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### 'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦'

المكتبة البريطانية: أوراق خاصة وسجلات من مكتب الهند

IOR/R/15/1/716

١٩٣٧ (ميلادي)

الإنجليزية في اللاتينية

ملف واحد (٣٥ ورقة)

رخصة حكومة مفتوحة

المؤسسة المالكة

المرجع

التاريخ/ التواريخ

لغة الكتابة

الحجم والشكل

حق النشر



### حول هذا السجل

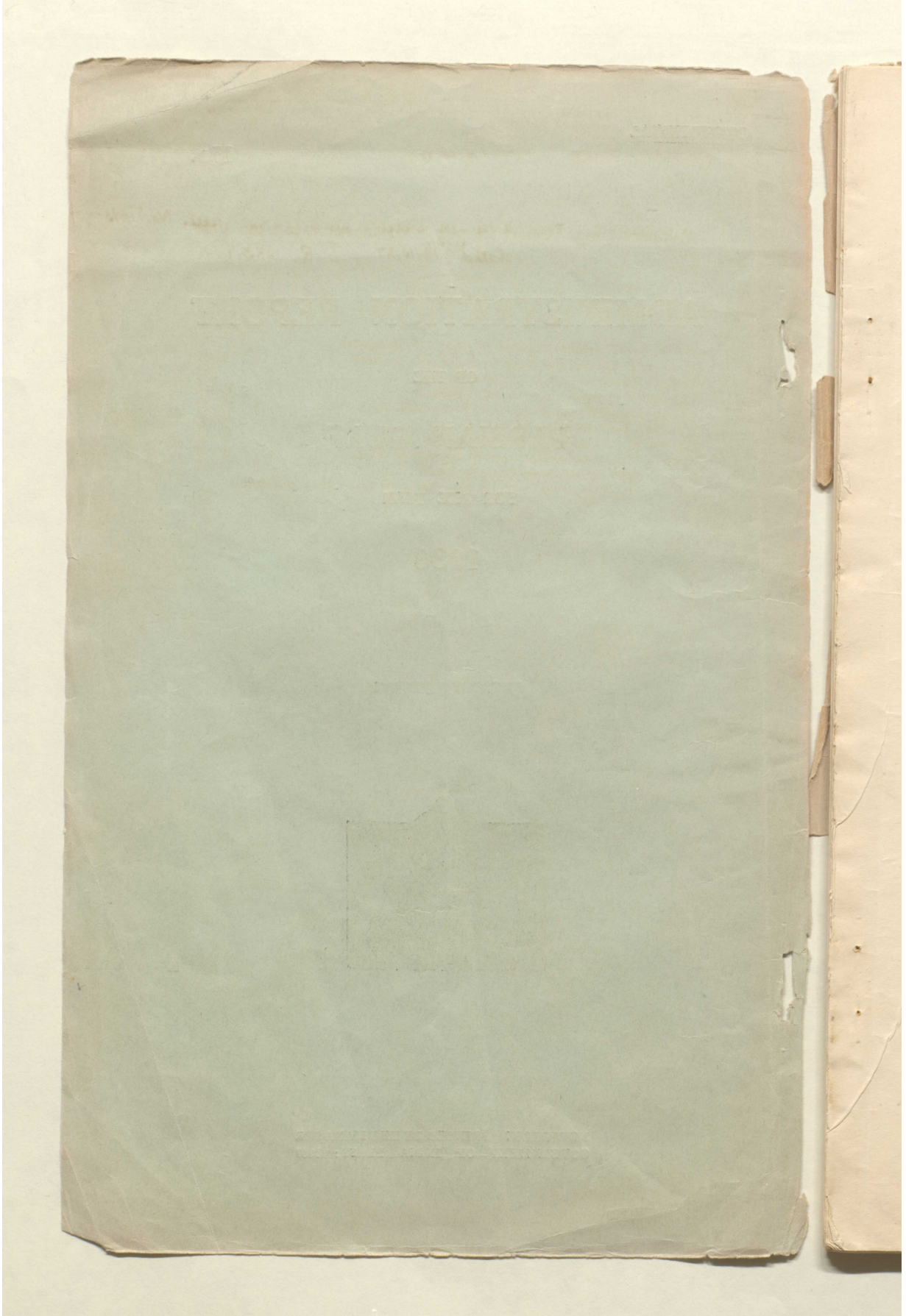
يحتوي الملف على التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ (نيودلهي: مطبعة حكومة الهند، ١٩٣٧).

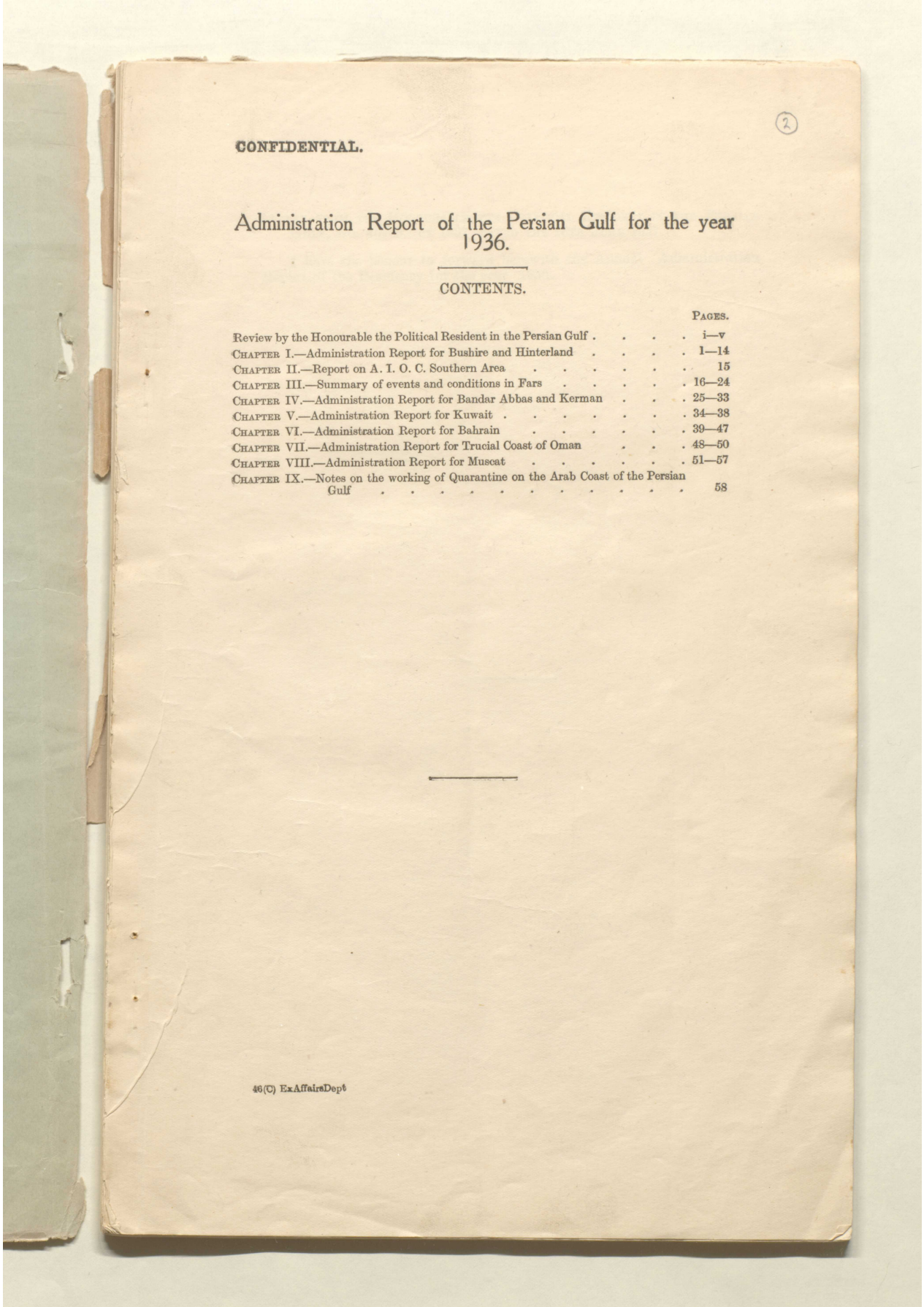
ويلخص التقرير، الذي أعده المقيم السياسي، معلومات هامة تتعلق بالخليج وأهم الأحداث في منطقة الخليج خلال عام ١٩٣٦. يحتوي التقرير على مراجعة من المقيم السياسي، وأقسام منفصلة خاصة بكل من الوكالات والقنصليات والمناطق الأخرى التي تشكل المقيمة السياسية. ويشمل التقرير المعلومات التالية: قوائم الموظفين، الإدارة المحلية، أمور عسكرية وبحرية، الطيران، الوضع السياسي، التجارة والتبادل التجاري، تقارير طبية، تقارير الأرصاد الجوية، ومعلومات أخرى ذات الصلة.





'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [أمامي-داخلي] (٧٤/٢)





CONFIDENTIAL.

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Administration Report of the Persian Gulf for the year  
1936.

