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R E P O R T

BY THE

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, PUNJAB,

ON THE

CONDUCT OF THE KOOKAH SECT

DURING THE YEAR 1869.

SELECTED PAPERS.

No. XXII.

LAHORE :

PUNJAB PRINTING COMPANY,

1871.

MEMORANDUM.

The Inspector General publishes the enclosed copy of a letter to the Secretary to Government Punjab, reporting on the conduct of the Kookah sect during the year 1869, for the information of police officers.

CENTRAL POLICE OFFICE, }
Lahore, 14th January 1871. }

(201.)

FROM

LIEUTENANT COL. G. HUTCHINSON, C. S. I.,
Inspector General of Police, Punjab,

TO

T. H. THORNTON, ESQUIRE, D. C. L.,
Secretary to Government, Punjab,
Civil Department.

Dated Lahore, 14th January 1871.

SIR,

I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, the result of the police observation of the Kookah sect during the year 1869.

POLICE.
Report on the Kookah sect for 1869.

2. The principal incident to be related is the so called riot in the Kookah riot in Ferozepoor district. As it gives an insight into the dangers of Kookahism, when the leader is an unscrupulous intriguing man, I give a somewhat full account of the occurrence, partly taken from the notes of the District Superintendent of Police, and partly from the judicial record of the trial.

3. Towards the close of February 1869, reports reached Mr. Turton Smith that Kookahs were collecting near Roopana in the Ferozepoor district. It was stated that the lumberdar of that village had burnt some spinning wheels, a charpoy, and a plough, part of a cart, &c., and having deserted his home, had proceeded with a body of Kookahs in the direction of Tehrajwalla, a village in the Sirsa district. The movements of this party were closely watched by Diwan Baksh, Deputy Inspector of Police, who anticipated disturbances in consequence of its attitude.

Origin of the disturbance.

4. Some two days later a report was sent in by Deputy Inspector Diwan Baksh that the Kookahs had set upon him for observing their movements. It appears that his sword was damaged and taken from him, his horse was struck with a spear, one Beli Sing either struck Diwan Baksh with an axe or a stick, and Munna Sing

Attack on the Deputy Inspector.

threw a spear at him. A constable who accompanied the Deputy Inspector was assaulted, his sword broken and taken from him, and his coat cut through by a blow from the blade. This attempt to deter the Police from their duty was made near Kooraywalla. Diwan Baksh stated that the party of Kookahs used most seditious language, and proclaimed the Khalsa reign, setting all authority at defiance.

5. In the absence of the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Turton Smith, District Superintendent of Police, accompanied by Mr. Wakefield, Assistant Commissioner, started at once for the scene of disturbance with as large a force of police as could be collected. Some twenty foot Police were started off in Ekhas, whilst fifteen mounted police accompanied the European Officers. Owing to the depth of sand the Ekhas had to be abandoned a few miles out of Ferozepore, and the men proceeded on foot.

The party arrived at Mookutsur (34 miles from Ferozepore) at 2 A. M. on the 1st March. The acting Tehseeldar, Alum Sha, met them there, and told the officers that the Kookahs were assembled at Tehrajwalla, and that they refused to surrender. Alum Sha had only a few policemen with him, and had not deemed it prudent to attempt coercion.

Messrs. Wakefield and Smith then pushed on with the mounted police, the footmen following as closely as possible. They were joined by Sodi Man Sing and his brother, who had heard of their approach, and came to offer their assistance.

6. On nearing Tehrajwalla (about 25 miles distant from Mookutsur) it was deemed advisable to keep the police in the background, and endeavour to arrest the offenders through the instrumentality of the villagers. The feeling of the country-people was most loyal, and they assembled with great good-will.

7. At 2 P. M. the party approached Tehrajwalla. Inspector Kootub Shah and eight policemen, and Alli Moola, Superintendent of Settlements, were found waiting outside the village. The Inspector had made an attempt through Mullook Sing of Phoolaywalla, a leading Kookah of moderate views, to induce the Kookahs to surrender, but Mullook Sing declared he had been entirely superseded in his authority by Mustan Sing of Tehrajwalla; Mullook Sing, however, pro-

cured Kootub Shah an interview with Mustan Sing, who demanded the Inspector's horse as "*nuzarana*," and ridiculed him for believing the English could assist him: Mustan Sing further advised him to desert his falling Government and throw in his lot with the rising Kookah cause. Alli Moolla's efforts to bring about order had been simply rewarded with showers of bricks. The Kookahs presented turbans to the lumberdars of Tehrajwalla, and requested them to join the movement.

