

Regmi Research (Private) Ltd
Kathmandu: December 1, 1974.

Regmi Research Series

Year 6, No. 12,

Edited By

Mahesh C. Regmi.

Contents

	<u>Page</u>
1. Administrative Problems of Doti ...	221
2. Pyuthan Administrative Regulations, 1798 A.D. ...	234
3. A History of Land Tenures in Garhwal ...	235
4. Devadasis in Nepal ...	236
5. Some Errors in the Translation of Dibya Upadesh ...	238
6. Land-Reclamation Regulations for Eastern Tarai Districts ...	240

Regmi Research (Private) Ltd,
Lazimpat, Kathmandu, Nepal.

Compiled by Regmi Research (Private) Ltd for private study and research. Not meant for public sale or display.

Administrative Problems of Doti1. Doti Administrative Regulations, 1793

From King Rana Bahadur Shah,

To Subedars Devendra Padhya and Narsing Thapa.

1. In the event of aggression, Jumla and areas east of the Kali shall be defended from Doti. Kumaun need not be given assistance. If Doti faces any aggression, do not assist anybody, but defend it.
2. If aggression is faced in Kumaun or Jumla, the matter shall be reported to us immediately.
3. If the Raja of Doti engages in talks with other Rajas against us, the matter shall be investigated and reported to us.
4. Persons who act contrary to Gorkha's interests shall be punished in consultation with the Raja of Doti.
5. Persons enslaved by former Bhardars who have escaped shall not be restored to slavery even when possible. They shall be confirmed as Kurlyas.
6. The monthly salary paid by Raja of Doti shall be accepted. If he voluntarily offers lands in lieu of such monthly salary, these too shall be accepted.
7. Information about different areas, both inside and outside, shall be collected with expenses provided by the Raja of Doti.
8. If the Jamadar does not present himself when necessary or when there is a battle, he shall be informed of his offense, and the matter shall be reported here. Another Jamadar shall be appointed to replace him.
9. Persons guilty of major offenses shall be put in chains after obtaining a confession in consultation with the Raja. Such cases shall be reported to the palace.

Marga Sudi 3, 1850

(December 1293)

Regmi Research Collections, vol. 36, p. 37.

Contd...

2. Appointment of Lokanath Pande as Subba of Doti

From King Girban,

To Lokanath Pande.

We hereby appoint you as Subba of Doti, succeeding Birya Rokaya. The Raja of Doti has been removed, and seven companies, with 761 rifles, along with their troops, have been placed under your command.

Assign emoluments (Khangī) at the prescribed rates to the seven companies with revenue from that area from sources other than Saunefagu (homestead-tax), fines collected from major criminals (Panchakhat), customs, transit, and other duties (Bhan-sar), levies collected from mendicants (Mahantamandali) and head-men of Newar communities (Chaudharai), mines, taxes on mining lands (Kachho-Sirto) buried treasure (Kalyana-dhan), fees due for expiation (Dharmadhikar), and levies collected from military personnel (Darshanbhet). Do not represent petty matters relating to the emoluments of the troops to the palace, and do not give opportunity for complaints by increasing taxes and harassing the subjects.

Convert irrigable lands into rice-fields and assign such lands to the companies, with effect from the year 1859 Vikrama (1802 A.D.), hand over revenue from the ten sources mentioned above, including Saunefagu, to the palace personally. Despatch troops to the east, west, north or south, wherever there is any action. Defend the territory allotted to you, and keep the troops in readiness for any command, parade, sentry or checkpoint duty, royal tours and hunting expeditions, etc.

Do not allow the good rifles of the company to be exchanged. Do not obstruct the collection of revenue due to the outgoing revenue officer (Amil) or companies.

Jestha Sudi 14, 1856
(June 1799)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pp. 714-15.

Contd...

