere

Falgun Badi 6, 1887 (44/200).

Royal order to ryots of Chharka and Lagu-khola:
"Complete payment of all arrears of Sirto, as well as all amounts due in the course of trade, to Gungyal Bisht. In case you do not do so, severe punishment shall be inflicted".

Royal Order to Gungyal Bisht

Falgun Badi 6, 1887 (44/200).

"You have submitted a petition stating that you cannot maintain your livelihood without conducting trade in the Hot, Patan, Chharka, Lagukhola, and other areas. Accordingly, we hereby issue this order opening up these routes, and prohibiting any person from causing any obstruction, while you trade in these areas from generation to generation".

Royal Order to the Raja of Mustang

Falgun Badi 6, 1887 (44/201).

Royal order to Raja Jhampal Chandul of Mustang:
"Gungyal Bisht had taken up an Ijara for the Chharka and Lagukhola areas until 1887. Do not cause any obstruction when his agents visit those areas to collect arrears of payment on account of Sirto or trade. In case you cause any obstruction, and Gungyal Bisht submits a complaint to us, you shall be held liable for the payment of all arrears due to him".

Complaint of Gungyal Bisht

Falgun Badi 6, 1887 (44/201)

Gungyal Bisht submitted the following petition to the royal palace: During the year 1884-85, Bishnubhakta Baniya had agreed to act in partnership with us, sharing the profit or loss in operating the Parbat mines and the Baglung mint. But now he has refused to contribute his share of the loss.

A royal order was then issued in the name of Bishnubhakta Baniya, ordering him to meet his partnership obligations in full.

Mining Contract

Falgun Badi 6, 1887 (44/202-03).

A contract for operating copper, hlead, iron, and other mines in the region situated between the Marsyangdi and Bheri rivers, with the exception of Palpa, Gulmi, Argha, Khanchi, and Salyan had been granted to Subba Kulananda Jha. The Subba was replaced by Bishnu Singh on Falgun Badi 6, 1887 Vikrama. Particulars of the contract were as follows:-

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Period</u>
1. Beni Mint	Jestha Badi 13, 1888 to Jestha Badi 12, 1889.
2. Copper mines	Ashadh Sudi 2, 1888 to Ashadh Sudi 1, 1889.
3. Baglung Mint (for Gorakhpuri coins)	Current

The contractor was required to pay a total revenue of Rs 37,502 to the government. In consideration of that payment, he was permitted to operate the mines and mints mentioned above, and, in addition, to appropriate income from the following sources. Customary payments from mines employed in the mines; Sirto and other payments; khadpuja levies; the bhedabhada levy; customary fees paid by headmen and team leaders; Walak payments; payments collected from miners, villages; payments due to the Amali; and new mineral deposits. The contractor was also permitted to appropriate income from judicial fines and escheats not exceeding one hundred rupees in each case, and one-sixth of higher amountsh.

The government reserved the right to appropriate income from Raja-anka levies and buried treasure.

The order concluded, "If the villages covered by this contract are depopulated, we shall grant appropriate remissions. Do not commit injustice, or harass the subjects and ryots by collecting unauthorized payments, so that complaints may be submitted to the palace. Produce pure copper, stamp mana measures, as well as paisa, adhela, and dam coins, and transmit the stipulated amount to the Tosakhana".

Supply of Bangles.

Falgun Badi 6, 1887 (44/204)h

Dhanraj Churyata had received a grant of land in Tanahu, which actually belonged to Arjun Churyata. A royal order was issued on Falgun Badi 6, 1887 restoring three-fourth of the land to Arjun Churyata, leaving one-fourth to Dhanraj Churyata. Dhanraj Churyata was directed to pay Saunefagu levies on that land, as well as to supply glass bangles on prescribed occasions, or whenever required.

