

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT

OF THE

NAGA HILLS

For the year 1878-79.



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BY

G. H. DAMANT, C.S.,
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CALCUTTA:

PRINTED AT THE FOREIGN DEPARTMENT PRESS.

1879.

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OF THE
NAGA HILLS
For the year 1878-79.

No. 1573, dated Shillong, 26th August 1879.

From—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., C.S., Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam,
To—A. C. LYALL, Esq., Secy. to the Govt. of India, Foreign Dept.

I AM directed to submit, for the orders of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, the report on the General Administration of the Naga Hills District for the year 1878-79, together with the Chief Commissioner's Resolution thereon.

No. L-153, dated Kohima, 18th June 1879.

From—G. H. DAMANT, Esq., C.S., Political Officer, Naga Hills,
To—S. O. B. RIDSDALE, Esq., C.S., Secy. to the Chief Commr. of Assam.

I HAVE the honor to submit herewith the Annual General Administration Report of the Naga Hills District for the year 1878-79.

REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE NAGA HILLS FOR THE
YEAR 1878-79.

1. THE country nominally under the control of the Political Officer in charge of the Naga Hills, extends from east to west from longitude $92^{\circ} 40'$ to 96° , and from the Assam Valley on the north to the border of Manipur and the Patkoi and Saramete Ranges on the south. As however little or nothing has been done during the present year to the east of longitude $94^{\circ} 30'$, the present report will be confined to the history of the tract lying to the west of that line.

2. Tribes and estimated population of the tract of country lying between long. $29^{\circ} 40'$, and $94^{\circ} 30'$.—The tribes which inhabit this tract

of country are Kookies, Mikirs, Cacharies, Aitonias, Angami, Sema, Rengma, Lhota, Hatigoria, and Kutcha Nagas, the whole of whom are dwellers in the forest and live almost entirely by joom, and among the Angamies by terrace cultivation; they are in different degrees of barbarism, from comparative civilization among the Mikirs and Cacharies to utter savagery among the eastern Nagas.

3. *Rengmas*.—Starting from Golagbat and proceeding in a south-westerly direction, the first tribe we meet is the Rengma Nagas, who inhabit the range of hills lying north-west of the valley of the Dhanstri. They dwell in 30 small hamlets and have a population of about 2,000: this branch of the Rengmas is comparatively civilized, and they have for sometime paid us house-tax; they migrated many years ago from the west of the Rengmapani, whence they were driven by the constant attacks of their inveterate foes, the Lhotas and Semas. The greater part of the tribe however still remain in their old site, where they inhabit seven large villages, the principal of which are Themokedima and Tesipitima, each of which contains more than 500 houses. These people are destitute of any vestiges of civilization, and are only kept within bounds by the fear of our forces at Wokha and Kohima. Their numbers are probably about 10,000, which will raise the total Rengma population to 12,000.

4. *Mikirs*.—The next tribe we encounter is the Mikirs, who inhabit 30 small hamlets, and have a population of about 5,500; they are a very quiet inoffensive people, paying us house-tax and free from crime. They are however much addicted to opium smoking, a vice which is the curse of the people living in the lower hill ranges.

5. *Cacharies*.—The Cacharies inhabit about 18 villages in the neighbourhood of Mohungdijua, with a population of about 3,900; in their habits and customs they resemble the Mikirs. They have given no trouble during the year.

6. *Kookies*.—There is one small settlement of old Kookies in the district at Waklai; they belong to the Rangkhul Division of the old Kookies; they have 43 houses and a population of about 200. They pay house-tax, and are in a degree civilized.

7. The new Kookies are without civilization, and were it not for fear of the consequences would be as troublesome as their Naga neighbours; they are an extension of the Langting Colony, who were settled down in 1856 to act as a buffer between the Angamies and North Cachar. These Kookies do not pay rent, having been granted their lands rent-free for 25 years; they are however willing to do so, and it would probably be advisable to accept it. They are divided into three clans—Thado, Changsen, and Shingool, under their Chiefs Khudingmang, Patong, and Kaikatang. They inhabit 21 villages, with a population of about 2,700.

8. *Kutcha Nagas*.—The Kutcha Nagas inhabit 23 villages, with a population of about 6,500. They are tolerably quiet on the whole, and murders and raids are rare among them, but at the same time they are far from being civilized. They are preyed upon by the larger Angami villages, such as Mozema and Khonoma, to whom many of them pay

tribute. Seven villages pay us house-tax; the remainder are still independent.

9. *Angami Nagas*.—The number of villages belonging to this tribe lying west of longitude $94^{\circ} 30'$ is probably about 120, with a population of about 100,000. They are almost entirely independent, only 11 villages paying us revenue; to the east of $94^{\circ} 30'$ there are probably not less than a 100 villages. The whole Angami population cannot fall far short of 200,000.

10. *Sema Nagas*.—The Sema Nagas to the west of $94^{\circ} 30'$ inhabit some 30 villages, with a population of about 30,000. Their villages are larger, containing many of them 400 or 500 houses, while to the east there are many more villages belonging to this tribe of which we do not know even the names, and have no accurate knowledge of the population.