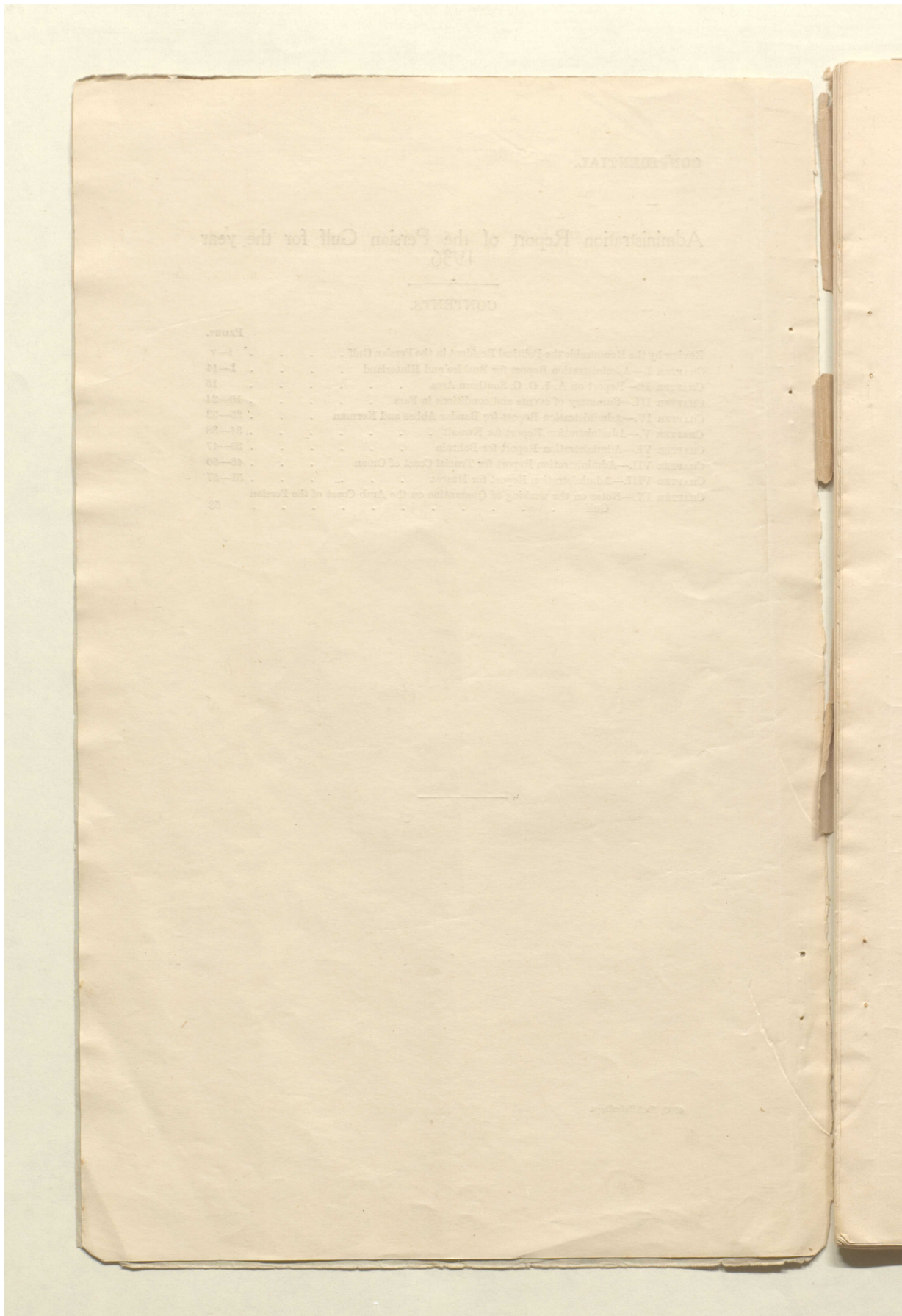
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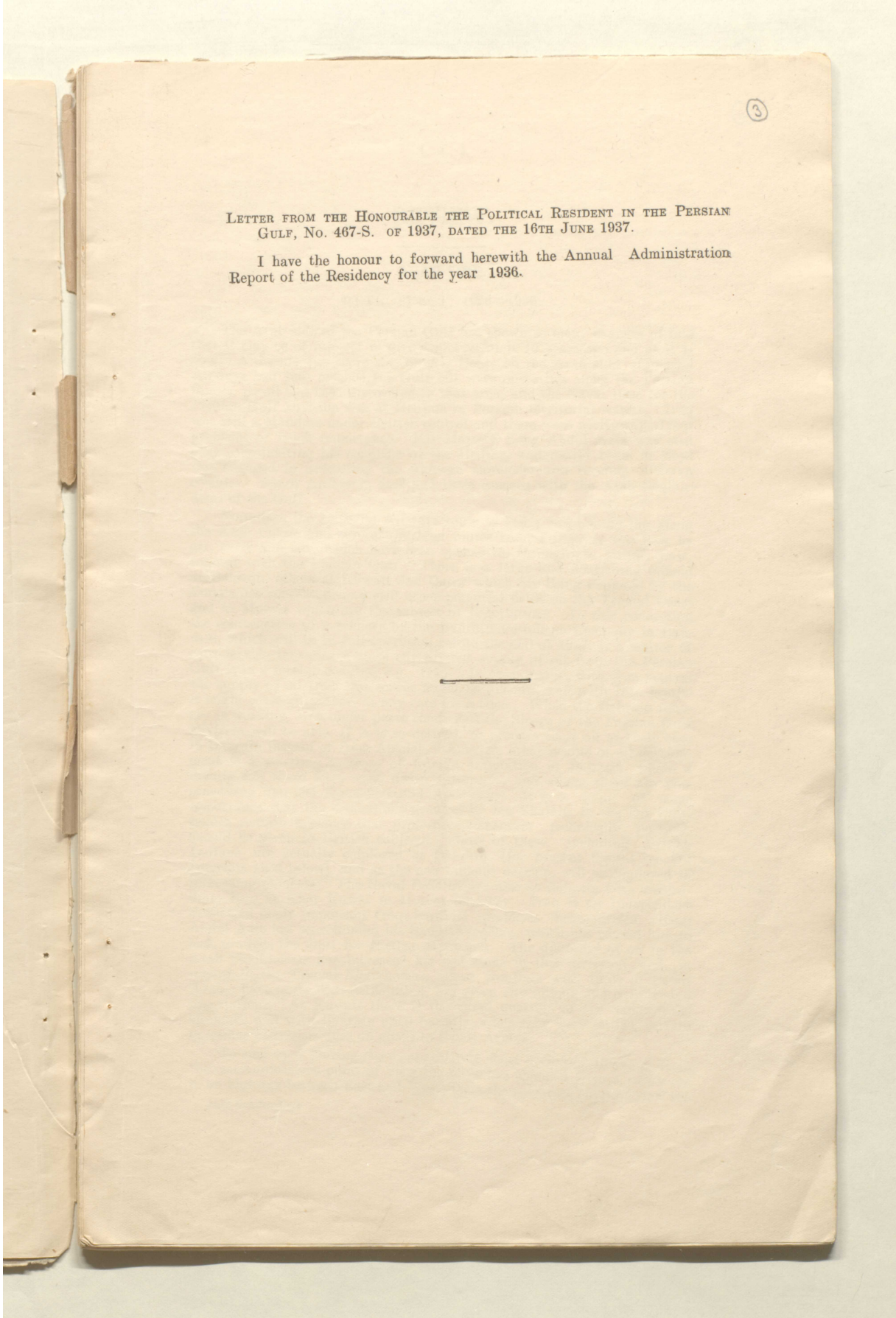


التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [٢ظ] (٧٤/٤)

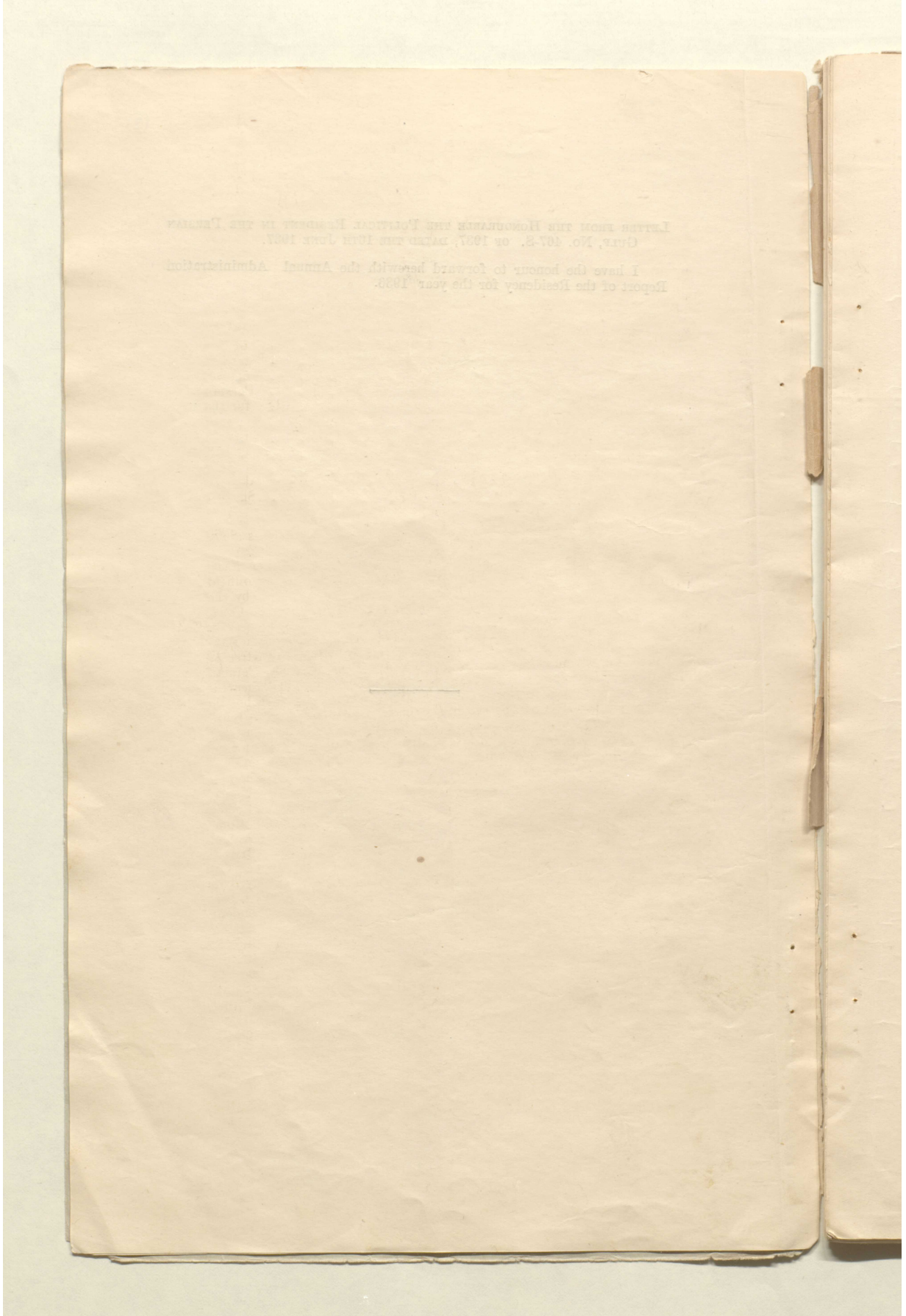




'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [و٣] (٧٤/٥)



'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [٣ظ] (٧٤/٦)





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## REVIEW.

### ARAB SIDE.

#### RETROSPECT, 1926—1936.

The Arab side of the Persian Gulf has shown so many changes of late that it may be of interest to give a picture of it 10 years ago and as it is now. A decade ago there was no Air Route on the Arab side (Imperial Airways had just reached the Gulf but were operating along the Persian Coast), no oil had been discovered in that area, and the Naval Base for the Persian Gulf Division was at Henjam in Persian territorial waters. Iraq was still a Mandate under British control and there were no Kuwaiti-Iraqi problems of much importance. His Majesty King Abdul Aziz was still busy consolidating his conquest of the Hedjaz, and nearer home in Nejd was engaged in promoting the Akhwan movement and forming Akhwan colonies. Saudi Arabia in fact had little concern with the Arab Shaikhdoms of the Gulf.

Nowadays the Imperial Airways route to India and beyond lies along the Arab Coast, and several overland routes from Europe to the East by air, train and car, which have been opened up through the Middle East, connect with the Persian Gulf. There is a large and flourishing oilfield at Bahrain, others at Kuwait and Qatar which are being explored by the Companies concerned, and still other potential fields on the Trucial Coast and in Muscat which are the subject of negotiations. In this connection the construction of a refinery by the Bahrain Petroleum Company in Bahrain, which will be in full operation before the end of 1937, is a matter of considerable importance since our present supply of oil from the Persian Gulf is in a foreign country, *e.g.*, Iran. In case of war, with Iran neutral the supply of oil from this source might be difficult, and with Iran hostile it might cease altogether, at any rate for a time. When the Bahrain refinery is working, even under peace conditions the Sloops of the Persian Gulf Division will be able, if it is so desired, to procure their oil at their base in Bahrain instead of from Abadan. Amongst other results of oil development is a startling increase of foreign population at Bahrain, where a decade ago there were some dozen Europeans and where there are now something like 300 Europeans and Americans. It is a point of some importance that the concessions granted by the Shaikhs to the Oil Companies contain a clause that preference, whenever technically possible, should be given to British subjects. Many of these, including British Indians, are actually employed at Bahrain (for present figures see Oil Interests 1936 below), and as the new oilfields develop, will be employed in increasing numbers. The Naval Base is now also at Bahrain with a subsidiary base at Khor Kuwai in Muscat territory. Iraq is an Independent State and many important Iraqi-Kuwaiti problems have arisen. King Abdul Aziz has consolidated his Saudi Kingdom, which has caused him to look towards the Gulf for further expansion. The discovery of oil in the Arab Shaikhdoms has increased his ambitions in this direction, and, in regard to the Trucial Shaikhdoms, whose frontiers with those of Saudi Arabia have never been delimited, has given rise to long and complicated negotiations. At Kuwait there is the vexed question of the Saudi trade blockade, and with Bahrain until recently, when they were settled, certain questions of transit dues on goods to Saudi Arabia.