Malbara Rajya

In 1865 Vikrama (A. D. 1808), Malbara had been placed under the jurisdiction of Nawal Singh Raya, possibly an ancestor of Kularaj Singh Raya, on a thekbandi revenue-collection contract. Nawal Singh Raya was required under that contract to pay a sum of Rs 201 every year. In 1866 Vikrama (A. D. 1809), the thekbandi contract was transferred in the name of Sangrama Sahi, his brother, on payment of Rs 301 every year. The amount was payable to the head quarters of the Sri Jwaladal Company.

Source: "Royal Order to Nawal Singh Raya" h Poush Badi 1, 1866 (December 1809) Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 40, P. 160.

The following order had been issued in the name of Raja Nawal Raya on Kartik Badi 10, 1868 Vikrama (A. D. October 1811): "Subedar Bhaktabacchal Malla has been granted authority to promote land reclamation and settlement in Surkhet, Padnaha, and Buthna. Your sons and brothers shall, in consultation with the Subedar, procure settlers from the Moglan, as well as from old settlement in that area, for the reclamation of virgin forest (Kalabangar) lands".

Source: "Royal Order to Raja Nawal Raya Regarding Land Reclamation and Settlement" h Kartik Badi 10, 1868 (October 1811) h Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 40, P. 286.

On Falgun Sudi 5, 1926 Vikrama (A. D. March 1870)h, the two revenue divisions (tappa) of Malbara (Bardiya district) and Lig (Kailali district), situated on the western banks of the Karnali river on the Nepal-India border, were granted as a rajya to Kularaj Singh Raya. The following conditions were stipulated:

- (1) The raja was required to pay the amount of revenue finalized in the course of a revenue settlement made in 1924 Vikrama (A. D. 1867) to the Kailali Kachhari office every year.
- (2) He was permitted to appropriate the proceeds of judicial fines and penalties (danda-Kunda), including fines imposed for adultery on low-caste people (chak-chakui), and escheats (aputali). However, income from fines and penalties collected from persons who were convicted of major offenses (Panchakhat) punishable through death, life imprisonment, confiscation of property, and deprivation or degradation of caste, was reserved by the government.
- (3) All unpaid-labor obligations (Jhara, beth, and beger) in the territories covered by the rajya were remitted, except for military purposes.

Kularaj Singh Raya was succeeded by his son, Narendra Bikram Singh Raya, in whose name a fresh order reconfirming the rajya grant was issued on Bhadra Badi 1, 1931 Vikrama (A. D. August 1874). This order was endorsed by a royal order (Lalmohar) on Kartik Sudi 9, 1970 Vikrama (A. D. November 1883).

Source: "Royal Order Reconfirming Narendra Bikram Singh Raya as Raja of Malbara". Kartik Sudi 9, 1940 (November 1883). Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 55, pp. 647-49.

Kularaj Singh Raya was granted twelve moujas in Kanchanpur (which was then administered from Dullu), as Bhatt Kharcha in 1918 Vikrama (A. D. 1861). These moujas yielded a revenue of Rs 1291 year. The grant was replaced in 1922 Vikrama (A. D. 1865) by a cash allowance from the Kanchanpur-Kailali Mal Kachahari. Years later, in 1920 Vikrama (A. D. 1863) he was granted Danda-Dara in Dullu as Manachamal. The area yielded a revenue of Rs 449 every year. Kularaj Singh Raya was permitted to appropriate the entire income from land and other taxes, judicial fines, escheats, etc., except from Panchkhat crimes, from these areas. The grants were later reconfirmed in the name of Narendra Bikram Singh Raya.

Source: "Grants of Bhatta-Kharcha and Manachamal Lands in the name of Raja Narendra Bikram Singh Raya". Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 50, pp. 40-46. Baisakh Badi 11, 1942 Vikrama (A. D. April 1885). (Two documents).

Narendra Bikram Singh Raya granted the village of Dhanbod in Danda-Dara on contract to Jimidar Balbir Thakuri for the collection of revenue. Balbir Thakuri was required to pay Rs 54 and one anna under the contract. He was permitted to appropriate the proceeds of all taxes collected in that village, as well as of judicial fines and escheats, and, in addition, to exact unpaid labor on

a compulsory basis from the local people. The grant was made on an inheritable basis.