11. *Lokta Nagas*.—The Lhota Nagas inhabit the tract of country bounded by the Hatigorias on the east, and the Rengmas and Semas on the south; on the north and west by the plains. They have about 40 villages, with a population of about 35,000 roughly speaking; they are entirely without civilization, and are treacherous in the extreme.

12. *Hatigoria Nagas*.—This tribe lies east of the Lhotas; they are a fierce and warlike race, dwelling in large villages containing 5000 to 6000 houses; we do not know how far they extend to the east, and it is impossible to give any estimate of their population; there is no doubt however that they are a powerful tribe and will give us trouble hereafter.

13. *Olheras*.—The remaining population of the district consists of some 500 Assamese and Aitonias. The latter are only remarkable as being members of the great Tai or Siamese family; they are closely connected with the Slaus and Khamtis; they only number about 170.

14. *Raids and murder*.—In the history of a district like this the measure of success attained in its administration must, to a great measure, be estimated by the increase or decrease of raids and murders, and it is for this reason that this paragraph has been introduced into the present report. The absence of any precise information on the subject in previous reports renders it, however, impossible to make an accurate comparison with former years, but it may be asserted with perfect confidence that the number of murders has very considerably decreased during the present year, and more especially during the last eight months of the period under report, when the policy of active intervention in intertribal feuds has been vigorously enforced.

15. During this period there was only one case of murder by deadly weapons among the Angamia (two others occurred, but they were of an ordinary description); there were none among the Rengmas, Kutcha Nagas or Kookies, and comparatively few among the Lhotas and Semas. Amongst the distant and powerful tribe of Hatigorias, the new policy has hardly yet been introduced, and one or two years must elapse before they can be fully taught to abstain from their evil practices. The most satisfactory feature, however, in the year is the entire absence of wholesale massacres, such as at Themokedima in 1877, when over 200 persons

were killed, and at Gueiong in 1875 when 50 fell victims. Among the Angamis there has not been a single party on the war path, except the party of Kohima men who attacked Khoma, and it is very noticeable that, although they took captives and spoiled the village, they carefully refrained from taking life.

16. A brief account of the raids and murders which have occurred is given below. The punishment inflicted may in some instances appear disproportionately light, but it must not be forgotten that this is the first year in which any attempt has been made to bring the Nagas under our laws, and at first it is found judicious to administer them as leniently as possible.

17. The Kutchua Nagas have been quiet during the year, and no murders have occurred amongst them; the only occurrence worth note is a little disturbance between the villages of Nakhama and Rezephima, an Angami village. The men of Nakhama came into Samagning to trade, and on their return had occasion to pass through Rezephima; the people of the latter place refused them admittance, as there had been sickness amongst them, and on their attempting to force their way into the village, the Rezephima men attacked them with sticks and stones, and wounded three or four rather severely. The Nakhama men went away vowing vengeance, and the Rezephima men applied to the Assistant Political Officer for protection; he placed some constables in the village, and sent orders to Nakhama forbidding them to molest Rezephima; they however lay in wait outside the village, and succeeded in catching four Rezephima men, whom they beat severely with clubs. The village was fined Rupees 35 for contempt of orders, and the matter ended.

18. Amongst the Rengmas one murder only has occurred: a man of Themokedima was speared by four men of Teseephima. The Assistant Political Officer at Wokha enquired into the case, fined the Teseephima men Rupees 200, and recovered the head of the murdered man. This was in July last; since then the Rengmas have been perfectly quiet.

19. Amongst the Angamis the list is, as might be expected, somewhat longer.

The men of Jotsoma killed a man of Nerhama. The case was proved and the offending village fined Rupees 100.

20. The people of Kohima killed one man of Nerhama, two men of Mima, four men of Keruma, and two men of Tophima; in these cases no punishment was inflicted, as it was considered that the punishment given in other cases was sufficient. The same people also killed a man of Mozema; for this they were fined Rupees 250, and the two murderers were expelled the village, and their houses pulled down and destroyed.

21. The people of Khonoma killed a man of Meramah, mistaking him for a man of Kohima, with which village they were at feud. They were ordered to pay Rupees 50 as compensation to Meramah.

22. The people of Soproma or Mao, a village in Manipur, killed a man of Khonoma who was going to Manipur to trade; the offender was arrested by the Manipur authorities and imprisoned.

23. The same people also killed two men belonging to Khozama, a village in the Naga Hills, because the latter refused to pay them rent.

The Kohama men retaliated by killing two of their men, and Mao then burnt Khozama and killed three more men; for this Mao has been fined Rupees 100 by the Political Agent of Manipur.

24. All the above-mentioned outrages occurred previous to July last; since then the Kohima men raided in force on Khoma and took five captives and looted a considerable amount of property. They were fined Rupees 400 for this outrage; three of the captives who had been sold to distant Kookie and Kutchua Naga villages were, after considerable search, recovered; the whereabouts of the remaining two is still unknown.

25. The people of Chaduma speared a Naga of Nakremi. The Political Officer went to the village to demand the murderer, which was refused, and a party sent to arrest him by force was attacked, and the result was that one Naga was killed and several wounded and the village destroyed. The people were informed they would not be allowed to rebuild it until they surrendered the murderer and tendered a complete submission. They remained in the jungle for about six weeks, when they submitted and offered to surrender the murderer when they could catch him; he had escaped to a very distant village called Swami; these terms were accepted and the village is now rebuilt.