8. Such was the state of affairs on the arrival of Messrs. Smith and Wakefield. Mr. Wakefield despatched Alum Sha and Mân Sing to the Kookahs to demand their unconditional surrender, and at the same time inform them that two European officers had arrived with a force. The deputation returned in about half an hour bringing with them Mustan Sing and two of his chief followers: shortly afterwards the rest of the Kookahs appeared in a very excited state. At first they refused to recognize any authority but that of Mustan Sing. Mustan Sing's assurance appears to have left him when confronted with the Europeans and the assembled villagers. It was a work of but few minutes to disarm the Kookahs, who submitted to be bound together, and thus forty-four of them were taken in custody to the police station of Mulout, in the Sirsa district.

9. It is noteworthy that goor in large quantities had been distributed by the Kookahs; that several brought their families with them; and that a large number of gold and silver ornaments had been collected and placed at Mustan Singh's disposal. Mr. Turton Smith found ornaments to the value of some Rs. 5,000, and there is no doubt he did not succeed in discovering the total collections.

10. On the 2nd of March the forty-four prisoners were taken to Mookut-sur. Mr. Smith here learnt that Mustan Singh acquired his influence over the Kookahs by having prophesied the famine, which, luckily for him, actually came to pass. The reverence shown him by the members of his sect seems to have turned Mustan Singh's head; and, disgusted with Ram Singh's inaction, he appears to have set on foot this disturbance, as the means to accomplish, what he evidently considered the object of Kookahism, the restoration of the Khalsa rule. To effect his aim he superseded Mulook Singh, and employed a woman of Jhundwalla, Mullout, to obtain disciples by pretending that the spirit of Daya

Message sent to Kookahs
by Assistant Commissioner,
and their surrender.

Arrangements previously
made by the Kookahs.

Mustan Singh leader of
the sect.

Kour, Ram Singh's murdered daughter, had entered into her and compelled her to proclaim Mustan Singh as the leader of the Kookah sect. Mustan Singh appears to have given out that Ram Singh was actually dead, and that he had succeeded him.

11. The forty-four prisoners were placed on their trial before Mr. Knox, the Deputy Commissioner of Ferozepoor, who was instructed by Lieutenant Colonel Cracroft, the Commissioner of Lahore, with the approval of Government, to try them for rioting, and not for attempting to wage war, and to award only a few severe sentences.

The following is the result :—

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| 1. | Anok Singh of Jhundwalla, Sirsa, | ... | Released without trial. |
| 2. | Anoop Singh of Bholwalla, Mukutsur, | ... | do. |
| 3. | Bahadur Singh of Terajwalla, Sirsa, | ... | do. |
| 4. | Bela Singh do., | ... | do. |
| 5. | Beli Singh do., | ... | { Struck the Deputy Inspector either with a stick or an axe, sentenced to a fine of Rs. 10, or in default to three months' simple imprisonment. |
| 6. | Bhoop Singh of Thote, Mookutsur, | ... | Released without trial. |
| 7. | Bhugwan Singh of Jhundwalla, Sirsa, | ... | do. |
| 8. | Boodh Singh do., | ... | do. |
| 9. | Buchuttur Singh of Kooraiwalla, Mookutsur, | ... | { Struck the Deputy Inspector's horse with a spear, sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. |
| 10. | Bugwan Singh of Sohag, Mookutsur, | ... | Released without trial. |
| 11. | Chunda Singh of Sota, Mookutsur, | ... | do. |
| 12. | Dhyan Singh of Lubberwalla, Sirsa, | ... | do. |
| 13. | Dyal Singh of Sundewallah, | ... | do. |
| 14. | Heera Singh of Phoolwalla, Mookutsur, | ... | do. |
| 15. | Hurnam Singh of Dohiwalla, Sirsa, | ... | do. |