3. Doti Administrative Regulations, 1799

From King Girban,

To Lokanath Pande. The following regulations relating to administrative functions in Doti are hereby promulgated:

1. Reconfirm those Guthi endowments for temples and rest-houses that have been made by Rajas, or by other persons on lands purchased by them for the purpose, throughout that region. Make a list of invalid Guthi endowments made by other persons and submit it to us. We shall assign the lands (owned by the invalid Guthi endowment) to the company (that has been placed under your command in Doti).
2. Do not let any person commit injustice or oppression throughout the Doti region. Do not increase rates of taxation. Construct forts at those places where there is no fear of aggression. Represent to us the names of those Subedars, ryots, and others, who do not obey the orders of the Subba in matters which are in our interest. Inflict such punishment on them as we may sanction.
3. Inhabitants of villages throughout the Doti region shall provide portage services in their respective areas for the transportation of goods belonging to the royal palace, war supplies, or sick and wounded persons, between (Kathmandu) and the west. No one shall be allowed to impress their services for transporting other goods, thereby harassing poor people, or to collect provisions without making any payment.
4. Do not, on any account, do anything to create conflict or disputes with the Rajas of adjoining principalities without receiving orders from us. Send agents to collect information from all the four directions, and transmit such information to us. In case any local person creates intranquillity, and in case a confession is obtained from him in the course of judicial proceedings, imprison him, or behead him, according to his caste status.
5. Scrutinize Baudha and Birta land grants throughout the Doti region, and submit accurate particulars to us of those grants that you hold valid. Confiscate irregular land grants; we shall assign such lands to the company (that has been placed under your command).

Contd..."

6. Among the seven companies of troops receiving monthly remunerations, send two companies by rotation for the defense of Kumaun, and keep the other five companies in Doti for whatever action may be necessary. In the event of aggression by any enemy, send reports to us, as well to Subedars in the adjoining regions, maintain a proper defense on all sides, and repel the aggression. Do not start any conflict on your own initiative.
7. Do not reduce expenses on religious expenses during the Dashain and Fagu festivals. Do not commit oppression. In case we receive any complaints here, we shall hear both sides, and award appropriate punishment to any side that pleads guilty. If no conflict with the Rajas of adjoining principalities is apprehended, make efforts to get back through conciliatory methods the territories of Doti which have been encroached upon by the Banjara (?). Eighty riflemen have been added (to the troops under your command) to the figure specified during the term of Birya Rokaya; hence we hereby exempt you from the obligation to submit accounts for revenues collected in that region.

Jestha Sudi 14, 1856

(June 1799)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pp. 711-14.

4. Procurement of Saltpeter and Sulphur

From King Girban,

To the Amalidar of Doti.

Employ skilled persons to extract saltpeter wherever deposits occur in the region under your jurisdiction. Impose a ban on exports to other countries, and make efforts to procure saltpeter supplies from abroad. We shall punish you if you do nothing even when there are saltpeter deposits in the area under your jurisdiction. Also exploit sulphur deposits, if any.

Magn Sudi 7, 1856

(January 1800)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pp. 89.

Contd...

(This order was sent to local administrators also in Pallokirat, Achham, Bara-Parsa, Kumaun, Dullu-Dailekh, Majhkirat, Saptari-Mahottari, Chitaur-Belaun, Pyuthan and Morang).

5. Appointment of Kalu Pande as Subba of Doti

(a) From King Girban,

To the Chaudharis, Kamins, Sayanas, Mandars, Mokaddams and ryots of Doti.

With effect from Baisakh Badi 1, 1857 (April 1800), we have appointed Kalu Pande as Subba of Doti. Present yourselves before him, and reclaim lands as directed by him.

Falgun Badi 13, 1856

(February 1800)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, p. 122.

(b) From King Girban,

To Subba Lokanath Pande.

With effect from Baisakh Badi 1, 1857 (April 1800), we have appointed Kalu Pande to replace you as Subba of Doti, as well as commander of the seven companies stationed there. In case you have made any revenue collections there in advance, hand over accounts thereof, as well as all arms and ammunition in the possession of these companies, as well as those kept in forts there.

Falgun Badi 13, 1856

(February 1800)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, p. 123.

6. Cancellation of Kalu Pande's Appointment

From King Girban,

To Subba Lokanath Pande.

Kalu Pande had been appointed Subba of Doti, replacing you. For some reason, it has become necessary to keep him here. We have now appointed Badal Singh Basnyat to this post. After he arrives there, hand over all arms and ammunition to him and obtain a receipt. Advise him on matters which will benefit that

Contd...

region to the best of your knowledge. Collect any arrears of revenue that may be due under your assignment. If urgent reports are not received from the west, present yourself before us.