26. The Dakchuma and Phechachuma clans of Kohima had a dispute, and as a way of settling it, resorted to a free fight with sticks and stones, in which several persons were wounded on each side. The matter was brought before Dr. Mountain, the Assistant Political Officer, then at Kohima, and both parties agreed to be friends, but unfortunately a few days afterwards one of the wounded men died of fracture of the skull, and the quarrel broke out afresh; both sides took to arms, and the Political Officer arrived in the village with a strong force of the military and police only just in time to prevent a collision. Eventually the man who threw the stone was expelled the village, his house destroyed, and his property sold.

27. At Putchama too a quarrel arose between two Nagas and one killed the other with a hoe; the villagers banished the offender, destroyed his house, and sold his property.

28. *Sema*.—The Sema Nagas have, so far as we know, been fairly quiet, but in fact we are only acquainted with the few villages which lie on the borders of the Lhota and Angami country. The people of Cherima killed a man of Imphima, but as both villages agreed to make friends and the Imphima men did not press for punishment, none was inflicted.

29. Three Nagas of Lozma speared a man of Teruphima in three places, fortunately without killing him; for this offence they were fined two cows, which they paid after some demur.

30. *Lhotas*.—The Lhotas have on the whole been fairly quiet, and although murder among them has not been entirely stopped, a fair measure of success has been attained.

The villages of Rephim and Yekom, both near Wokha, have been at feud for years past. Some men of Rephim severely assaulted some people of Yekom; they were fined Rupees 50. Shortly after this two men of Yekom seized an old man of Rephim and pulled off one of his ears; they were arrested and sentenced to two years' imprisonment each.

31. The men of Nangatang raided in force on Kanki or Kotsoma in search of heads; but being successful in this, they destroyed the greater part of the standing crop of the village. Mr. Hinde visited the spot, and fined the offending village Rupees 200.

32. In the month of March last the people of Chingaki invited the men of Kohoh, a Hatigoria village with which they had for a long time been at war, to a friendly conference to make up their differences; they then attacked them and killed five and wounded two men; five of the ringleaders have been arrested and are now awaiting trial.

33. A man of Chingaki murdered a woman of Nangatang; he has been arrested and is now awaiting trial.

34. *Hatigorias*.—Amongst the Hatigorias we have as yet been able to do but little. With their internal feuds we are not as yet in a position to interfere at all, and I have no information to give regarding them. Our efforts for the present year have been mainly confined to the suppression of their raids on the Lbota villages, which have been taken under our protection.

35. The people of Nungtang murdered two men of Are. Mr. Hinde visited the village and was attacked by a combination of the villages of Nungtang, Mungrung and Phinsing; he beat them off, killing one Naga. The Nungtang men then submitted, and no further punishment was inflicted on them. The Mungrung men were fined two cows. On his return to head-quarters one of his coolies was speared, though not killed, by the men of Phinsing. Mr. Hinde went to the village and fined them five pigs, five maunds of rice, and five cows.

36. At the beginning of the year the Mungrung men murdered another man of Are. Mr. Hinde went to the village and was again attacked; he drove the Nagas back with a loss of three wounded, and burnt the village. The people have been informed that they will not be allowed to rebuild it unless they submit.

37. *Feeling and disposition of the people*.—Among so many different tribes, it is difficult to write generally of the feelings and disposition of the people towards the Government, but it would be merely a misrepresentation of facts to deny that in every part of the district, except the Mikir and Rengma Hills, we hold our position purely by force of arms, and this we must continue to do for some years to come. At present we are merely the strongest among the many tribes which inhabit the district, and it will be a work of time to blend these discordant elements in one harmonious whole, forming them into a community subject to regular laws; for the present we can hardly hope to introduce a regular administration, and must content ourselves by putting a stop to raids and murders, and introducing the merest elements of a regular government.

38. The Western Nagas, including the Angamies, have been fairly well behaved throughout the year; they have provided coolies and supplies when called upon, and they come freely to trade at the new bazaar at Kohima. The smaller villages regard our coming with unmixed delight; the larger villages have in some instances been rather sulky, but latterly they have to a certain extent accepted the inevitable and become

near to us; they are not however to be trusted, and should be carefully watched for some time to come, as they would probably attack us should they find a favorable opportunity, and the introduction of an alarm-bell measure or the appointment of an officer who did not understand the Naga temperament might suffice to set the hills in flames.

39. But on the whole there is room for hope that time may see these wild tribes settling down into peaceful subjects; it is however a work which cannot be done in a few years, and I fear it will not be accomplished without at least one rising among the Angamies of the larger villages; this once safely over, years of patient work must follow, and perhaps ten years hence some advance may have been made in civilizing these tribes.

40. Our move to Kohima has had a great effect on them, and immensely strengthened the hands of the Political Officer, who is now in a position to punish at once and severely any Angami village which infringes the rule against murder and raiding, which could never have been done effectively from Samaguting.