To sum up. During the comparatively short period of 10 years, from the communications point of view the Gulf has changed from a *cul-de-sac* to an highway between East and West; from the resources point of view the

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discovery of oil in an area under our control is of considerable strategical importance; while from the international point of view the relations of the Arab Shaikhdoms with their neighbours have increased considerably in importance and complexity.

1936.

*Royal Navy.*—As in previous years the Sloops of the Persian Gulf Division continued to do excellent work on the Arab Coast, and were as usual frequently called on to assist the Political Resident and Political Officers under him in making their tours. The Naval Base at Bahrain has now been completed and is a considerable improvement on the old *pied à terre* at Henjam. The subsidiary base at Khor Kuwai has likewise been completed. During the months of October and November His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Squadron, H. M. S. Norfolk, visited the Gulf.

*Aviation.*—The aircraft of the Royal Air Force continued their useful work in connection with the Air Route, and the Resident and Political Officers under him were enabled from time to time to make tours in Royal Air Force machines, which proved a considerable convenience.

The bi-weekly service of Imperial Airways was carried out with regularity, though not with punctuality, during the year.

On 29th August the Eastbound Imperial Airways Liner "Horsa" forced landed in a desolate area on the Arabian mainland 40 miles from the coast. It was located by Royal Air Force aircraft, by whom the passengers were transported to Bahrain. The guarding of the machine until it could be flown to Bahrain a fortnight later was arranged by the Political Agent, Bahrain, through the Bahrain Government.

In May the Air Navigation Regulations for civil aircraft made by the Rulers of Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait were applied by King's Regulation to persons to whom the Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait Orders in Council respectively apply.

As in 1935, the Arab Air Route remained closed to private aviators. In spite of this on 4th October Mr. F. W. Rickett, the well-known oil concession hunter of Abyssinian fame, made an unauthorised landing at Sharjah in a private aeroplane. Instructions have been issued for the refusal to him in future of visas for Iran and the Arab States of the Persian Gulf.

On the 30th November and 12th December the Westbound Liners of the K. L. M., which had not got special authorisation for landing at Bahrain, and had been driven by weather conditions off their course along the Persian coast and were short of fuel, landed at Bahrain. They were permitted to refuel and proceed, but the K. L. M. were informed by His Majesty's Government that they should procure special authorisations for all their machines.

The following facilities for the Civil Air Route were obtained during the year.

In July permission was obtained from the Shaikh of Abu Dhavi for the erection of a self-tending beacon on Halul Island.

In September permission for a similar facility on Sir Bu Na'air Island was obtained from the Shaikh of Sharjah.

An agreement for landing ground and connected facilities and for a seaplane anchorage was concluded in August with the Shaikh of Kalba.

In November and December the Royal Air Force, under the auspices of the Political Agent, Muscat, carried out a successful reconnaissance of Sauqrah and Kuria Muria Bays. The landing ground previously constructed at Sauqrah Bay was made serviceable and an additional landing ground was constructed between Khor Gharim and Murbat. This successful result was all the more gratifying since, owing to the inaccessibility of



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the area concerned, one of the most desolate on the Arabian Coast, and the fact that the local tribes, though nominally under Muscat, are in reality under no control whatever, the task was exceptionally difficult.

*Oil Interests.*—After several years, during which Oil Companies displayed no interest in Muscat, in the year under review they began to turn their attention to this Sultanate. Petroleum Concessions Limited wished to open negotiations with the Sultan but owing to His Highness's prolonged absence in Dhofar, an outlying and inaccessible area of his dominions, this could not be done. In the meantime the Sultan approached the Standard Oil Company of California by sending them some samples of oil which he had found at Dhofar. His Highness was expected back in Muscat early in 1937 when Petroleum Concessions Limited hoped to commence negotiations with him.

In January the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company secured an oil option in respect of his territory from the Shaikh of Abu Dhabi.

In July Major Frank Holmes on behalf of Petroleum Concessions Limited (who have acquired the local rights of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company) began negotiations with the Shaikh of Dibai for conversion of the Dibai option into a concession. These negotiations proceeded very slowly and by the end of the year a concession had not yet been obtained. Petroleum Concessions Limited under their optional rights sent a survey party into some of the Shaikhdoms.

The importance of Petroleum Concessions Limited, which Company has the approval of His Majesty's Government, obtaining concessions on the Trucial Coast lies in the fact that the Standard Oil Company of California, who are already operating concessions in Bahrain and in Saudi Arabia on the mainland of Hasa opposite Bahrain, are extremely anxious to capture also the Trucial Coast. To this end, towards the end of the year this Company commenced various underground intrigues on the Trucial Coast by sending confidential emissaries with messages to the Shaikhs that they should refuse Petroleum Concessions Limited's offers and, when Petroleum Concessions Limited's options had expired, grant concessions to themselves. Measures were taken to counter these intrigues, but the situation at the close of the year still gave cause for anxiety.

Petroleum Development (Qatar) Limited continued their survey of Qatar and commenced drilling for water, which they had undertaken to perform for the Shaikh. At the end of the year no potable water had been found.

The Bahrain Petroleum Company Limited had an even more successful year than during 1935 when 176,388 tons of crude oil were shipped from Bahrain. During the year under review 500,400 tons of crude oil and 9,200 tons of fuel oil were exported. The total personnel of the Company for the last two years is as follows:—

	1935.	1936.
Americans . . . . .	49	153
European British subjects . . . . .	26	157
Indian British subjects . . . . .	61	323
Bahrainis . . . . .	1,283	3,747
Others { Iranians . . . . . Iraqis . . . . . Kuwaitis, etc. . . . .	244	658

The Californian Arabian Standard Oil Company continued their operations throughout the year in Hasa without any signal success.

The Kuwait Oil Company continued drilling throughout the year without striking oil.

*Kuwait.*—The Shaikh of Kuwait's date gardens in Iraq. In spite of efforts on the part of the various authorities concerned nothing definite had resulted towards the solution of this difficult problem by the end of the year.



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*Kuwait-Iraq Smuggling.*—In spite of the work of the Iraqi Preventive Service, which they had established in 1935, the Iraqi Government continued to make complaints regarding goods being smuggled into Iraq, and incursions of Iraqi Customs officials into Kuwait territory and Kuwait territorial waters continued. Doubtless some smuggling continues, as it does across all frontiers all over the world, but there is no doubt that it has considerably decreased. Besides their Preventive Service on the frontier it would seem that the Iraqi authorities might well take more stringent action in the various areas within their own territories (*e.g.*, Basra, Suq ash Shekh, etc.) for dealing with the organisers of the contraband trade, who are Iraqi merchants.

With regard to the Iraqi incursions. Hitherto investigation of such cases had been carried out by Iraqi officials only. The unsatisfactory and one-sided nature of such investigations is obvious, and towards the end of the year a definite improvement was made by inducing the Iraq Government to associate with their officials the Political Agent, Kuwait (on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and of His Highness the Shaikh of Kuwait), in a particular enquiry into a series of some eight cases. It is hoped that with this as a precedent future enquiries will be conducted on similar lines. As in 1935, no repatriation has been forthcoming from the Iraq Government for any incidents.

The pearl season showed a slight improvement in catch and prices over last year.

In January His Majesty King Abdul Aziz visited Kuwait and was much pleased with his reception by His Highness the Shaikh. The royal visit, however, made no difference to the severity of the Saudi blockade of exports from Kuwait into Saudi Arabia. In spite of prolonged negotiations with the Saudi Government the blockade was in force at the close of the year.

*Bahrain.*—The chief event of the year was the visit of His Highness Shaikh Sir Hamad bin 'Isa Al Khalifah, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., the Ruler, to England. His Highness left Bahrain in June and returned in August. During his stay in London for a fortnight he was the guest of His Majesty's Government and was accorded an audience by His Majesty. The visit was a distinct success and His Highness returned exceptionally pleased with the warmth of his reception.

There was a decrease in the year under review in the number of pearling boats that set out, the catch was smaller and the market in Bahrain duller than during the previous year.

In December the Bahrain Government published an Arms Ordnance Proclamation for the regulation of the importation, exportation, possession, manufacture and licensing of arms. This was simultaneously applied by King's Regulation No. 3 of 1936 to persons to whom the Bahrain Order in Council applies.

The somewhat complicated question of a Nationality Law for Bahrain was advanced to its final stages, and it was hoped that the Law would be promulgated early in 1937.

*Trucial Coast.*—Important developments in Aviation and Oil connected with this area have already been dealt with under these headings.

Outside these subjects the chief event of the year was the recognition of Kalba as an independent Shaikhdom in treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. This followed on the obtaining of air facilities at Kalba already referred to.

Negotiations continued throughout the year with the Saudi Government on the subject of the Trucial Coast—Saudi frontiers without a settlement being reached.

*Muscat.*—His Highness Saiyid Said bin Taimur, Sultan of Muscat and Oman, who had left Muscat in February 1935, for Dhofar, an outlying



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area of his Dominions out of touch with his capital, as noted in the last Review, was still absent at the end of 1936. This caused considerable inconvenience as there were various matters of importance, both local and otherwise, *e.g.*, Saudi-Omani frontiers, for discussion with him. The Political Agent, Muscat, had to pay two or three visits by Royal Air Force aircraft to Dhofar to see His Highness.

PERSIAN SIDE.

*Bushire District.*—The Iranian Authorities continued their work of establishing order in the districts of Tangistan, Dashti, Daliki and the Hinterland between Bushire and Lingah. The main motor routes, *e.g.*, Bushire-Shiraz, remained safe, but a certain amount of brigandage continued in the outlying districts.