Chaitra Badi 1, 1856
(March 1800)

s Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pps 161-62s

7. Appointment of Badal Singh Basnyat as Subba of Doti

From King Girban,

To Badal Singh Basnyat, son of Birabhadra Basnyat and grandson of Ranya Basnyats

We hereby appoint you as Subba of Doti, in the position previously occupied by Kalu Pande. Seven companies with 761 rifles and seven pieces of cannon, as well as their troops, are placed under your command.

With revenues collected from taxes on mining lands (Kachho-Sirto), land taxes (Malpota), homestead taxes (Saunefagu), fines collected from persons guilty of major crimes (Panchakhat), customs and transit duties (Bhansar), fees collected from mendicants (Mahantamandali), and headmen of Newar communities (Chaudharai), levies collected from military personnel (Darshan-Bhet), taxes on falcons' snares (Bajthala) and mines of all categories, except revenues from buried treasure (Kalyandhan) and expiation fees (Dharmadhikar), assign emoluments (Khangil) at the prescribed rates (Raibandi), to the personnel of the seven companies, along with the seven artillery units. Manufacture one flintlock (Patharkala) and three pathis of gunpowder every day, and appropriate (the surplus revenue) for your own use.

Do not give opportunity for complaints by increasing taxes and harassing the subjects. Do not represent petty matters relating to the emoluments of the troops to the palace.

Convert irrigable lands into rice-fields, assign such lands to the company after the expiry of the tax-exemption periods according to the nature of the land, and thus increase the troops. Keep the companies in readiness for any command, parade, or sentry or checkpoint duty. Do not let the good rifles of the company be exchanged.

Contd...

Make the area which has been placed under your jurisdiction prosperous, and have it defended by the companies (under your command). Despatch troops whenever there may be any action, in the east, west, north or south. Search for sulphur deposits in the area under your jurisdiction, and make arrangements for the production of saltpeter. Establish a gunpowder factory and supply the stipulated quantity of gunpowder. Convert the iron s s foundry into a munitions factory, and have one rifle manufactured every day. Also arrange for the manufacture of bayonets and leather-pouches for cartridges in numbers sufficient to meet the requirements of the seven companies. Do not let the emoluments of the personnel of these companies fall in arrears. Arrange for the exploitation of mines of all categories.

During the period of five years, produce ... flintlocks, at the rate of one each day.

During the period of five years, produces... pathis of gunpowder, at the rate of three pathis each day.

In addition, increase the number of flintlocks by 100 each year as follows:-

<u>Year</u> (Vikrama)	<u>No. of Flintlocks to be Increased</u> (In Muri)
1858	10
1859	20
1860	30
1861	40

Total - 100 flintlocks

Similarly, increase the production of gunpowder, in addition to the daily production (as mentioned above) by the following quantities each year.

Contd...

<u>Year</u> (Vikrama)	<u>Quantity of gunpowder production to be increased</u> (In Muri)
1858	1
1859	2
1860	3
1861	4
Total - 10 muris	

Chaitra Badi 10, 18560

(March 1800)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pp. 170-72

8. Doti Administrative Regulations, 1800

From King Girban,

To Subba Badal Singh Basnyat.

We hereby promulgate the following regulations relating to administrative functions in Doti:

1. Make arrangements for the repair and maintenance of existing forts in that area. If it is necessary to build new forts anywhere, report the matter to us, and act as ordered. Maintain necessary stocks of arms and ammunition at such forts. In case reports of impending aggression are received from any foreign country, ascertain the truth, take proper care of the area, and send a request (for permission to recruit) additional troops.
2. Do not create any trouble from your side with the Rajas and Nawabs of neighboring principalities. Maintain amicable relations with them. If, even then, they commit aggression on our territory, send a report to Kumaun, and act as advised. Report the matter also to us. If the delay that will be involved in getting orders will cause harm, do whatever you find necessary that will benefit the state and ensure victory.

Contd...

3. In case any person commits murder or other crime in the area under your jurisdiction, inflict punishment as prescribed in the copy of the copper-inscription. Recruit capable, brave and faithful soldiers in the companies, and obtain receipts for the monthly salaries paid to Huddas and soldiers.
4. Have all the troops stationed in the area under your jurisdiction carry their arms constantly. Make arrangements for imparting necessary training to them.
5. Send agents in all directions to collect information and transmit such information to us from time to time.
6. Capture elephants throughout the Doti region. With (the sales proceeds of) fifteen elephants among these captured each year, manufacture rifles and gunpowder as stipulated. Transmit the sales proceeds of the remaining elephants in addition (to the amount of revenue stipulated). You shall be under obligation to supply rifles and gunpowder as stipulated even if you are not able to capture any elephants.