41. The Nagas at present are not convinced that we intend to occupy Kohima permanently, and they are waiting to see the turn events will take; in all probability next year will see a fresh outbreak of raids and murders; in many instances villages at war with each other have been induced to promise to suspend hostilities for so long as we remain at Kohima. At present the only thing that we insist on among the Angamies is that they should refrain from homicide, raiding, and dealing in slaves. Smaller crimes, such as theft or wounding, are not as a rule noticed, unless they are likely to lead to a feud between two villages, or the people come to complain; they are beginning to do this, and many cases have been settled amicably, which only last year would certainly have led to bloodshed.

42. Among the Lbotas and Rengmas the feeling towards us is one of sulky submission. They obey orders when obliged to do so, but at present not willingly. They are much lower in the scale of civilization than the Angamies, and they are so thoroughly engrained with treachery that it seems impossible for them to believe that we mean well by them; they have not moreover the trading instincts of the Angamies, but still it is satisfactory to note that since the Wokha-Golaghat road has been opened many have gone to the plains to trade. They are on the whole less to be feared than the Angamies, as being less bold and not so well armed, but it is likely that it will take a longer time to civilize them.

43. The Semas are a shade better, and seem on the whole well disposed to us, but on the other hand we have not had so much intercourse with them.

44. With the Hatigorias we have had little intercourse, and what we have had has generally been of a hostile nature. They have attacked us and only made peace on compulsion; the tribe is a very warlike and powerful one, and it will probably during next cold season be necessary to make an expedition into their country.

45. *Move of head-quarters to Kohima*.—The cause and effects of this measure and the way in which it was carried out, has already been

fully described in Political Officer's letter No. L-54, dated 25th April 1879, to Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, and no further mention of the subject need be made here. A sketch map on a scale of 40 feet to the inch, showing the station of Kohima is sent herewith, for which the Political Officer is indebted to Lieutenant Boileau, in command of the Detachment, 44th S. N. I. at Kohima.

46. *Annual tour.*—On account of the removal of the headquarters of the district to Kohima no regular cold weather tour could be attempted, but nevertheless the Political Officer spent the great part of the cold weather in camp. He started from Samaguting on the 12th November and reached Kohima on the 14th, where he remained till the end of the month engaged in building the new station. On the 1st December started again and marched *via* Basama, Sakhabama, and Thenejuma to Chaduma, which he reached on the 3rd and returned to Kohima on the 6th. On the 21st he started for Samaguting, which place he reached on the following day. He remained there till the 3rd January, when he started back for Kohima, which he reached on the 5th.

47. The 14th to 17th was occupied in a trip to the villages of Phesama, Jakhama, Viswema, Khozama, and Mao on the Manipur frontier.

48. The 26th to 3rd February was occupied in a trip to Samaguting and back. On the 10th the Political Officer started from Kohima and marching *via* Merama, Cheswema, Nerhama, Chichama, Tophema, Lozma, Cherima, Themokedima, and Teseiphima reached Wokha on the 16th; he remained there till the 24th, when he started for Golaghat, which he reached on the 27th; he halted there till the 4th March, on which day a start was made for Samaguting, which was reached on the following day. The 8th to the 10th was spent in taking out the records and women and children to Kohima. On the 18th the Political Officer started, and marched *via* Tatsama, Khonoma, and Suchema to Samaguting, which he reached on the 20th, returning to Kohima on the 23rd with the treasure.

49. The 26th to 31st was spent in making an exploration down the bed of the Zubza River as far as the point where it leaves the hills, with a view to opening out a new line of road. The distance travelled was about 700 miles, nearly the whole on foot. The whole of the Angami country proper was visited and a great portion of the Eastern Angami, Bengma, Sema, and Lhota country. It was not found possible to visit the Kutcha Nagas, Kookies, or Mikirs.

50. Mr. Hinde also made frequent trips in the neighbourhood of Wokha, and visited a great part of the surrounding country: He made one journey to the junction of the Bengmapani and Doyang Rivers to prospect for the proposed new road, and also visited some of the nearest Hatigoria villages, a tribe of which our knowledge is very limited. He discovered near Philé two large villages, called Leptopso and Kormachang, of whose existence we had been ignorant.

51. *Prices of food, labour, &c.*—The price of rice has varied at different times and in different parts of the district from Rupees 2-8 to Rupees 7 a maund. In the month of August last, the supply at

Samaguting ran very short, the difficulty however was tided over by procuring supplies from the Kutcha Naga and Kookie country.

52. At Kohima our supply has been and still is rather precarious, but we have never been without food, and have good hopes of being able to get enough for the rains. Other grains, such as Indian-corn, Job's tears, kaun, or millet, and a small kind of bean can be procured cheaply at Kohima, and there is a bazaar which is well attended daily where fowls, eggs, fish, vegetables, and pork can generally be procured.

53. A large supply of Naga labour has been procured this year at four annas a day, a cheaper rate than has been paid in previous years when no annas was given; a good deal of road work was done by Naga labour, and they also brought out much of the stores from Samaguting to Kohima. A quota of coolies was deputed from each village, and generally given with little trouble except in the case of Khozoma, which the Political Officer was compelled to visit, and the coolies were then supplied. For road work, which the Nagas appear to like, any number of coolies can be obtained, but they do not come so freely to work as porters; they require a little careful management, and very much prefer to be paid daily; they are not however very trustworthy, and will not hesitate to steal anything if they can get an opportunity.