Jimidar Balbir Thakuri accordingly collected taxes in Dhanbod village from 1939 to 1942 Vikrama (A. D. 1882 to 1885).

Raja Narendra Bikram Singh Raya died in 1943 Vikramao (A. D. 1886). He was succeeded by his youngest queen, who appointed Captain Ajamat Bahadur Shahi to look after revenue administration in the rajya. Ajamat Bahadur Shahi annulled the contract given by Raja Narendra Bikram Singh Raya to Jimidar Balbir Thakuri to collect taxes in Dhanbod village. Balbir Thakuri appealed to the queen against that order, but was told that the contract would not be reconfirmed.

On Aswin Badi 10, 1944 Vikrama (A. D. September 1887), Balbir Thakuri appealed to the central government in Kathmandu against the unlawful termination of his revenue-collection contract:

The government thereupon conducted inquiries through the Naya Muluk Bandobast Adda. It ruled that the revenue-collection contract granted to Jimidar Balbir Thakuri on an inheritable basis by the late Raja Narendra Bikram Singh Raya was valid, and that his queen had no right to terminate it.

The inquiries also revealed that the rajya had been originally granted to Raja Kularaj Singh Raya in 1931 Vikrama (A. D. 1874) as a thekka-rajya. This meant that the raja was permitted to appropriate the excess that he could raise in addition to the amount stipulated for payment to the government. The stipulated amount was revised every ten years. Revenue from the rajya of Mulbura was estimated at Rs 12,583 in 1931 Vikrama (A. D. 1874), which increased to Rs 14,357 in 1942 Vikrama (A. D. 1885).

Source: "Order from Prime Minister Bir Shumshere and Commander-in-Chief Dev Shumshere in the name of Jimidar Balbir Thakuri". Ashadh Sudi 4, 1945 Vikrama (A. D. July 1888). In Yogi Naraharinath, Itihasa Prakashanao Sandhipatrasangraha. (A collection of treaties and documents in light on history). Dang: the editor, 2032 Vikrama (A. D. 1966) pp. 561-63.

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King Prithvi Narayan Shah

by

Baburam Acharya

Notes to Chapter I

(Continued)

23. An incomplete text of Mahendra Malla's regulations has been published at the end of Shri 5 Prithvi Narayan Shahko Divya Upadesha, published in the Vikrama year 2010 by the Prithvi Jayanti Samaroha Samiti. pp. 30-31. (For a full translation of that text, see Regmi Research Series, Year 3, No. 5, May 1, 1977, pp. 123-24).
24. In his Vamshawali, Buddhiman Singh writes: "Rama Shah met King Siddhinarasimha Malla of Patan and told him that his Kingdom, Gorkha, had been unable to flourish because of the lack of trade and industry. He, therefore, sought twenty-four traders from Patan, and settled them at Hatiyathok near the royal in palace in Gorkha in 1663 samvat (1606 A. D.)". Thus Buddhiman Singh claims that Rama Shah had gone to Patan for a meeting with Siddhinarasimha Malla the every year during which he had become King. But Siddhinarasimha Malla was not King during that year. He was probably an infant. Buddhiman Singh's ancestors had migrated to Gorkha from Patan. He has made the above-mentioned claim to show that it was his ancestors who had developed commerce in Gorkha. There might have been twenty-four traders in Gorkha at the time of Prithvi Narayan Shah. But it is not possible for so many traders to have settled down in Gorkha at the every outset. In fact, it was Siddhinarasimha Malla who needed a commercial treaty with Gorkha more than Rama Shah. Buddhiman Singh has also stated that Rama Shah had enforced twenty-five regulations for the traders, in view of their prominence (pp. 286-90). This indicates that no regulations had been needed before the arrival of these traders from Patan, and that the King of Gorkha promulgated regulations only after the cultured Newars settled in Gorkha. According to Buddhiman Singh, the twenty-third regulation, prescribed: "In the event of our dying without any heir, your heir shall rule our Kingdom, and vice versa". In other words, the descendants of Siddhinarasimha Malla would rule Gorkha in the event of the end of the dynasty of Rama Shah, and the descendants of Rama Shah would rule Lalitpur in the event of the end of Siddhinarasimha Malla's dynasty. This condition could have been accepted neither by Rama Shah nor by Siddhinarasimha Malla.
25. This note has been prepared on the basis of the writings of Sherman Singh. It states that Gorkhali troops had repulsed the troops of Tanahu across the Marsyangdi river, and plundered the Rajasthal area of Tanahu, when its King, Tula Sen, was in Rising. But this claim seems to be exaggerated. The Gorkhalis were not given to plundering others. It is possible that they had not crossed the Marsyangdi.