Chaitra Badi 10, 1856

(March 1800)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pp. 172-74.

9. Doti Administrative Regulations, 1800

(Although Badal Singh Basnyat had been appointed Subba of Doti for a five-year term, he does not appear to have been able to complete this term. In December 1800, another person was appointed Subba of Doti, and the following regulations were promulgated. The name of Badal Singh Basnyat's successor is not available, however).

1. Make arrangements for the repair and maintenance of existing forts in that area. If it is necessary to build new forts anywhere, report the matter to us, and act as ordered. Maintain necessary stocks of arms and ammunition at such forts. In case reports of impending aggression are received from any foreign country, ascertain its truth, take proper care of the area, and send a request (for permission to recruit) additional troops.

Contd...s

2. Do not create any trouble from your side with the Rajas of neighboring principalities. Maintain amicable relations with them. If even then they commit aggression on our territory, send a report to Kumaun, and act as advised. Report the matter also to us. If the delay that will be involved in getting orders will cause harm, do whatever you find necessary that will benefit the state and ensure victory.
3. In case any person commits murder or other crimes in the area under your jurisdiction, inflict punishment as prescribed in the copy of the Copper-inscription. Recruit capable, brave and faithful soldiers in the company, and obtain receipts for the monthly salaries paid to Huddas and soldiers.
4. Have all the troops stationed in the area under your jurisdiction carry their arms constantly. Make arrangements for imparting necessary training to them.
5. Send agents in all directions to collect information and transmit such information to us from time to time.
6. Construct forts wherever necessary on streams and rivers throughout Doti.
7. Make arrangements for the procurement of rifles and gunpowder as mentioned in the letter of appointment (Patta) and install magazines and gunpowder factories. Reclaim all cultivable lands in the area under your jurisdiction by enlisting the labor of the ryots and convert such lands into ricefields.

Poush Sudi 11, 1857

(December 1800)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 19, pp. 29-31.

10. Exodus of People from Doti

To the Jimidars, Panchas and ryots of the Tarai areas of Doti.

Come back with assurance to your villages and resume your customary occupations. If you have any grievances, represent these to us through the Subba. We shall redress your grievances.

Magh Badi 11, 1857

(January 1801)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 19, p. 32.

Contd...o

11. Administrative Powers Delegated to Subedars

From King Girban,

To the Subedars stationed in Doti.

Previously, when a Subba had been appointed in Doti, many people were enslaved, much oppression was committed, and the area was depopulated. You are therefore ordered not to enslave anyone, collect taxes from the sryots leniently, and not harass the Raja (of Doti). In case you act in contravention of this order, you shall be held guilty.

Kartik Sudi 13, 1859

(November 1802)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pp. 619-20.

12. Land-Tax Assessments in Khatyanagaun, Doti District, 1868 A.D.

Land-tax assessment records compiled by Ditttha Amar Singh & Baniya Chhetri and Taharir Mukhiya Benidatta Upadhyaya for Khatyanagaun village in the Mirauli-Gorkha (sub-division) of Doti district on the basis of estimations (Dekhajanch) made in the course of the countrywide revenue settlements (Mahajanch) of the Vikrama year 1925 (1868 A.D.), after making deductions of uncultivated lands, lands damaged or washed away by floods and landslides, and non-existent holdings which had been recorded by mistake, or those holdings which had been wrongly recorded twice, and adding newly-reclaimed lands, holdings that had been left out of the previous records by mistake, and unclaimed holdings.

Holdings under the Jurisdiction of Mukhiya Radha Bhandari

<u>Name of Mohi</u>	<u>Area of Khet land</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Rate of tax</u>	<u>Total tax assessment</u>
	Muri/pathi		(per 100 muris) Rs	Rs/annas/paise
Radha Bhandari	22/5	Abal	15	3/2/-
Narsing Bhandari	24/5	,,	15	3/10/1
Sujya Bohro	6/-	,,	15	-/14/-

Contd...