54. Besides the Nagas some Nepalese coolies were imported from the Garo Hills, and some Mikirs from the Nowgong border worked for a short time at house building at Kohima; they were paid at the rate of Rupees 9 per mensem. The Golaghat road was principally repaired by Assamese coolies from the Golaghat subdivision.

55. *Public health and material condition of the people.*—From the statement* annexed it will be seen that among the police force the mortality and sickness were both higher than they ought to be, but this only applies to Samaguting; since the men have been at Kohima sickness has decreased 5 per cent., notwithstanding the hardships and exposure which they have suffered.

56. During the rains there was a most violent outbreak of virulent ulcers, which broke out generally on the feet or ankles, and which were most obstinate and difficult to cure; at one time as many as 10 per cent. of the police force were suffering from them, and they were equally common among the Nagas of Samaguting. They are probably to be attributable to the bad water and a want of vegetables and milk; these evils however no longer exist, as we have a plentiful supply of good water and native vegetables at Kohima, and large gardens have been made which are already yielding well and will give a sufficient supply of vegetables for all. Arrangements have also been made for importing a supply of cows, of which we have but few at present.

57. The Nagas appear to have been generally healthy, and epidemics have, so far as is known, been entirely absent; the only exception being the village of Nakhama, where about 50 persons are said to have died from what is supposed to have been cholera, though it is very rare in these hills. A few cases however did occur undoubtedly among the party which first occupied Kohima, and there were five deaths; the disease however soon died out.

58. As a rule the people are fairly well-to-do. Beggars are unknown, and each person seems to be able to provide his food and clothing without difficulty. Some of the headmen are, comparatively speaking, very rich. One man, who gave a feast to his fellow villagers, killed 40 pigs and 20 cows on the occasion, besides providing an enormous quantity of beer, and instances of this kind are not uncommon. The tribe who are probably the poorest are the Mikirs; their land is not so good, and their cultivation is not so scientific as that of the Nagas, while they are addicted to opium-eating, to obtain which they fall into the hands of Bengali and Assamese traders, and live in a perpetual state of debt.

59. *State of roads, communications, &c.*—The only road worthy of the name in the district is from Golaghat to Samaguting, 67 miles in length; this is passable for horses and elephants throughout the year, and for carts in the cold weather; it has been put in good repair as far as the Nambur River, a distance of 57 miles, elephant and other bridges constructed and jungle cleared. The repairs of the remaining ten miles from the Nambur to Golaghat, with the exception of the jungle clearing which was done previously, was entrusted to the Executive Engineer, Central Assam Division, but not completed by the end of the year.

60. The road from Golaghat to Wokha, about 62 miles in length, is a mere track; it is passable for elephants as far as Merapani, a distance of 19 miles only; from thence for ponies to Wokha. The jungle has been cleared and bridges repaired.

61. A bridle-path exists from Samaguting to Wokha, which crosses the Zubza River, ten miles below Kohima. A new track with a fair gradient has been cut to connect this with the new station at Kohima, and the portion of the road from the Zubza to Samaguting has been put into a fair state of repair. It has been found impossible to repair the remainder owing to pressure of work elsewhere.

62. A new track from Mao to Kohima to complete our communication with Manipur was commenced and completed for about half the distance as far as Jakhama.

63. The proposed new line of road *vis-à-vis* the Zubza, Rengmapani, and Doyang Rivers from Kohima to Golaghat, with a branch line to Wokha, was prospected by Mr. Hinde, the road overseer, and the Political Officer, and found to be practical. A separate report on it has already been submitted.

64. There are only two schools in the district, one at Samaguting and the other at Barpathar, with 38 pupils between them. They are taught Bengali and a little English at the Samaguting school. Efforts were made to open schools among the Cacharies at Mohungdijna and the Rengma Nagas; the latter failed, but a school has been opened at Mohungdijna.

65. There was only one dispensary open during the year at the head-quarters station, which was attended by 449 out-door patients and 152 in-door patients, the greater number of them Nagas. The prevailing diseases were ulcers, bowel complaints, and chest diseases.

66. *Weather and crops.*—The outturn of crops was on the whole very good indeed, and it was probably above the average. The rice grown in this district is of two descriptions—one the ordinary hill rice, which is

grown in the jooms and resembles the *aus* rice of Bengal; the other and more important kind is the transplanted rice which grows in the terrace cultivation and resembles *aman*. The principal food grains grown in addition to rice are Job's tears, kaup, Indian-corn, and a kind of pulse. Cotton is largely grown in some parts.

67. The rain-fall, though less than in the last year, is still considerably above the average, as will appear from the following statement:—

Statement of rain-fall.		Year 1877-78.	Year 1878-79.
April	...	5-10	4-01
May	...	7-51	6-49
June	...	14-84	11-29.
July	...	12-00	9-14
August	...	19-92	10-84
September	...	6-95	11-52
October	...	5-21	5-31
November	2-97
December	...	0-31	0-13
January	...	0-78	0-19
February	...	1-17	0-78
March	...	2-88	0-09
	Total	76-67	62-76

68. *Trade and Commerce.*—Under this head there is but little to record, as the amount of commerce is but small. A good deal of cotton is exported by the Mikirs, Cacharies, and Lhota Nagas, but of this trade I have not been able to obtain statistics.