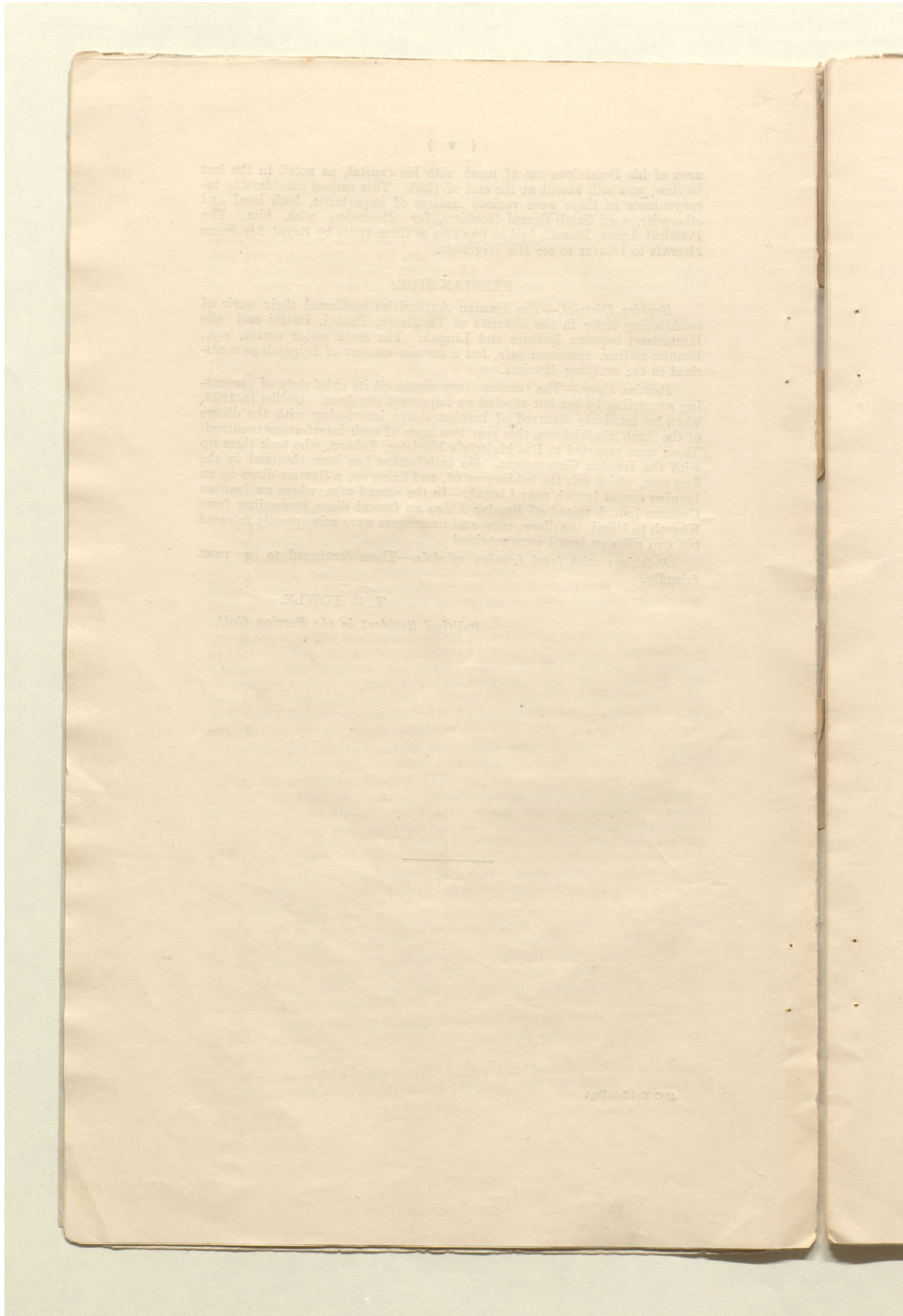
*Persian Navy.*—The Iranian Navy continued its chief duty of preventing smuggling by sea but effected no important captures. Unlike in 1935, when no incidents occurred of Iranian sloops interfering with the dhows of the Arab Shaikhdoms, this year two cases of such interference occurred. These were reported to His Majesty's Minister, Tehran, who took them up with the Iranian Government. No satisfaction has been obtained in the first case, which was the holding up of, and firing on, a Kuwait dhow by an Iranian armed launch near Lingah. In the second case, where an Iranian Customs launch seized off Bandar Abbas an Omani dhow proceeding from Khasab to Dibai, the dhow, crew and passengers were subsequently released but two rifles on board were retained.

*Relations with local Iranian officials.*—These continued to be most friendly.

T. C. FOWLE,

*Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.*

"التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦" [٦ ظ] (١٢/٧٤)





CHAPTER I.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR BUSHIRE AND HINTERLAND  
FOR THE YEAR, 1936.

SECTION 1.

*Personnel.*—The undermentioned Officers held the following appointments during the year under report :—

*Political Resident and Consul-General.*—The Honourable Lieut.-Colonel T. C. Fowle, C.B.E., from 1st January to 24th July and from 20th October to the end of the year.

The Honourable Lieut.-Colonel Gordon Loch, C.I.E., from 25th July to 19th October.

*Secretary to the Political Resident and Consul.*—Major C. C. L. Ryan, I.A., throughout the year.

*Vice-Consul, Bushire.*—Mr. F. H. Todd, from 1st January to 10th May and from 22nd October to the end of the year.

Mr. L. F. L. Pyman, from 11th May to 21st October.

*Under Secretary to the Political Resident.*—Mr. J. Croning, M.B.E., from 1st to 31st January.

Lieutenant J. B. Howes, I.A., from 1st February to 4th March.

Mr. J. Croning, M.B.E., from 5th March to 28th October and from 12th December to the end of the year.

Captain A. C. Stewart, I.A., from 29th October to 11th December.

*Residency Surgeon.*—Major J. J. Rooney, I.M.S., from 1st January to 17th June and from 18th October to the end of the year.

Dr. M. L. A. Steele, from 18th June to 17th October.

*Assistant Surgeon.*—Dr. M. L. A. Steele, throughout the year.

*Confidential Assistant.*—Mr. N. Lester, from 1st to 31st January.

Mr. J. Croning, M.B.E., from 1st February to 4th March and from 29th October to 11th December.

Mr. N. Lester, from 12th December to the end of the year.

*Registrar and Treasury Officer.*—Mr. S. R. Aiyer, from 1st to 8th January.

Mr. E. A. Tanner, from 9th January to 11th December.

Mr. S. R. Aiyer, from 12th December to the end of the year.

*Assistant Registrar.*—Mr. S. R. Aiyer, from 1st January to 10th April.

Mr. E. A. Tanner, from 11th April to 13th May.

Mr. S. R. Aiyer, from 14th May to 11th December.

Mr. Maqbul Husain Khan, from 12th December to the end of the year.

*Assistant Engineer.*—Mr. Fatahali Shaikh, B.S.E., throughout the year.

SECTION 2.

A—FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES.

*French Consulate.*—The French Consulate remained closed and in charge of a local caretaker throughout the year.

*Dutch Consulate.*—Like the French, Dutch interests also remained unrepresented throughout the year.

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*His Majesty's Consul-General* continued to look after Norwegian and Estonian interests throughout the year. He also protected Iraqi interests until February when this was discontinued.

*U. S. S. R.*—The Russian Office remained in charge of a local caretaker until October when the Russian Armenian who was in charge of the Russian Trading Concern, Bushire, and had gone to Resht last year, returned and remained in charge of the office to the end of the year.

No business was done by them during the year.

#### B—VISITORS.

1. On the 23rd November Mr. N. M. Butler, C.V.O., Counsellor to His Majesty's Legation, Tehran, arrived at Bushire *en route* to Kuwait and landed for the day.

2. On the 23rd November Mr. S. W. Humphrey, Manager, Persian Gulf, Cable and Wireless, Limited, Karachi, arrived here from Bahrain and left for Karachi on the 29th.

#### C—BRITISH INTERESTS.

On the 21st January when the news of the demise of His Majesty King George V was received here the flag of this Residency and Consulate-General was flown at half mast until the 23rd when it was mast-headed for half a day in honour of the accession of His Majesty King Edward VIII. It was again flown at half mast until the 28th January.

*Cable and Wireless Limited.*—This Company's Branch at Bushire was managed by Mr. J. Tobin throughout the year. There was very little traffic during the period and the income was much below the expenses in Bushire, Jask and Charbar.

*The Mesopotamia-Iran Corporation, Limited.*—This firm continued as Agents for the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, and the City and Hall Lines. They also suffered from the almost non-existent trade in Bushire.

*The Imperial Bank of Iran, Bushire.*—Mr. J. K. Millar was Manager of the Bushire Branch throughout the year.

*The Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., Ltd.*—Mr. P. R. Touniantz remained in charge of this Company's Agency at Bushire from the beginning of the year up to the 28th November when Mr. G. C. Marshall took over charge from him and remained as Manager of the Agency to the end of the year.

*Visits of His Majesty's Ships.*—H. M. S. Norfolk, with His Excellency Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander Ramsay, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Squadron, on board, arrived here on the 2nd November. Salutes were exchanged and calls made. His Excellency left for Kuwait on the 4th November.

The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, Captain V. S. Butler, D.S.O., R.N., visited Bushire twice in H. M. S. Shoreham. H. M. S. Fowey came twice and H. M. S. Deptford once during the year.

#### SECTION 3.

##### LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

*Governor of the Southern Ports.*—His Excellency Amanullah Ardalan from the beginning of the year to 27th May 1936.

Aqai Abdul Shakur Amin, Assistant Governor, Bushire, from 28th May to 8th July.

Aqai Ahmad Sadri from 9th July to the end of the year.

*Assistant Governor.*—Aqai Abdul Shakur Amin from the beginning of the year to the 30th September.



*Customs Preventive Department.*—Having found the Customs Guards force inefficient for the suppression of the smuggling of contraband goods the Iranian Government discharged most of them and amalgamated the rest with the Amnieh (Road Guard) force which they thought were more efficient and better disciplined.

Besides silver coins and gold ornaments which smugglers took out of the country, they took away Iranian currency notes for the purchase of their requirements of foreign exchange, as a result of which a quantity of Iranian currency notes collected on the Arab side of the Persian Gulf. The Iranian Government prohibited the importation of these into the country and took steps, through the Banks, to collect all the silver currency which was in circulation. They met with little success, however, as most of the currency notes found their way back into the country.

*Government measures for discouraging the smuggling of contraband goods.*

1. *Sugar Company.*—This Company which was formed last year continued selling loaf and crystal sugar for public consumption in Bushire and district. The Tangistanis, however, discontinued their purchases of sugar in May and the Sugar Company was unable to compete with smugglers who supplied the Tangistan market with these articles to the end of the year.

2. *Tea Company.*—On the 1st October, at the instance of the Governor, a Company was formed by the local merchants for the sale of Iranian Government monopoly tea. The capital of the Company was fixed at Rials 500,000 (£6,250), of which 25 per cent. was paid by the Sugar Company and the balance by those of the local merchants and traders who were formerly dealing in tea.

The Company, however, was not supplied with tea up to the end of the year under reference.

3. *Company for the sale of Piecegoods.*—This Company which was formed last year remained inactive the whole year through as it was not supplied with any piecegoods up to the end of the year.

4. *Monopolisation of Wheat supplies.*—In September the Revenue Department, Bushire, notified that the sale and purchase of wheat supplies had been made a Government monopoly and began buying wheat from the peasantry at the following prices:—

1st Class at Rials 130 per 315 kilos.	(£1 12s. 6d. per 6 cwts. 98 lbs.).
2nd Class at Rials 120 per 315 kilos.	(£1 10s. 0d. per 6 cwts. 98 lbs.).
3rd Class at Rials 110 per 315 kilos.	(£1 7s. 6d. per 6 cwts. 98 lbs.).
4th Class at Rials 100 per 315 kilos.	(£1 5s. 0d. per 6 cwts. 98 lbs.).