Diwakari Bhandari	7/5	Abal	15	1/1/1
	3/-	Chahar	12½	-16/-
Narsing Bhandari Jr.	2/5	Abal	16	-/6/2¾
	-/15	Sim	14	-/1/2¾
Dharmyako Bohara	3/10	Abal	15	-/8/1¾
	2/-	Chahar	12½	-/4/-
Manasram	8/10	Abal	12½	1/1/-
	<u>1</u> /2/10	Sim	12½	-/4/2
	3/-	Chahar	12½	-/6/-
	<u>2</u> /8/-	Doyam	12½	1/-/-
	<u>2</u> /1/5	Abal	15	-/3/-
	<u>3</u> /1/5	Abal	15	-/3/-
	<u>4</u> /2/10	Sim	12½	-/5/-
Karnya Bohara	5/10	Abal	15	-/13/1"
Hari Bhandari	11/-	Abal	12½	1/6/-
	4/-	Chahar	12½	-/8/-
Chunuwa Bohara	5/10	Abal	15	-/13/-

1/ Transferred from holding of Hari Bhandari.

2. Transferred from holding of Jayadev.

3. Transferred from holding of Narsing Bhandari.

4. Transferred from holding of Mansing Bhandari.

Contd...

Mahamanda Bhandari	1/15	Chahar	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/3/2
	1/15	Chahar	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/3/2
	<u>1</u> /5/-	Abal	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/10/-
Ram Bhandari	5/-	Doyam	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/10/-
	3/-	Chahar	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/6/-
	5/-	Chahar	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/10/-
	3/-	Chahar	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/6/-
Damuwa Khadayat	<u>2</u> /3/-	Sim	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/6/-
	<u>2</u> /5/-	Sim	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	-/10/-

Total area of Khet land as recorded during 1911 (1854 A.D.) revenue settlement and confirmed during 1925 (1868 A.D.) revenue settlements ... 156 $\frac{1}{4}$ muris

Total land-tax assessment ... Rs 21 and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ annas.

(There was no land reclamation in this village during the period from 1854 to 1868 A.D. nor was any holding damaged by floods or landslides).

Source: Lagat Phant Office of the Department of Lands Revenue, Ministry of Finance of His Majesty's Government.

1/ Transferred from holding of Ambar Singh.

2/ Transferred from holding of Jago Bhandari.

Pyuthan Administrative Regulations, 1798 A.D.

From King Rana Bahadur Shah,

To Surbir Rana, Ambar Singh Rana, and Karabir Rana, brothers.

The following regulations are promulgated regarding administrative functions in Pyuthan, which has been placed under you jointly.

1. Collect reports of developments in Lucknow regularly through the exchange of gifts and correspondence.
2. Operate gunpowder factories as done by previous Amals, and expand them if possible.
3. Capture wild elephants in the year when a royal order is issued. In any year when no such order is received, repair old forts and outposts.
4. Appropriate the surplus revenue left after paying emoluments to the personnel of four companies. No accounts thereof need be submitted.
5. If a Chakledar, Jimidar or Rajauta of the Nawab plunders any area under the jurisdiction of Sheoraj-Pyuthan, the guilty person, if found within our territories, shall be beheaded. Such person shall not be pursued beyond the frontiers.

Magh Sudi 5, 1853
(January 1799)

Regmi Research Collections, Vol. 24, pp. 710-11.

A History of Land Tenures in Garhwal^x

(Continued)

"Owing to the contracted state of the population, the insufferable indolence of the male part of it, and their general aversion to carrying burthens, the nature of every species of labour in this province, whether on public works or in transport, has always been compulsory. Although various measures for the relief of the population have been from time to time devised, such as the purchase in 1822 of an establishment of mules (since abolished) at a heavy expense, for the purposes of public transport, and the increase of the rate of hire on the most liberal scale, the employment of the hill Khasiyas in this service has been as yet in no degree rendered voluntary. The demands for this species of labour would appear calculated to benefit the lower classes of the people by affording them a never ceasing source of employment. The aid of the civil power has nevertheless been found to be indispensable in the collection of Khasiyas, for public and private purposes.^g So wrote Mr. Traill, and though the state of population in Garhwal is now by no means contracted, the difficulty in procuring labour for transport purposes remains as great as ever. Moreover in the interior there are few or no shops, and it has therefore always been customary that villages shall supply on payment, such articles of food, fodder and fuel as are necessary, to travellers and officers on tour in the district. For the last three settlements therefore a clause has been inserted in the settlement agreement whereby every landholder and cultivator is bound to supply coolies (labour) and bardaish (supplies) according to custom and the requisitions of authorized officers. With a view to obviate the inconvenience which would result from distant villages being called on in their turn to supply food to a single traveller, an arrangement was made at last settlement whereby the villages of one or more pattis agreed to appoint a single man as shopkeeper for all, remunerating him by a portion of grain at each harvest which varied in different parts. The amount of grain so given was measured by nalas and the shopkeeper was thence called the nali baniya. Nali baniyas exist in the more frequented pattis of Garhwal. In others the people continue to themselves supply camps and travellers moving within their boundaries.