69. Amongst the Angames 1,995 persons took passes to trade in the plains, of whom 1706 took down Rupees 7943 to buy salt, 207 took Manipuri and Naga cloths, and the remainder took 45 ponies. They went to Dimapur, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Gauhati and Cachar.

70. The traders at Samaguting and Kohima imported goods to the value of Rupees 63,467, salt, rice and cloth being the principal items, and they bought from the Nagas ivory, wax, and cloth to the value of about Rupees 3000.

71. *State of Police, Criminal, and Civil Justice.*—Under this head there is very little to remark. The criminal cases tried by the Political officer and his Assistants amount to ten in number, none of which were of a serious nature; this does not of course in any way represent the real

crimes of the Naga Hills, which is, I imagine, ten-fold greater than in an ordinary district of the same population; murder, cattle and gun stealing are here regarded as virtues; it is true some descriptions of crime, such as rape, forgery, and others are rare; they will probably develop as civilization increases.

72. Only the other day on visiting Teruphima, a distant Sema village, about sixty-half anna and one-pice pieces whitened with quicksilver were brought to me by the innocent Semas, who complained that they were turning brown; I found they had been passed as rupees and eight anna pieces by some Nagas of Kohima, who will be arrested before long. I afterwards found that the same imposition had been practised on the people of a distant Angami village called Kotoimi.

73. In another instance an Angami sold another a quantity of powdered charcoal for gunpowder; in fact my short experience of the Nagas leads me to modify very much the high opinion of their virtue expressed by my predecessors. Briefly, I believe them to be capable of any crime when they get the opportunity. Next year will undoubtedly show a very large increase in our crime returns, and this increase will continue for some years, as we exercise more and more direct control over the people.

74. Civil disputes are generally settled by the people themselves; twelve suits however, all of a petty nature, were decided by the civil officers.

75. The police of this district are purely military, and not invested with any civil powers whatever. They are, on the whole, a most excellent body of men, and are admirably adapted for the work they have to perform. They are composed almost entirely of Garos, Hill Cacharies, Mech, and Gorkhas, and for the rough work which they have to perform in these jungles, without proper carriage or supplies, it would not be easy to find another body of men who would do their work so well and with so little grumbling. Hillmen themselves, they care little for caste prejudices, and can feed themselves where a plains man would starve. Their conduct has been almost invariably good and very few departmental punishments have been inflicted. I regret however to have to record two bad cases of theft, one by a constable at Wokha, who, while on duty as sentry, broke open the Government treasure box with his bayonet and stole the contents, fortunately not a large sum, all of which was recovered; the man was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. A similar sentence, with the addition of 20 stripes, was also passed on a constable, against whom five cases of theft from his comrades were proved.

76. During the year the force was raised from 163 to 232. It was brought up to full strength partly by a draft from the Garo Hills Police and partly by raising recruits; it is now at full strength, and I am glad to say that the difficulty which has been felt in former years in obtaining recruits has quite disappeared. The force has lately been armed with short Enfield rifles, a great improvement on the old carbines. These, it is hoped, will be exchanged for Sniders before long.

77. Officers serving in the district.—Lieutenant H. St. P. Maxwell officiated as Political officer from 1st April to 31st July 1878, when Mr. G. H. Daman, the permanent Political officer, assumed charge, which

he held till the end of the year. Mr. W. B. Savi acted as Assistant Political officer from 1st April to 15th July 1878, when Mr. Pugh relieved him, and held charge till 29th March 1879, when he was relieved by Mr. Cawley. Dr. Cooper, Assistant Political officer, was in medical charge from 1st April till 1st August 1878. Dr. Mountain took charge of his office on the 26th October 1878 and remained in charge till the end of the year. Mr. Himde was in charge of the Wokha Sub-division from 24th May 1878 to the end of the year.

78. Summary.—On the whole the year has been one of progress. The great event as far as the district is concerned has been the introduction of a decided policy amongst the Naga tribes, and the decision which Government has arrived at that it is our duty to put a stop to the whole-sale system of murder which has so long flourished unchecked among them. This determination has been made widely known among the tribes, and it has been emphasized by the occupation of Kohima and the punishment inflicted on villages who have offended in this respect. Although something has been done during the present year, very much yet remains before the civilization of the whole range of hills as far as the Singpho country can be effected. In time to come it will probably be found necessary to have a sub-division somewhere near Senua and to move the Wokha Sub-division further to the east; this is naturally a question of time and for the next year or two our hands will be fully occupied in civilizing the tribes which immediately surround Wokha and Kohima and in opening out roads and communications: this accomplished we can travel further east, advancing step by step until we have succeeded in eradicating the last vestiges of the murder and bloodshed which now prevails among all these tribes.

(Sd.) G. M. DAMANT,
Political Officer, Naga Hills.

ANNEXURE A.

[Referred to in paragraph 55.]

Annual statement of the sick in the Naga Hills Police Hospital during the year 1878-79.

	Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Head Constables.	Constables.	Buglers.	Total.	Monthly average.
Admitted during the year (1878-79)	4	7	12	280	3	306	115.41
Died	6	1	7	
Discharged	4	7	12	274	2	299	
Total	4	7	12	280	3	306	

KOHIMA, } (Sd.) G. M. DAMANT,
The 18th June 1879. } Political Officer.