16. Hurnam Singh of Oluk, Sirsa,	...	{	Joined with Surmukh Singh in the assault on Sobe Shah, constable. Broke his sword, and cut his coat with the blade. Sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 25, or three months' imprisonment in default.
17. Jameyut Singh of Sundewalla,	...		Released without trial.
18. Jeeta Singh of Doewalla,	...		do.
19. Jye Singh of Sota, Mookutsur,	...		do.
20. Jymul Singh of Koonun, do,	...		do.
21. Khan Singh of Joga, Puttiala,	...		do.
22. Khazan Singh of Sota, Mookutsur,	...		do.
23. Kurk Singh do.,	...		do.
24. Lall Singh of Hoosunur, Mookutsur,	...		do.
25. Mah Singh of Lubberwalla, Sirsa,	...		do.
26. Mann Singh of Sota, Mookutsur,	...		do.
27. Mulook Singh of Bholwalla, do.,	...	{	Held to have been concerned, but not to have taken an active part. Warned and discharged.
28. Munna Singh of Chunnoo, Sirsa,	...	{	Threw an iron headed spear at the Deputy Inspector. Sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment, and fine of Rs. 25, or in default three months' imprisonment.
29. Mustan Singh of Terajwalla, Sirsa,	...	{	Sentenced to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 50, or six months' in default.
30. Narain Singh of Korianwalla,	...		Released without trial.
31. Nund Singh of Phoolewalla,	...		do.
32. Nutha Singh of Mah Vudr, Mookutsur,	...		do.
33. Sahib Singh of Kooraiwalla, Mookutsur,	...		do.
34. Sher Singh of Bholwalla do.,	...		do.
35. Sobha Singh of Sota, do.,	...		do.
36. Soheli Singh of Oluk, Sirsa,	...		do.
37. Soodh Singh of Jageralla, Puttiala,	...		do.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------|---|
| 38. | Surmukh Singh of Bholwalla, Mookutsur, | ... | This man assaulted constable Sobe Shah with a stick, striking him on the head. Fined Rs. 10, or in default three months' simple imprisonment. |
| 39. | Tara Singh of Fukursur, Mookutsur, ... | Released without trial. | |
| 40. | Umur Singh of Sundewallah, | ... | do. |
| 41. | Umur Singh of Gooroosur, | ... | do. |
| 42. | Uttur Singh of Doewalla, | ... | do. |
| 43. | Wur Singh of Lubburwalla, Sirsa, | ... | do. |
| 44. | Wazzeer Singh of Koopana, Mookutsur, ... | | |

12. Sodhi Man Sing was made an Honorary Magistrate in consideration of his services on this occasion, and pecuniary rewards were distributed to the villagers.

Rewards to Sodi Man Sing and others.

13. The foot police marched 65 miles in thirty hours, and the mounted police performed the same distance in 24 hours with the utmost cheerfulness. Their services have not, I believe, been acknowledged.

Exertion of the Police.

14. The District Superintendent of Hooshyarpoor reports a remarkable decline in the energy of the sect, the cause being the one assigned in my report of last year. Captain Boddam states that no meetings have been held by the Soubahs, as usual, for making converts. Since Ram Sing has taken to visiting different parts of the country the people have had an opportunity of seeing and observing him to the destruction of his repute for sanctity. Indeed it is currently rumoured that Ram Sing only escaped the fate of his daughter (who was murdered by her husband for adultery), by flight, thus proving the absurdity of the Soubahs assertions of his invulnerability. Many Kookahs have abandoned the tenets of the sect.

Decline of Kookahism in Hooshyarpoor.

15. It is a new feature that in the past year Kookahs have frequently appeared as defendants in criminal cases. Crime is very heavy at Kukker, which is the Umritsur headquarters. In Ferozepore a Kookah was convicted of murder by poison, and another (Sohail Sing) of cattle theft.

Character of Kookahs as to crime.

16. In Sirsa no fresh converts have been made; but in Jullunder, notwithstanding several recantations, the Kookahs number 137 more than in 1868. The District Superintendent thinks the teaching is more calm, and that the sect will not outlive Ram Sing. This opinion is shared by Captain Menzies, District Superintendent of Umritsur, who remarked that, when Ram Sing visited the Golden Temple during the Dewallee festival, he was received merely as an ordinary individual, and no reverence whatever was shown him. The sect is said to be dying out, and the natives speak of it as "*tandha*"—cold.

17. Lieutenant Colonel Perkins thinks that Ram Sing has suffered considerably in prestige by his itinerations; but probably the present famine prices render it impossible for the old man to remain at home and feed his numerous visitors. The District Superintendents of Lahore and Sealkote, through whose districts Ram Sing travelled, state that he made very few converts.

18. Ram Sing passed through the Goordaspoor district with some one hundred and fifty followers: he is said to have made 125 converts. Boodh Sing of Mannawalla, Sealkote; Jota Sing of Sealkote; Mungle Sing, said to be related to the Raja of Puttiala, and Baba Narien Sing (called Dewan), were his principal attendants.

19. In November reports were received that the Maharaja of Cashmere was raising a Kookah regiment, and that each recruit received a certificate from Ram Sing before setting out for Cashmere.