^x E.K. Pauw, C.S., Report on the Tenth Settlement of the Garhwal District. Allahabad: North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government Press, 1896, Chapter II: Tenures pp. 49-52.

Devadasis in Nepal¹

By

Tek Bahadur Shrestha

In ancient times, the system of slavery was practised in different forms, including the practice of maintaining men and women as attendants in temples. They were known as devadasas and devadasis respectively, and were employed to sweep temples, sing songs, and dance in the course of religious ceremonies. Such a practice existed in both Nepal and India. There were temple-dancers in ancient Babylonia, Mesopotamia, Greece and the western countries.² If slavery was due to economic factors, the system of devadasas and devadasis was due to religious factors.

The Arthashastra of Kautilya also refers to devadasis expelled from temples.³ This shows that devadasis were expelled if they acted in contravention of rules promulgated to regulate their conduct. The Kashmiri poet, Kalhana, has referred to devadasis at many places in his Rajatarangini.⁴ Other references are also available regarding this system as it was prevalent in India.⁵

-
1. Condensed from: Tek Bahadur Shrestha, "Pashupatika Dui Tamra-patra: Devadasi Prathama Naya Prakasha (Two Copper-Inscriptions from the Temple of Pashupatinath: New Light on the Institution of Devadasis)." Contributions to Nepalese Studies (Journal of the Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur), Vol. 1, No. 2, June 1974 (Ashadh 2031), pp. 103-06.
 2. Hindi Bishwakosh (Hindi Encyclopaedia), Vol. 6 (Varanasi: Nagari Pracharini, 1966), p. 114.
 3. Kautilya's Arthashastra, 2-23.
 4. Kalhana's Rajatarangini, 1-151, 4-36, 4-269, and 7-858.
 5. The Struggle for Empire (Bombay: Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan), p. 495.

Contd...

There is evidence that there were devadasis in Nepal during the Licchavi period.⁶ One inscription refers to allowances given to devadasis in the form of paddy.⁷

Slavery was not an important institution during the Licchavi period, because social and religious functions were usually discharged through the gramapanchali and gosthis. It appears that devadasas and devadasis were appointed in temples only" because their services were indispensable.

Even toward the end of the medieval period and the beginning of the modern, there were devadasis at the temple of Pashupatinath in Kathmandu. According to a copper-inscription found there recently by the Institute of Nepal and Asian Studies, in the Shaka year 1695 (1773 A.D.), Balakrishna Upadhyaya offered two Newar slave-girls as devadasis to this temple. According to another copper-inscription, in the possession of the Pashupati-Bhandar Office, in the Shaka year 1728 (1806 A.D.), offered her household utensils to the temple of Pashupatinath, and also freed a slave-girl whom she had purchased for Rs 15 out of her dowry. This shows that slaves were freed at temples through the performance of appropriate rituals.

6. Dhanabajra Bajracharya, Licchavi Kalko Abhilekh (Inscriptions of the Licchavi period): (Kathmandu: 2030/1973), p. 320.

7. Ibid., pp. 458659.

Some Errors in the Translation of Dibya Upadesh

Prithvi Narayan Shah's Dibya Upadesh has been translated by Fr. L.F. Stiller, S.J. in Prithvinarayan Shah in the Light of Dibya Upadesh (Kathmandu: the author, 1968). The following is an attempt to correct some errors which have crept into the translation.

- (1) Page 38. The phrase Būdhā mare bhākhā sare has been translated as: "When an old man dies, his words die with him." A more correct translation would be: "Old men die, but the written word moves on." The word bhākhā means what is written, and the emphasis is on the distinction between mare (signifying death) and sare (signifying movement or continuity). The essence of this Nepali phrase is paralleled by the Latin phrase scripta manent, verba volant (written words remain, while spoken words fly away).