They classified the wheat as 1st and 2nd Class and sold it at Rials 145 (£1-16-3) and Rials 125 (£1-11-3) respectively per 315 kilos.

5. *Monopolisation of Araq (local liquor).*—On the 28th October the Revenue Department took possession of the available stocks of Araq and began selling it at Rials 6 (1sh. 6 d.) a bottle as against Rials 9 (1sh. 9 d.) as sold previously by the Jews.

6. *Monopolisation of Tobacco.*—In the beginning of December the Revenue Department declared that the sale and purchase of tobacco had been made a Government monopoly and commenced buying tobacco from stockholders and opened two shops to sell the article at Rials 2-50 (7½ d.) a lb.

7. *Prohibition of the cultivation of Opium.*—During the year under review the Revenue Department posted a Notice in the Town and district that the cultivation of poppies for producing opium was prohibited and raised the banderole tax on opium making the price of a misqual (1/16th oz.) of opium Rials 2 in order to make it prohibitive for opium smokers and opium eaters and so force them to abandon the habit.



The measures taken by the Iranian authorities for the suppression of the smuggling of contraband goods helped to discourage the smuggling of sugar into Bushire town and certain parts of the district and perhaps in Lingah town. The smuggling of contraband goods, such as imitation silk, piecegoods, haberdashery and, in some instances, rifles and ammunition, was successfully carried out through the Iranian ports and the goods were taken to towns and cities in the interior *via* Farrashband and Firuzabad (78 and 105 miles respectively east of Bushire) and also through Laristan. The smugglers' caravans were protected by strong riflemen who in almost all instances defeated the Amnieh (Road Guards) and inflicted losses on them. By the end of the year the Amnieh had lost 20 men and they had, in one instance only, succeeded in killing 9 of the smugglers' riflemen and wounding 2. In October it was decided, on account of their inefficiency and corruption, to take the duty of suppressing smuggling from the Amnieh authorities and to leave it in the hands of the Military authorities. The total amount of contraband goods seized by the officials of the Customs Preventive Department came to 1,438 packages of sugar, tea, tobacco, matches and sundries, and 6 smugglers' dhows, 13 smugglers and Rials 14,800 in Iranian currency notes.

*Roads and Communications.*

1. *Bushire-Shiraz Road.*—At the instance of His Excellency Amanullah Ardelan, the Governor of Bushire, this road was inspected by the Assistant to the Minister of Roads and in November a contract was given to the Deka Company to build the Bushire-Borazjan portion of it.

2. The installation of the wireless transmitting set which was brought to Bushire in May, 1935, was completed by a French engineer in the employ of the Iranian Government in June 1936 when an engineer of the Royal Dutch Air mail service (K. L. M.) found it to have been dangerously situated for aeroplanes landing at the airport. He made a protest and the set was removed to a spot  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of the aerodrome. In November 3 Iranian wireless officers arrived here and set zealously to work to carry out the installation of two wireless masts and complete the station—their aim being to prove the utility of the Iranian Government's employing foreign engineers for the purpose. Another wireless set with an engineer was sent to Jask to complete a wireless station there.

3. On the 15th July Captain Doulatshahi, an Iranian Aviation Officer, arrived here and commenced levelling the landing ground to make it suitable for Iranian aeroplanes, which it was said, would carry mails between Tehran-Isfahan-Shiraz-Bushire from the 21st March 1937. Iranian air postage stamps were brought and sold at the Post Office. In August two Iranian aeroplanes, each carrying an officer and a mechanic, arrived here on inspection duty and after seeing the landing ground went back to Tehran. About the same time the Post Office, Bushire, published a Notice in the local weekly the "Khalij-i-Iran" intimating that an air mail service was shortly to be inaugurated in Iran to carry mails, once a week between Tehran-Isfahan-Shiraz-Bushire, and twice a week between Tehran-Hamadan-Kermanshah. The date of the inauguration of the service, which was promised to be promulgated later on, remained unknown to the end of the year.

*Chamber of Commerce.*—Having found his first suggestion for building ten motor dhows to run between the Iranian ports unacceptable to the merchants, His Excellency the Governor, Bushire, moved a resolution in the Chamber of Commerce, Bushire, to form a Steam Navigation Company here. At the first meeting the local merchants offered to invest Rials 1,550,000 (£15,500) in this new Company. The activities of the Chamber of Commerce were confined to the formation of this Company as also another, namely a branch of the Company for the sale of Motor Vehicles, Tehran, at Bushire. None of these Companies, however, materialised by



the end of the year. In fact the formation of the first Company was supplanted by another called the "Ia'timadieh Weaving and Spinning Company, Bushire," the formation of which Mr. Agar, Husain Aqa Ia'timad, of the firm of Haji Ali Akbar Shirazi and Sons, Manchester, had suggested to the local merchants when he visited Bushire in July. The Governor at this time being Aqai Ahmad Sadri, and the merchants being more in favour of this new Company than the Steamship Navigation Company, which they could not control, obtained sanction from the Central Government for the importation of a weaving and spinning plant and another for dyeing purposes. All these had been brought in by the end of December and the construction of a house, bought outside the town for installing the plant, was being accelerated.

*Education.*—The local school examinations were held on the 1st March and 57 students sat for the examinations. The budget allotment of the Education Department, Bushire, was put up by Rials 200,000 (£2,500) and sanction was conveyed for the construction of two schools in Lingah and Charbar at a cost of Rials 200,000 (£2,500). The Education Department, Bushire, had made arrangements in the local schools at Bushire and the Iranian ports for some 2,600 illiterates to be taught to read and write. They were instrumental in encouraging the discarding of the veil and in November introduced public speaking on ordinary educational subjects. They made some progress in collecting 5 per cent. out of the rent of 'waqf' properties (religious endowment properties).

*Bushire Municipality.*—The Municipal Council could not resume the work of levelling the town streets because of a deficit in its budget allotment. It retained a staff of 70 persons to look after the sanitation and lighting of the town. It also retained ten beds for the lying-in ward of the poor of the town in the local infirmary, a local Doctor to look after the patients free of charge, a local Government school, a small asylum for a few lunatics and an isolated house for accommodating some 20 lepers.

Only in June did the Council interest itself in market prices and fixed the price of a pound of mutton at Cts. 70 instead of Cts. 80 previously.

The Council received its budget allotment of Rials 25,000 a month, although irregularly.

#### SECTION 4.

#### MILITARY AND MARINE.

*Army.*—In January Brigadier-General Ibrahim Zand, the Officer Commanding the Army Division of Fars, visited Bushire on inspection.

The Recruiting Office, Bushire, re-opened with its members, *viz.*, the Governor as President, a Doctor from the Iranian Navy, another from the Iranian Military Department, the Imam-i-Jumah, two local merchants and the Head of the Police Department. Its branches also re-opened in the districts. The names of youths who had attained military age were notified, exemption papers of others were examined and some 200 youths were sent from Bushire to Khorramshahr to join the Iranian Navy and an equal number sent to the Military Barracks, Bushire.

In February a plot of land was bought outside the town and the construction of a Military Barracks, large enough for a regiment, proceeded with. The Military Authorities commandeered almost all the labourers available and at times they took away labourers from the gangs that were employed by Mr. Agar for the construction of his factory. Building materials also were commandeered making it difficult for the inhabitants as well as the Iranian Wireless Telegraph Authorities to complete their Wireless Station.

The strength of the Bushire Garrison remained at 600 under the command of Major Niknam who relieved Major Qotbi on the 23rd March.

48(C) Ex Affairs Dept.



*Disarmament of Tribes.*—The Military Authorities continued with redoubled severity to collect arms from the peasantry in Dashti, Dashtistan and Tangistan. On mere suspicion of their being in possession of arms the peasants were flogged, heavily fined and imprisoned. As a result of these methods 50 Tangistanis and Dashtis came into Bushire and complained bitterly against the Military Authorities and their methods of collecting arms. It was, however, often heard that the Tangistanis or the Dashtis smuggled arms and ammunition into their districts for themselves or their clients and malcontents. During the year some 100 rifles and a small quantity of ammunition were brought in and delivered to the Military Authorities, Bushire.

*Navy.*—Lieutenant-Colonel Ghulam Ali Bayandor continued in command of the Iranian Navy throughout the year.

This year none of the ships of the Iranian Navy went out for dry docking as they were provided with facilities in Khorramshahr.

Continuing their efforts to suppress smuggling the Sloop "Babr" caught 5 empty smugglers' dhows which she set fire to, and the gunboat "Chahrokh" 3 dhows, 171 packages of contraband goods and the crew of two of the dhows.

During the first week of October an Italian construction engineer in the employ of the Iranian Government arrived here and began building a foundation for a lighthouse at a spot on the coast 3 miles south of Bushire town. The construction of a small house, consisting of 3 rooms, was also begun at the same time. They were not completed by the end of the year.

#### SECTION 5.

##### AVIATION.

21 British aviators passed through Bushire during the year.

*French and Dutch.*—The Air France maintained their weekly service throughout the year. The Royal Dutch Air Lines continued their bi-weekly service up to October when they began to fly direct between Basrah and Jask instead of visiting Bushire. Occasionally, however, one or two of their aeroplanes landed at Bushire for passengers who had booked beforehand.

#### SECTION 6.

##### POLITICAL SITUATION.

During the year under review the Military Authorities in charge of Dashti, Dashtistan and Tangistan had a number of outlaws, with more or less large followings, to deal with. While the main Bushire-Shiraz route remained secure, off it a certain amount of brigandage went on in the way of raids on villages and caravans and encounters with Amnieh guards and Customs officials. By the end of the year some of the brigands had been accounted for while others remained at large.

The discarding of the veil by women was rigorously taken up during the year by the local authorities acting under orders from Tehran, and various methods of pressure were brought to bear towards this end. Generally speaking the change has been accepted fairly philosophically. The women, at any rate the younger and more good-looking of them, show no objection to exposing their faces. Some of the husbands object but mainly—it is said—on financial grounds. As long as their wives wore the all-enveloping chaddar little possibility of feminine competition in dress was possible. With the abolition of the chaddar, however, this competition has now begun and to dress their wives costs husbands considerably more.



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SECTION 7.

MANUMISSION.

During 1936 the following number of slaves was manumitted:—

Bahrain Agency . . . . .	17
Muscat Agency . . . . .	25
Sharjah Agency . . . . .	7

C. C. L. RYAN, Major,

Secretary to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

SECTION 8.

TRADE AND TRADE FACILITIES.

*General state of Trade.*—During 1936 the trade situation of Bushire gradually worsened and there are few if any signs which might encourage the belief that any marked improvement will take place in the near future. Formerly Bushire merchants imported goods on their own account for local consumption but now that control of foreign exchange by the Government and a higher Customs tariff have been added to other restrictive measures on their part merchants have practically given up the unequal struggle against such Governmental interference with private trade and have become mere forwarding agents for importers in the interior of the country. Consequently the bulk of the goods landed at Bushire are simply in transit and extremely little merchandise remains for local consumption. This accounts for the paradox that the economic condition of Bushire and the Hinterland is deteriorating whilst the total volume of imports through the port of Bushire has increased in many lines. Bushire is thus much more of a channel for trade with the interior rather than a market in itself.