RESOLUTION ON THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE
NAGA HILLS DISTRICT FOR 1878-79.

Read—

A letter No. 153, dated 15th June 1879, from the Political Officer, Naga Hills, submitting the Report on the Administration of the Naga Hills District for the year 1878-79.

RESOLUTION.

The Chief Commissioner has read with much interest the very full and complete report submitted by the Political officer on his administration of the Naga Hills District.

2. Sir Stewart Bayley notices that Mr. Damant puts the eastern limit of the tract within which he describes the various tribes and clans more or less under his jurisdiction and control as longitude 94°30'. This is the limit within which Colonel Keatinge, in his letter to the Government of India, No. 560 of 25th March 1878, stated that he thought for the present the tribes could, with an adequate force, be kept in subjection and be required to pay taxes, while ultimately our influence might gradually be extended as far eastwards as longitude 96°30'. Sir Stewart Bayley would not lay down any hard-and-fast line in this matter; as, from the nature of things, our authority must be constantly expanding in these hills, and the limit must from time to time be a discretionary one, based on the principle of not attempting to exercise authority beyond easy and secure striking distance.

3. Mr. Damant's enumeration of the various tribes dwelling within the limits of the Political officer's jurisdiction is most useful and valuable. It shows that he has to deal with certainly not less than ten distinct tribes of various stages of civilization and power, ranging from the warlike and wealthy Angamis, numbering some 200,000, who have terraced cultivation and fire-arms, and an aptitude for trade, and who, besides tyrannising over weaker tribes, are already sufficiently civilized to deal in counterfeit coin and spurious gunpowder, down to the peaceful and long-settled clans of old Kookies, 200 strong, settled Rengmas, 2,000, and Mekirs, 5,500. Of the Eastern Nagas, whose power and civilization, if not their ferocity, is below that of the Angamis, little is known; but it may be anticipated that, as our authority extends eastward, we shall have trouble with such tribes as the Hatigorias and Semas, all of whom we speak of as Nagas, but who acknowledge no tribal connection with each other, and who, for the most part, cannot understand each other's speech.

4. To weld such a mass of disconnected and barbarous tribes into a law-abiding community is no easy task, and it must be many a year before even an approximate success can be attained. But the expedition against the Angamis of the previous year, and the determination of Government to adopt a stable policy of gradually suppressing raids and extending a settled administration among them, has not been without effect; as Mr. Damant testifies to a decided diminution in the number of raids, massacres, and murders during the year under report. Notwithstanding this improvement, the long list of murderous outrages quoted by Mr. Damant, shows a condition of ceaseless interminable warfare to be the normal state of existence among the tribes, and offers a

compulsive warning against the supposition that our mere presence at Khoma will of itself suffice to effect any immediate change in the habit of life and thought of a whole population. The work will be one requiring much time and patience to effect, and Mr. Damant is, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, quite right in punishing such outrages in these early days of our occupation sufficiently to mark our determination to put an end to raiding, but with much less severity than would be necessary among a more settled community.

5. The punishment detailed in paragraph 24 for the raid on Khoma and that inflicted on Chaduma were the most severe, but both of these cases occurred after the orders of Government had been promulgated, and were well understood. The only case where, in the Chief Commissioner's opinion, more vigorous action was called for, was in that of the combination of the villages of Nungtang, Mungrung, and Phinsing against Mr. Hinde. In all the others the action of the local officers was sufficient and judicious.

6. The Chief Commissioner is quite satisfied that the movement of the head-quarters of the district to Kohima was judicious, and was absolutely necessary for the proper execution of the policy decided on by the Government of India in regard to the suppression of raids, and the movement itself was carried out with much discretion and energy. The occupation of Kohima was unopposed, and, with the present force of the garrison, the post is safe against any attack which is likely to be made against it. But it would be dwelling in a fool's paradise to suppose that, as the tribes begin to apprehend the permanent nature of our occupation, and the advantageous position it gives to the Political Officer in dealing with disobedient and opposing villages, there will not be strenuous attempts made to dislodge us, or at least to harass us, on the part of the more powerful villages such as Mozema and Konoma, whose favourite occupation of harassing and plundering their weaker neighbours is thus brought to an end. For some time to come we shall have to be on our guard against such attacks, and our attitude in regard to these villages can for the present be considered as, at the best, one of armed neutrality; but year by year this state of affairs will inevitably tend to improvement. The early records of both the Sylhet and Garabati Districts are full of the terror inspired by the raids of the "ferocious tribes of Khasias," who, moreover, resisted us when in armed occupation of their country for a period of four years, but are now a singularly peaceful, inoffensive, trade-loving community. So, too, it is probable that in a few years' time the ferocity of the Nagas will be a tradition of the past, and their natural aptitude for trade will find a full and unchecked development. The task in their case is in some respects likely to be less easy than with the Khasias, as the latter lived under the settled and organized government of their own Chiefs, while the Nagas own no Chiefs, either of tribes of villages, and yield only a precarious and uncertain obedience to such elders as may for the time being have acquired commanding influence amongst them; but this fact, if it tends to check the spread of civilizing influences, on the other hand greatly diminishes the danger of any combined or organized opposition. In this state of affairs the Political Officer rightly abstains from anything like detailed administration. If disputes in the way of petty criminal or civil cases are brought to him, it is quite right that he should settle them; but,

so long as the people prefer settling such matters among themselves by arbitration, it is far better that they should be permitted to do so. The Political Officer will for a long time have his hands full in the measures to be adopted to maintain his own security, to keep the peace, to prevent the stronger villages from raiding on the weaker, and to improve the means of communication, and generally in making his influence felt throughout the difficult country of which he is in charge.