26. No document containing the regulations enforced during the rule of Rama Shah is available. I was in possession of a document containing new regulations framed by King Rajendra by consolidating those enforced by Ramat Shah. The document prepared by Kharidar Taranath Acharya in his own hand-writing was subsequently lost. The contents of the document corresponded to some extent to those given by Sherman Singh. But they cannot be regarded as wholly identical with the regulations of Rama Shah.
27. This assumption has been made in the light of the circumstances prevalent at the time of King Prithvi Narayan Shah.
28. This definition is given on the basis of the writings of Sherman Singh and Buddhiman Singh.
29. In 1860 Vikrama, King Rana Bahadur Shah had obtained a loan of sixty-thousand rupees from Dwarikadas, a merchant of Varanasi. The loan carried an interest of two percent per month. King Rana Bahadur Shah later repaid the loan along with interest. (Chittarangan Nepali, Sri 5 Rana Bahadur Shah, ppt 68-69 and 140-41). In the Tarai, interest was charged at 25 percent per year until recently.
30. A letter sent by Prithvipati Shah in 1772 Vikrama to Vyasa Upadhyaya (Itihasik Patra Sangraha (A collection of historical documents), Vol. 2, p. 50.).
31. A reference to the books written by the Aryal Pandits in the beginning of King Rama Shah's reign has already been made above. Sherman Singh has reproduced highly exaggerated account attributed to Durlabha Jyotishi of Tandrang, who lived during the last years of King Rama Shah's reign. Durlabha Jyotishi is said to have been a well-known astrologer like Kulananda Dhakal of Gorkha, a contemporary of King Prithvi Narayan Shah. There is, therefore, no doubt that Sanskrit literature, religious scriptures, and mythological and astrological writings circulated during the reign of Rama Shah. Unfortunately, however, no scholar at the time gave any thought to the question of writing in Khasakura (Nepali), which was the popular language, and translating the mythological, astrological and religious literature into that language.
32. This is only an estimate. There may be a difference of one or two years.
33. Stone-inscription dated 757 Nepal era at the Krishnat temple in Lalitpur; Pratap Malla's stone-inscription at Kantipur
34. The Nepal era mentioned in the first coin minted by King Pratap Malla is 761 (Nepalko Rastriya Mudra (Nepal's National Coins), Facsimile No. 2, p. 10).