There has been and still is great congestion in the Customs and every available foot of space is being utilised. Cases are piled one on top of the other and the resultant chaos becomes progressively worse as every incoming steamer discharges its cargo. Extra space has been taken over by the Customs authorities in an endeavour to ease the situation but without visible result. The reason for this state of affairs is the great difficulty experienced by importers in obtaining foreign exchange from the Exchange Commission in Tehran in order to retire their accepted bills from the banks and thus clear their goods. The consequence of this lack of foreign exchange is to be seen in the accumulation of uncleared goods in the Customs. A contributory cause is the dearth of labourers to deal with cargo already discharged due to disputes about wage rates. Owing to this state of affairs steamers are sometimes obliged to overcarry their cargo.

Smuggling continues practically unchecked and results in considerable loss of revenue. It is a natural corollary of the fiscal policy of the Government and can only be eliminated by a change in that policy in the direction of reduced duties and abolition of the embargo on various imports. A law which came into force in July provided that smugglers should be tried by court-martial and the death penalty inflicted on armed smugglers who resisted arrest; lighter sentences would be given to those who surrendered. This law has, however, produced no deterrent effect. The sort of articles mostly smuggled into the country are tea, sugar, piecegoods, clothing, etc. The preventive agents themselves are said to connive actively at this traffic and to this fact must be ascribed the smugglers' comparative immunity from capture and punishment and the consequent thriving nature of the traffic. However, that may be, the availability of contraband goods makes living conditions easier for the population than they otherwise would be and no doubt saves the people from being driven to complete despair.



A new customs tariff was brought into force on the 21st May. Under this new tariff duties mostly based on weight superseded those of the old tariff which were on an *ad valorem* basis. Heavy increases of duty were imposed on many articles from abroad with smaller increases on foodstuffs. This resulted in a good deal of profiteering by local retailers who simply added the increased duties to the price of goods previously imported by them. No attempt was made by the local authorities to stop this practice.

Additional monopolies created during the year were in respect of wheat, tea, motor cars, lorries and their spare parts. The creation of these Government monopolies on foodstuffs and other articles of necessity does not mean cheaper living for the people as might reasonably be expected. On the contrary the cost of living continues to rise and discontent to grow. For instance tea formerly cost 15.50 rials per packet of 500 grammes whereas the price in December had risen to 20 rials per packet. Other commodity prices have also risen, such as fat for cooking the price of which in December was 35 rials per "man" of 7.75 lbs. whereas the cost in January 1936 was 23.00 rials per man; meat which cost 7.20 rials per man in January 1936 was 8.25 rials per man in December and so on.

Towards the end of the year a start was made on the erection in Bushire of a cotton weaving and spinning mill. This will provide sorely needed work for the people and tend to stop migration to other places which had already set in. The erecting work will demand about 1,500 labourers and the mill when in operation will ease the economic situation, by absorbing a considerable number of work people as operatives.

Imports from the United Kingdom were on the whole well maintained during the year although the position can hardly be regarded with equanimity. Price continues to be the determining factor rather than quality and will continue to be so until some measure of prosperity returns to this region. A new opening for British trade in cheap ready-made clothing, footwear, haberdashery, etc., was given by the Government decree ordering the unveiling of women and their compulsory adoption of European clothing. Competition in these lines however is bound to be of the keenest and here again if they wish to secure a portion of this trade United Kingdom manufacturers must keep constantly before them the price question.

Direct imports from India are declining. The only remaining import on a considerable scale from India is tea of which 31,094 cases were imported through Bushire in 1936 compared with only 5,227 cases in the preceding year. Tea imports from the Dutch East Indies were 2,035 cases in 1936 and only 76 cases in 1935; imports from Japan were 4,670 cases in 1936 as against 2,160 cases in the preceding year. These figures show that India supplies by far the largest proportion of tea imports into Iran but there is growing competition from Dutch and Japanese suppliers. The large increase in the imports of tea in 1936 was due to the laying in of heavy stocks by the Government under the newly created monopoly of this article.

Japanese commercial penetration continues. Besides her well-known domination of the piecegoods market she is also making serious inroads into the trade of other countries in cement, crockery, tea, etc. She seems likely to maintain her trade position as long as buyers consider price and not quality. They will no doubt continue to do so until prosperity returns to this area and thus enable them to purchase higher grade goods.

German trade has increased as a result of the Irano-German clearing agreement made towards the end of 1935. This is evidenced by the increasing number of German steamers arriving from Europe. Germany supplies mostly ironware, machinery, haberdashery, dyes, etc., and seems likely to continue to increase her imports into Iran.

Imports from the Soviet Union were for the most part sugar and matches. Of the former 122,867 bags of loaf sugar were imported direct from Odessa during the year compared with 49,832 in 1935. There was,



however a large decrease in import of crystal sugar in 1936 as compared with 1935 the figures being 5,500 bags and 24,990 bags respectively. As regards matches 2,507 cases were imported in 1936 as against 3,623 cases in 1935. These articles represent practically the only imports from this source through the port of Bushire.

Exports from Bushire were fairly good and did not show any appreciable change compared with 1935 except as regards tobacco (1,764 bales) of which there was no export in 1935. Gum Tragacanth, skins, carpets, wheat and almonds were exported on a considerable scale but the export of these articles either has been or is shortly to be confined to monopoly companies. Private traders have thus lost their last source of profit as such and now act merely as forwarding agents.

*Foreign Exchange.*—In January the exchange rate was 95.33 rials to the pound sterling and 7.15 rials for one rupee. In February it advanced to 101.50 rials and 7.66 rials per pound and rupee respectively. On March 1st, however, the Government suddenly introduced a law to control foreign exchange transactions under which the rial was arbitrarily stabilised at 80 to the pound sterling and 6 to the rupee. Only two banking institutions were authorised under this law to deal in foreign exchange, *i.e.*, the Banque Melli Iran and the Imperial Bank of Iran. The object of this law was to restrict as much as possible imports of non-essentials from abroad by the device of withholding permits for the purchase of foreign exchange in respect of all but approved goods. This control although most unpopular with all sections of the population was still in force at the end of the year.

*Shipping.*—Shipping in the Persian Gulf has tended to increase. Besides the usual services maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company a new comer appeared towards the end of the year namely the Java Silver Pacific Line which has inaugurated a monthly direct service between Batavia and the Gulf Ports. The German Hansa Line now runs a fortnightly service to the Gulf from Hamburg and one steamer in the opposite direction every three weeks instead of the monthly service hitherto maintained. The increase in this German service appears to be a result of the Irano-German trading agreement concluded in 1935.

There are four Japanese steamship lines now operating in the Gulf, namely the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Yamashita Line, Osaka Shosen Kaisha; Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

Other steamship lines maintaining a service between European ports and the Gulf are the Strick and Ellerman and Bucknall Lines.

Apart from these regular lines Italian and Greek steamers occasionally make their appearance.

Attempts were made during the year to form a national steamship line for service between the Gulf ports and local merchants were urged to supply some of the capital required. The attempt however proved fruitless and the project seems to have been abandoned.

*Roads and Transport.*—Transport rates by motor lorry from Bushire to Shiraz were 90 rials per kharvar (654 lbs.) in the spring, 60 rials per kharvar in the summer and again 90 rials in the autumn and winter. The difference in these rates is accounted for by the heavy going in winter. Camel transport between these two points averaged 45—50 rials during the year but the time taken is anything from 2—3 weeks.

Owing to lack of rain the Mashileh escaped the usual winter inundation and Bushire in consequence was not once cut off from the interior during the latter part of the year. This, however, was purely a matter of chance and Bushire cannot expect to be so fortunate every year. The authorities realise this and work is to begin in 1937 on the construction of an all-weather causeway across this low-lying strip of land to overcome this drawback. It is an urgently needed piece of work and it is to be hoped that there will be no further procrastination in carrying it out.



The only real road in Bushire, *i.e.*, that leading out of the town towards Sabzabad was under repair at the end of the year. The work is, however, of a superficial nature and only about half a dozen men with a hand-roller were employed on it. The road is already showing signs of breaking up again.

There is still no internal air service connecting Bushire with inland towns such as Shiraz, Isfahan and Tehran.

*Opium Shipments.*—The following shipments took place in 1936; they were all stated to be for legitimate consumption:—

January	. . . . .	<i>Nil</i>	
February	. . . . .	200	cases to Dairen.
March	. . . . .	100	" London.
April	. . . . .	100	" Hamburg.
May	. . . . .	100	" Macao.
June	. . . . .	100	" "
July	. . . . .	200	" "
July	. . . . .	10	" London.
August	. . . . .	<i>Nil</i>	
September	. . . . .	200	" Macao.
October	. . . . .	100	" Marseilles.
November	. . . . .	<i>Nil</i>	
December	. . . . .	200	" Macao.
December	. . . . .	40	" Marseilles.
Total		1,350	cases.

The cases are of a standard weight of 160 lbs.

These shipments represent a decrease of about 50 per cent. compared with 1935. Roughly three-quarters of them went to the Far East. The average price per case was £115.

The shrinkage in export appears to have been due to China preferring to obtain her supplies from Turkey at lower prices than those quoted by Iran. Nevertheless the statistics show that about 75 per cent. of a diminished export went to the Far East in 1936 as compared with 1935 when the total shipments for legitimate consumption were 2658 cases of which only 500 cases or about 20 per cent. went to the Far East. It is estimated that there were about 850 cases of opium in stock in Bushire at the end of the year awaiting buyers.

Rumours were current during the year that the Government were going to reduce or abolish altogether the export tax (£25 per case) in order to encourage exports. If the Government considered the question at all they apparently thought better of it because nothing had been done about the tax by the end of the year.

So far as is known there were no shipments for illegitimate consumption during the period under review.

*Attitude of local population.*—The local population remains quite passive in spite of their hard lot and there is no sign of unrest anywhere. Discontent is widespread but it has not assumed a vocal form. The people seem to be too steeped in oriental fatalism to exert themselves to bring about an improvement in their conditions of life. Even if they could temporarily throw off their inertia and organise a series of protests the ringleaders would be speedily "liquidated" by the authorities who would not brook any such manifestations of popular discontent. This being so it is extremely unlikely that such discontent will show itself in the form of riots or street demonstrations unless the people are goaded into action by the authorities. How far the screw would have to be applied to produce such action is impossible to forecast.

(Signed) FRANK H. TODD,

*His Majesty's Vice-Consul.*

11th March 1937.



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APPENDIX I.

NOTES ON THE WORKING OF THE RESIDENCY DISPENSARY,  
BUSHIRE, FOR THE YEAR 1936.

Major J. J. Rooney, I.M.S., was in charge throughout the year.  
I Class Assistant Surgeon, M. L. A. Steele, I.M.D., was in sub-charge throughout the year.

Nothing of note occurred during the year. The weather throughout the year was average for the Persian Gulf. There were no epidemics.

The number of in-door patients and out-door patients compared with those of 1935 were as follows:—

	In-patients.	Out-patients.	Operations.
1935 . . . . .	6	11,580	245
1936 . . . . .	1	10,990	168

The slight falling-off of attendances may be accounted for by the dwindling of the population of Bushire.