Page 39. "Companions to me were Bhanu Jyotisi, Kulananda Jyotisi, and others of my family. From Chandragiri's top I asked, "Which is Nepal?" They showed me, saying, "That is Bhadgaon, that is Patan, and there lies Kathmandu." The thought came to my heart that if I might be King of these three cities, why, let it be so. At this same time these two astrologers said to me, "O King, your heart is melting with desire."

A more accurate translation would be as follows:

"I was accompanied by Bhanu Jaisi, Kulananda Jaisi, and other members of the other leading families (thar-ggars of Gorkha). When we reached Chandragiri, I asked: "Which is Nepal?" They showed me, saying, "That is Bhadgaun, that is Patan, and there lies Kathmandu." Then the thought came to my mind that it would be good if I could be king of all these three cities. At this same time, both astrologers said to me, "Your Majesty's desire and ambition will be fulfilled."

Tharghar referred to six leading families of Gorkha whose members had been used in affairs of state since the reign of Drabya Shah. These families were Pande, Aryal, Pantha, Rana, Khandal and Bohora.

Contd.

- (2) Page 43. "We have won for homespun the three cities of Nepal, the nine lakhs of Kiratis, and the Hindupati Raja." But the phrase Chyāngā Pāngā lai "does not mean "we have won for homespun." The correct translation is: We wore homespun, (but) acquired the three cities of Nepal, and the kingdom of the nine lakh Kiratis and the Hindupati." It should be noted that "the nine lakhs of Kiratis" and the "Hindupati" or Sen kings of Vijayapur controlled the same territory.
- (3) Page 44. Stiller translates merā sālā dukhale āriyāko Muluk hoina as "this will"not be my little painfully acquired kingdom." The phrase literally means: It is not a kingdom which I have acquired by means of small difficulty." The adjective "little" does not qualify "kingdom," as Stiller would have it, but rather the word dukha.
- (4) Page 44. "An important point is that the soldiers"required for the king should be given their house and land and that they farm it, so that they can support themselves by both means." The phrase dubai boti does not mean "by both means." The emphasis is on the personal cultivation of the land by soldiers, so that they may appropriate both parts of the crop -- that part which should accrue to the landowner, as well as that part which is the actual cultivator's share. The term boti means a share of the crop.
- (5) Page 44. "Appoint as commander of them one who has tested himself in four or five battles. In choosing a sat pagari commander, choose one who has been successful in several battles. In placing his Sohra Havildar, let him appoint a man he has tested as a man of courage. The sohra havildar should choose soldiers whom he knows from experience to be courageous."

This translation gives the erroneous impression that there was only one Subedar, one sat pagari, and one "sohra havildar" in each company of 100 riflemen. The correct translation of this passage is as follows:-

"Contd..."

Make up companies of one hundred rifles. Appoint as Subedar of these one hundred rifles a man who has been tested and has won credit in four or five battles. The Subedar, on his part, shall appoint seven officers (Pagari) who have gone through a few battles. The seven pagaris should test men who will kill and be killed with them, and appoint sixteen havildars (hudda). These sixteen havildars should appoint as soldiers those men who will kill and be killed with them.

It is hoped that these notes will enhance the value of the magnificent work which Fr. Stiller has done by translating this important document.

Land-Reclamation Regulations for Eastern Tarai Districts

Large tracts of lands remain virgin in the Tarai region between the Mechi and Narayani rivers. Accordingly, Pattas shall be granted on the following terms to any person who offers to reclaim such lands:-

"A patta indicating the boundaries of the area to be reclaimed and resettled shall be granted on a tax-free basis for ten years. After ten years, one-tenth of the reclaimed area shall be granted to the patta-holder as Birta. The remaining area shall be measured, and taxes shall be assessed thereon at current rates. The rights of the patta-holder shall be secure and heritable. The lands shall not be confiscated even if he is guilty of treason or other crime. Patta-holders shall not be allowed to attract ryots from the Birta lands of Prime Minister Jung Bahadur, or from Raikar lands. However, the labor of such ryots may be utilized if they continue occupying Raikar lands.

Magh Badi 3, 1921
(January 1865)
(21/115)

(S.B. Maharjan).