- 35a. Before A. D. 1644, there was intranquillity and chaos in Tibet. One of Pratap Malla's stone-scriptions in Sanskrit claims that he had captured Kuti, Khasa, and Kirum (Kerung) from the King of Bhot". There is, however, no clear evidence that Kuti had actually been occupied by Pratap Malla. Khasa was at the time a part of the principality of Dolakha. Pratap Malla must have taken over Khasa by subduing the weak principality of Dolakha, rather than occupying it from Tibet. Of course, he seems to have taken over Kerung from Tibet, probably before the establishment of the Dalai-Lamas rule in Tibet.
36. The biography of Pratap Malla, written by Sherman Singh, which forms part of the Hodgson Papers in the possession of the India Office Library, is as inaccurate as the biography of Drabya Shah. It contains the fictitious account of Bhima Malla having established trade relations with Tibet. The account given by his brother, Buddhiman Singh (pp. 213-18) is similarly inaccurate. D. R. Regmi, in his Modern Nepal (Vol. 2, pp. 60-65), has given the same account of Bhima Malla. According to Sherman Singh, Bhima Malla was assassinated on Monday, Poush Sudhi 8, 770 Nepal era, but Buddhiman Singh does not mention the year. The date corresponds to January 10, 1650. Sherman Singh's account thus appears to be correct. This is surprising, in view of the inaccuracy of his story.
37. According to Sherman Singh, the King of Lamjung occupied Majhuwa during the reign of King Rudra Shah, and that Gorkha later reoccupied that area. Buddhiman Singh has not mentioned this event; hence it appears to be fictitious.
38. In his work Aurangzeb (pp. 3-4), Jadunath Sarkar writes: "In A. D. 1664, Aurangzeb sent troops from Darbhanga and Gorakhpore to occupy Morang. The King of Morang was defeated. In December, the fouzdar of Gorakhpore sent fourteen elephants and other gifts, which had been collected as tribute, to the Emperor. "According to Sylvain Levi, Grueber, a Capuchin priest who had come to Kathmandu from Tibet, travelled through Morang on his way to India. He saw only thatched huts in Morang, and only one customs house. He has recorded that the King of Morang used to offer seven elephants and some money to the Mughal Emperor. The description appears to be not of Vijayapur, capital of Morang, but of Sindhuli-Madi. The principalities of Vijayapur and Makwanpur had not yet become separate at that time; hence it was natural for Grueber to think that Sindhuli-Madi formed a part of Morang. There is some discrepancy in the accounts of Jadunath Sarkar and Grueber, but it is clear that Emperor Aurangzeb had forced the King of Morang to pay tribute in the form of elephants and money.

39. The account of the devision of Vijayapur is based on Hamilton (pp. 136-38). According to Hamilton, the Koshi river formed the boundary between the two new principalities. In the hill region, the Arun-Koshi formed the boundary.
40. In A. D. 1612, Emperor Jahangir Shah is said to have defeated the Koch King of Cooch-Behar and annexed his territories into the Mughal Empire. Viranarayana, son of the defeated King, appears to have given two of his daughters, Mahadevi and Maheshwari, in marriage to Harihara Sen, son of Raghava Sen, while the latter was still alive. (Sen Vamshavali, p. 14). Hamilton has given the name of Mahishi to Mahadevi. Both terms seem to have been used to denote the chief queen. Two other daughters of Viranarayana, Rupamati and Anantapriya, were married to King Pratapa Malla of Kantipur.

Harihar Sen probably invaded Cooch-Behar in support of his fater-in-law after he became King. Hamilton has given the names of his sons as Chhatrapati Sen, Padma Sen, and Pratapa Sen from Queen Mahishi, and Shubha Sen from Queen Maheshwari. While the war of succession was going on, Vidhata Indra Sen was born from Adanuka, Chhatrapati Sen's wife. Harihara Sen eventually chose Vidhata Indra Sen as his successor, although he had actually desired to nominate Shubha Sen, according to Hamilton.

The account of King Shrinivasa Malla of Lalitpur having provided assistance to Shubha Sen is based on Buddhiman Singh's Vamshawali (p. 192). Buddhiman Singh has actually written that Shubha Sen was attacked, but that peace was concluded later. The truth is that Shrinivasa Malla and others sent troops not against Shubha Sen but in his support.

41. A thyasphu (diary) in the possession of Chandra Man Joshi of Thimi, which contains an account of events from 798 Nepal era to the assassination of King Yoganarendra Malla of Lalitpur in Kartik 826 Nepal era, has been published by D. R. Regmi in Medieval Nepal (Vol. 3, pp. 1-46). He has also published seven other similar thyasaphus. The account of the establishment of friendly relations between Nripendra Malla and Prithvipati Shah is based on the first thyasaphu.
42. Itihasa-Prakasha, Vol. 1, p. 40.
43. Thyasphu D. pp. 71-72.

(To be Continued)