Malaria, as usual, was the most prevalent disease and provided nearly one-third of the total attendances.

J. J. ROONEY,  
Lieutenant-Colonel, I. M. S.,  
Residency Surgeon.



'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦' [١٢] [٧٤/٢٤]

TABLE I.

Table showing Wind Velocity and frequency from different directions and Rainfall Amount recorded at the Meteorological Observatory, Bushire, in each month during the year 1936.

Percentage of each Direction.

Months.	Mean Velocity in M. P. H.	Hour I (0400 G. M. T.)												Hour II (1200 G. M. T.)												Rain fall in inches.										
		Calm	N	NNE	NE	ENE	E	ESE	SE	SSE	S	SSW	SW	WSW	WWNW	NW	NNW	Calm	N	NNE	NE	ENE	E	ESE	SE		SSE	S	SSW	SW	WSW	W	WNW	NW	NNW	
January	8.0	0	55	0	32	0	6	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	6	0	55	3	3.14	
February	9.4	3	45	0	21	0	17	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	7	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	17	7	38	0	1.38	
March	8.7	0	23	0	35	0	29	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	0	29	13	42	3	1.25		
April	9.7	0	33	0	17	0	23	0	10	0	7	0	0	0	3	0	7	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	0	3	0	40	17	17	0	0.05		
May	12.0	0	39	6	16	0	10	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	0	13	6	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	10	0	16	13	52	0	0.00	
June	14.3	0	10	3	0	0	3	7	0	3	0	0	0	3	7	37	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	3	37	40	7	0	0.00		
July	8.9	3	6	3	3	0	6	3	6	3	6	0	3	3	6	6	13	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13	65	10	0	0	0.00		
August	7.9	3	13	3	6	6	26	16	10	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16	19	10	39	6	3	0	0.00	
September	9.2	0	27	0	17	0	7	7	7	0	3	0	3	3	3	0	10	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	13	30	30	13	3	0.00		
October	6.3	0	0	10	26	6	29	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	13	10	35	29	6	3	0.00		
November	6.3	3	3	10	10	17	33	17	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	7	10	0	0	3	0	30	17	20	3	2.25		
December	9.0	0	16	26	16	6	23	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	3	16	0	0	0	6	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	39	26	1.53		
Annual Mean	109.7	12	270	61	199	35	209	55	70	6	22	3	9	9	27	16	96	91	3	62	0	16	3	12	7	33	6	29	52	61	52	344	182	292	41	9.60

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'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [١٣] [٧٤/٢٥]

TABLE II.

Air Pressure and Temperature recorded at the Meteorological Observatory, Bushire, in each month during the year 1936.

46(C) Ex.Air-Adops

Months.	Mean Barometer reading corr. for index error and temperature and reduced to sea-level and standard gravity.		Temperature F°.									
			Mean dry bulb.		Mean wet bulb.		Maximum.			Minimum.		
			0400 GMT	1200 GMT	4 GMT.	12 GMT.	4 GMT.	12 GMT.	Mean.	Highest.	Date.	Mean.
January . . . . .	30.101	30.065	53.9	61.7	50.9	56.1	62.4	70	31	56.6	47	4 days.
February . . . . .	29.927	29.909	58.1	65.8	54.1	59.3	68.6	77	13	54.2	45	16
March . . . . .	29.948	29.922	62.2	70.1	56.8	62.4	72.8	87	31	58.4	51	1
April . . . . .	29.836	29.819	73.0	77.6	64.6	68.0	*	..	..	67.3	60	4 days.
May . . . . .	29.684	29.643	82.2	85.7	72.3	76.6	*	..	..	78.0	69	4
June . . . . .	29.522	29.495	81.9	85.7	74.0	77.2	87.7	95	17	79.2	75	8, 9
July . . . . .	29.433	29.418	88.3	92.8	80.2	82.8	94.0	99	21	84.6	80	1, 20.
August . . . . .	29.499	29.471	90.0	96.3	79.6	85.2	98.4	110	12	85.6	81	4, 19, 23
September . . . . .	29.657	29.630	83.9	90.0	74.0	78.6	91.8	98	4, 9	79.1	70	26, 27
October . . . . .	29.927	29.873	74.6	84.3	68.8	76.0	85.3	88	5, 18	69.6	66	13, 31
November . . . . .	30.007	29.958	67.3	77.9	61.3	68.7	79.8	86	1	63.6	59	20, 21
December . . . . .	30.052	30.020	56.0	64.3	52.2	57.0	66.0	78	4	53.1	41	15
Annual Mean . . . . .	29.799	29.769	72.5	79.3	65.7	70.7	80.7 (B)	110	12th August	68.6	41	15th Decem-ber.

\* Data rejected.

(B) Mean of 10 months only.

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'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [١٣] (٧٤/٢٦)

14

Rain fall in past years.

Years.	Inches.	Cents.
1921 . . . . .	13	34
1922 . . . . .	2	92
1923 . . . . .	15	25
1924 . . . . .	23	60
1925 . . . . .	8	34
1926 . . . . .	14	64
1927 . . . . .	6	97
1928 . . . . .	8	54
1929 . . . . .	16	37
1930 . . . . .	8	99
1931 . . . . .	7	10
1932 . . . . .	5	20
1933 . . . . .	5	53
1934 . . . . .	12	51
1935 . . . . .	14	69



CHAPTER II.

NOTE ON EVENTS IN MISHUN AND GACH QARAGHULI AREAS  
DURING 1936.

*Geological and Seismic.*—Consequent upon a decision to retest the Gach Qaraghuli area geological and seismic work was carried out during the spring in order to define the structure and choose drilling locations. This work was completed by May and the final locations settled by the middle of the year.

*Roads.*—At the same time that geological work was proceeding work on reconditioning the road between Ganoweh and Gach Qaraghuli was put in hand to make it suitable for the modern heavy transport. In addition to this line of communications from the south, a road was constructed from Gach Qaraghuli through Gach-i-Pokak to the North-West to connect up with the Iranian Government road from Behbahan. This road was then extended beyond Behbahan to connect up with our operations in Pazanun thus giving through access to the Iranian railway running from Bandar Shapur to Ahwaz and to our headquarters in Masjid-i-Sulaiman.

*Buildings.*—The old buildings that were in existence at Ganoweh and Gach Qaraghuli have been reconditioned and put into commission. In addition a considerable number of new living quarters have been built at Gach Qaraghuli to house the staff that it has been necessary to put into the area to carry out the drilling programme. A transit shed has been erected at Ganoweh. Stores, workshop and garage facilities have been extended and modernised at Gach Qaraghuli.

*Water supply.*—The old 2-inch line and small water pumps delivering water from the Zuhra river to Gach Qaraghuli were recommissioned and at the same time a larger line and pumps were installed to cope with the increased demands of a modern rotary drilling campaign.

*Supplies.*—A total of 5,500 tons of material have been moved into the area during the year by mechanical transport, of which 4,300 tons was transferred *via* Ganoweh and 1,200 tons *via* Pazanun and Behbahan.

*Wireless communications.*—The wireless station at Ganoweh still operate for direction finding purposes as well as for ordinary traffic. The wireless station at Gach Qaraghuli at present operates on Morse only. It is intended to replace the existing plant by a duplex telephony set.

*Drilling.*—An old gas well was cleaned out and brought on production to supply fuel for all purposes.

An old oil well has been prepared for deepening.

A new well has been drilled from surface and a depth of 1,200 feet has been reached. It is not known how deep we shall have to go to reach our objective.

*Staff.*—The following staff is employed in the area :—

European . . . . .	28
Clerical . . . . .	30
Artizans and labourers . . . . .	684
Contract labour . . . . .	748

*Welfare.*—No trouble of any sort was experienced with the local inhabitants until 20th December when a car containing 3 European passengers proceeding from Ganoweh to Gach Qaraghuli was shot at and one of the passengers was severely wounded in the head by gunshot fire. A baggage car following was stopped and the luggage rifled.



CHAPTER III.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND CONDITIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF  
FARS, DURING THE YEAR 1936.

*General situation.*—The situation has remained quiet and the Central Government has continued to extend its influence in the economic development of the Province. Few visitors of importance have been seen in Shiraz during the year 1936. The Minister of Finance left early in January, promising to consider measures for the improvement of agriculture, trade, communications, irrigation and the system of collection of taxes, and a new era of prosperity was to dawn in which air-mail, Government aid in all trading ventures, and the exploitation of the mineral wealth of the Province would play their part. So far nothing has materialised of all this except for an order for two hundred carpets for use in Government offices in Tehran which rumour has it have not been paid for.

The population of Fars is now said to exceed 400,000. Of these 200,000 are tribesmen, 80,000 settled in villages, and 120,000 in Shiraz. The population of the town has increased in the last few years as people arrive from outlying districts to seek for work. Much of the otherwise idle population has been set to work on the building of barracks and military installation on which 50,000,000 rials are said to have been spent.

In spite of the considerable wealth of numbers of the Shirazis, progress has been slow in those things which are held in account today in Iran. Tribal disturbances of former years have led to disfavour in the eyes of Government and consequent lack of attention and support.

The visit of His Majesty the Shah to Shiraz, accompanied by the Valiahd was awaited from the summer up to the end of the year without great enthusiasm. The Army practised organised cheering in order that a suitably spontaneous welcome might be given to him. The Municipal authorities at one time showed feverish activity in the preparation of roads and beautification of the approaches to the town, but it was given out that no money was to be spent on decoration, doubtless to the great relief of shopkeepers and others on the route.

As the Government enters more and more deeply into the everyday life of the people, the protection afforded from the attentions of former Governors or tribal leaders is outweighed by the nuisance of restrictions. The Shah is probably held responsible for this and is feared accordingly, while respect due for his organising ability has been largely lost as it is felt that all the wealth of the country is being attracted to the Capital. The policy of industrial development is, however, realised to be of advantage to the Province of Fars which now has a lucrative outlet for production of cotton for the spinning mills of Isfahan and Shiraz and of beet for the sugar factory situated 25 miles to the north of Shiraz, which is now producing supplies for local use.

The Qawam-ul-mulk's son married the Shah's younger daughter during the year. Though some of the Qawam's supporters hope for some advantage from the union, it is regarded as an indication of Imperial designs on property in Fars.

The Principal Provincial officials at present have connections in the highest quarters and little local sympathy. A new Governor-General arrived early in the year, who is related to one of the Shah's wives. His cousin is in charge of the Finance Department. The Director of the Municipality is a brother of one of the highest officials in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The General Officer in command of the troops, who wields the highest influence in the Province, has now held the post for several years. None of these officials has any personal interest in Shiraz or in the Province.



Foreign residents are still apt to be treated with suspicion by local officials, though an outward semblance of friendship is maintained. But officials in general and notables are prohibited from dealings with the Consulate. No incidents have occurred during the year in which foreign subjects were involved.

The attempt at westernisation of the country has proceeded vigorously in Shiraz. Following on the imposition of European dress on dwellers in town and village, the unveiling of women has been accomplished almost universally and with surprising absence of disturbance. The "chuddur" is practically never seen in the streets of Shiraz now. Such women as object, mostly of the older generation, keep to their houses. Any opposition which there may have been seems to have died down. Early in the year receptions were given at which officials and members of guilds and trades paraded with their wives. Public baths and conveyances were closed to veiled women, but the example set by the womenfolk of the large garrison did much to effect the change amongst the civilian population.