7. Mr. Damant appears hitherto, so far as the present report narrates, to have grappled successfully with the difficulties involved in maintaining a sufficient labour-supply and food-supply for the troops and police occupying Kohima. Considering the difficulties attending this occupation in this centre of what is almost a hostile country, his success is most creditable to him. It will, however, be satisfactory to learn that he has succeeded in putting these matters on a permanently-assured footing, and beyond the reach of accidents.

8. The health of the Police at Samaguting appears to have been very unsatisfactory. Kohima, which is considerably higher, is also much more healthily situated, and in this respect the move has proved decidedly advantageous. In fact, Kohima ought to prove a sanitarium not less beneficial than Shillong.

9. Mr. Damant gives the following brief but satisfactory description of the condition of the people about Kohima:—

“As a rule, the people are fairly well-to-do. Beggars are unknown, and each person seems to be able to provide his food and clothing without difficulty. Some of the headmen are, comparatively speaking, very rich. One man who gave a feast to his fellow villagers killed 40 pigs and 20 cows on the occasion, besides providing an enormous quantity of beer, and instances of this kind are not uncommon. The tribe who are probably the poorest are the Mikirs; their land is not so good, and their cultivation is not so scientific as that of the Nagas, while they are addicted to opium-eating, to obtain which they fall into the hands of Bengali and Assamese traders, and live in a perpetual state of debt.”

10. The Chief Commissioner proposes, as soon as the season permits, to attach a trained officer to the Naga Hills District to assist Mr. Damant in aligning the new road which is to connect Kohima with its base at Golaghat. The line promises to effect a great saving both in distance and maintenance on the existing road *via* Dimapur and Samaguting, and will have the advantage of being connected by a short branch with Wokha. The Chief Commissioner is glad to learn that material progress has been made in the road connecting Kohima with Mao, and so with Manipur. When these two lines are complete there will be secure and easy communication between Golaghat and Manipur, and this will tend perhaps, more than anything else, to foster the trading instincts of the Angamies. That these are not unimportant, may be gathered from the fact that 2,000 passes were taken out by Nagas during the year for trading with the plains; and, although the Angamies at present assert their intellectual superiority over the neighbouring tribes, by selling them powdered charcoal for gunpowder, and pice rubbed with quicksilver for rupees, just as they assert their martial superiority by slaying and plundering them, these facts show also that they are a race

with keen energies both for fighting and trading, and may yet, if wisely managed, have a successful future before them.

11. The work done by schools and dispensaries in this district is as yet in its infancy, but it shows signs of growing to a healthy and useful extent.

12. The Chief Commissioner fully endorses the views expressed by Mr. Damant as to the Frontier Police in the following paragraphs:—

“The police of this district are purely military, and not invested with any civil powers whatever. They are, on the whole, a most excellent body of men, and are admirably adapted for the work they have to perform. They are composed almost entirely of Garos, Hill Cacharies, Mech, and Gurkhas, and for the rough work which they have to perform in these jungles, without proper carriage or supplies, it would not be easy to find another body of men who would do their work so well with so little grumbling. Hillmen themselves, they care little for caste prejudices, and can feed themselves where a plains man would starve. Their conduct has been almost invariably good, and very few departmental punishments have been inflicted. I regret, however, to have to record two bad cases of theft—one by a constable at Wokha, who, while on duty as sentry, broke open the Government treasure-box with his bayonet, and stole the contents, fortunately not a large sum, all of which was recovered, and the man was convicted and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. A similar sentence, with the addition of 20 stripes, was also passed on a constable, against whom five cases of theft from his comrades were proved.

“During the year the force was raised from 163 to 232; it was brought up to full strength partly by a draft from the Garo Hills Police and partly by raising recruits; it is now at full strength, and I am glad to say that the difficulty which has been felt in former years in obtaining recruits has quite disappeared.

“The force has lately been armed with short Enfield rifles, a great improvement on the old carbines. These, it is hoped, will be exchanged for Sniders before long.”

13. The Chief Commissioner congratulates Mr. Damant on the successful accomplishment of a delicate and difficult task in removing the head-quarters of the district to Kohima, and on the secure and peaceful occupation of that place. His general administration has been marked by courage, tact, and discretion, and Sir Stewart Bayley considers it fortunate that the administration of the district, at a difficult time, was entrusted to such a firm and experienced officer. He is also well satisfied with the manner in which Mr. Hinde, in charge of the new sub-division of Wokha, has carried on his difficult and anxious work during the year.

By order of the Chief Commissioner of Assam,

(Sd.) S. O. B. BRIDGDALE,
Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.