There are still a good many mullahs to be seen about in turban and abba but the number has been reduced. Their influence and prestige seems for the present to have disappeared with the transfer of many of their functions to other administrative departments and the prohibition of public religious observances such as muharram processions and public prayers.

The attention of the younger generation has been turned to athletics, football and other outdoor games. A Boy Scout troop, 700 strong, has been organised in Shiraz which received the visit of colleagues from Isfahan towards the close of the year. Military drill has been taught to the senior members of the High School by instructors from the local barracks.

*Tribal affairs.*—Nothing of note has occurred during the year amongst the Qashgai or Khamseh tribes. At the end of the year there were rumours of restlessness amongst the Boir Ahmedi of Kuhgilu, who resent the activities of the authorities to settle the tribes in defined areas. Very little progress has been made as yet in actual settlement except at Tul-i-Khosrau where buildings have been put up as permanent dwellings for nomad settlers. The tribes are all controlled under military governors, but much migration still takes place at the usual seasons. The economic consequences of complete prohibition are doubtless realised.

Road Guard services have been extended still more during the year and security exists on all the main roads, except for occasional incidents in remoter districts.

The Qawam-ul-mulk has married his eldest son to a daughter of the Shah. It is believed that they may take up residence in Shiraz. The Qawam himself together with many of his near relatives and those of the late Saulet-ed-douleh continues to live in Tehran.

The Qawam's munshi bashi, a wealthy man, who disappeared in 1935 and was given out to have been murdered or to have committed suicide, is believed to be in prison in Tehran. His house at Shiraz was taken over by the Governor-General, for use as his headquarters.

*Local administration.*—The five members of the Mejliss for Fars continue to be Mohammed Mehdi Nemazian (formerly Nemazi), Hadji Ghulam Hussein Malek, Mohammed Taqi Shankai Shirazi, Ahmed Kawami and Hadji Seyyed Abu Taleb Kazeruni.

His Excellency Abul Fath Doulatshahi arrived early in the year as Governor-General of Fars, his predecessor having been appointed Minister of Communications. He was previously for many years Governor of Tehran. He is less popular in the Province and less energetic than his predecessor, while his personal debts and habits do not enhance the respect due to his position. Action has been taken against him in the Courts by his creditors and complaints against his grasping tendencies have gone to Tehran. He incurred unpopularity, the Shirazi being a lover of art, by



ordering the removal of the old Quran Gate at the entrance to Shiraz from Isfahan, which has been a well-known landmark for centuries. He has made many empty promises to the merchant community regarding the improvement of roads, joining up with the Trans-Iranian railway system, and the financing of agricultural schemes. Though a connection of the Kajar family, he is related to one of the Shah's wives and owes his position to rank and influence. Soon after his arrival, the Governor-General visited the Kazerun, Fasa and Lar districts. Since then he has never undertaken another tour in the Province except for private amusement with his gun.

Dealings between the Consulate and the Governorate-General have been confined throughout the year to routine matters and have been friendly.

Apart from the Deputies mentioned above, no official visitors of importance came to Shiraz during the year. Members of the Government appear to have lost interest in Fars. Exceptions were Sar Lashkar Jehanbani, Head of the Department of Industry, and Aqai Bayat, Head of the Department of Agriculture, who both visited the cotton factory at Shiraz and the sugar refinery at Merv Dashi in the Spring and toured the Province. Most of the Provincial heads of departments on the other hand went to Tehran at some time or other during the year.

Local officials have done little to attract the attention of the Consulate. Most of the Directors of Departments remained the same, the only changes being in the Police Department and in the Census Department.

The Municipality all through the year has been under the direction of Aqa Soheily, brother of a high official in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs who has been mentioned as a possible future Iranian Minister in London. He appears to share the unpopularity of the Governor-General and for similar reasons. His dealings with the public leave much to be desired. The year 1936 saw a large slice cut through the middle of the Bazar-i-vekil as part of the scheme for carrying the Khiaban-i-Zand through from north to south of the town. After much demolition work was stopped for lack of further funds: so a large part of the Bazaar remains in ruins and is a collecting place for water and malarial mosquitos. The Khiaban has also been continued for some miles south of the town and several houses built—mostly for the use of military and civil officials. This is said to be the beginning of a through road to Ahwaz. The road from Isfahan has been widened at the entrance to Shiraz (to the discomfiture of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company which has had to modify its plans for erecting a new depot by "arrangement" with the Director of the Municipality after prolonged negotiations), and the old Quran Gate, which was alleged to impede traffic, has been removed by dynamite, for it was found impracticable to transfer it piecemeal to another site, as had been intended. As the traffic is in any event stopped by the Police close to the site of the Gate, it is not appreciated why its removal was necessary. Its main crime seems to have been its antiquity. The thousand-year old quaran which it housed has been placed in the local Museum. An ornamental almond and fruit garden has been laid out near the site of the Gate. The Imperial Bank of Iran has had to postpone the erection of a new building as land bought for the purpose has been cut in two by the municipal road-making schemes.

The road to the Tomb of Hafiz has been remade and work is in progress on a road to the Tomb of Sa'adi. The reconstruction of the entire enclosure of the Tomb of Hafiz has been commenced and the Education Department is building an expensive granite monument with a gallery of twenty columns. A large cemetery in the same neighbourhood is being laid out as a public garden, the headstones being used for making terraces.

A site has been purchased in the town for a new Municipal Hospital. An Orphanage, arrangements for which were made by the late Governor-General, was opened during the year by the Municipality. Beggars are again on the increase.



The Chief of the Provincial Police was dismissed in the summer for corrupt practices along with the Chief of the Town Police. His successor died shortly after his arrival. The present Chief of Police is a courteous and pleasant individual, transferred from Hamadan. He is very interested in traffic control and exercises efficient control in the Bazaars. Burglaries have been less prevalent during 1936 than in former years and the discipline of the Force seems to be good.

The Finance Department has been in charge of a cousin of the Governor-General throughout the year. The visit of the Minister of Finance at the close of 1935 has had little effect in Fars, as few of his promises have been carried into effect. The Agricultural Taxes have been collected unremittingly all through the year. The Opium Monopoly Office has had a quiet year owing to partial failure of the crops and towards the end of the year it was announced that cultivation of opium poppies was to be stopped and cotton to be grown in its place under the direction of the Cotton Monopoly Company.

No new Public Works have been put in hand during the year. One of the main avenues through Shiraz has been continued westwards as far as Masjid-i-badi to form the commencement of a through road to Ahwaz. When it was announced that the visit of the Shah was to be expected patching operations were begun on the Isfahan road. Various unmetalled roads were made in the Merv-Dasht plain to facilitate collection of beet for the new sugar factory.

Spasmodic work was done on the Shiraz-Bushire road. As machinery for the new factories is being brought into the country by Bushire to avoid the congestion of Khorremshahr, it will be necessary to keep the road in a better state of repair and possibly the problem of crossing the "mashileh" may be tackled. But in the meanwhile the road is steadily deteriorating as is evidenced by the fact that the general rate of hire for motor transport from Bushire to Shiraz is double that on other roads in Iran. The road was inspected early in the year by the Director of the Road Department of the Ministry of Communications. Mechanical transport has been brought under stricter Government control during the year. Public omnibus services have been maintained for most of the year between Bushire and Isfahan.

The Postal Services continued to function slowly but reasonably surely. An office was opened at Takht-i-Jamshid (Persepolis) in the summer. The long talked-of airmail service from Tehran seems to have been postponed indefinitely and the existing aerodrome after a considerable sum of money had been spent on its improvement was decided by a joint commission of military officers and officials from the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to be unsuitable. Military opinion was against its use for any purpose in co-operation with civil authority. Telegraph services are reported to be very inadequate, largely through lack of staff.

The Agricultural Department is now largely concerned with the operations of the new Government Companies for trade in cotton, skins, wheat, dried fruits, etc. The opium crop having been unsatisfactory and Government having decided to limit production, large areas have been planted with cotton and wheat. The total area under cultivation in Fars is said to be about 600,000 hectares. Last year's crop of cotton amounted to 6 million kilogrammes, while 300,000 kilos of opium were produced. Government buyers did not take the whole stock of opium, but cotton found a ready market for the mills of Isfahan and Shiraz. Supplies of cotton for Russia are also required, as commitments have not been fulfilled. Increased quantities have been planted in the Kazerun and Abadeh areas. Cotton ginning plant has been installed at Kazerun and Mamessani, and is on order for Shiraz, Abadeh, Fasa and Jahrum.

The Government Grain purchasing organisation bought supplies in the Province and it is said that it is to be sold back to buyers for private



use at a lower price in order to assist in recovery from the dislocation consequent on the huge loss of revenue from opium. Temporary grain stores holding 120,000 kharvars (about 34,000 tons) have been erected. They are believed to be half full. A credit of 1,300,000 rials, is reported to be available for the construction of Grain Silos by Russian engineers, as in other parts of the country.

Rice growing has been prohibited in the district and attempts made with small success to grow cotton instead.

Sufficient beetroot was produced locally to supply the wants of the refinery at Merv Dasht which started work in October. By the end of the year excellent sugar was on the market at a price slightly lower than imported Russian sugar. There was talk of erecting a second factory at Fasa.

Fruit trees in parts of the Province were reported in the Spring to be suffering from blight. Unusually cold weather was experienced early in December which will probably have affected the crop of oranges and citrus fruits.

Government experts have reported favourably on projects for sinking artisans wells in connection with irrigation schemes. So far nothing has been done.

At the end of the year a system of sanitary inspection of animals was approved for the whole of Iran. Cattle disease is very prevalent in Fars.

There is nothing to report regarding judicial affairs, the Census Department, nor the Registration Department. The Education Department has been busy under the Direction of an ex-Army Officer. The Shahpur Boys' High School has been extended and a new school opened at Kazarum. A School of Arts and Crafts with two German instructors was also started in Shiraz. Night classes for adults and weekly lectures have been instituted. On the whole there is a better standard of teachers today and pay has improved. A "Museum of Education" was opened in the old "Kolah Farangi" building in the Citadel, which has been restored.

*Military affairs.*—The 7th (Fars) Division, under Sartip Ibrahim Zandieh, has been increased to a total strength of over 10,000 men. More barracks have been under construction throughout the year. The French Military Mission paid a visit to Fars in the Spring. It was rumoured that the Valiahd was to assume command in South Iran, probably with headquarters at Shiraz. A large new building for Military Headquarters has just been completed. The General Officer in Command has twice visited Bushire and the Gulf Ports during the year. In October the whole garrison was inspected by Sar Lashkar Murtaza Yazdah Panah. At the end of the year the General twice had to go to Lar in connection with trouble between the Amnieh and local tribes. He is an energetic and efficient officer.

The Amnieh have also been increased in numbers and new posts opened. They were inspected in the Summer by Sartip Ghulam Ali Zand, Officer in Command of Road Guards for Iran, who included the Gulf Ports in his itinerary. On the whole the force appears to be efficient and discipline is maintained, though there were various rumoured irregularities in the Lar district at the end of the year when an officer and several men were arrested for contraband operations.

Unrest in Laristan and amongst the Boir Ahmedi tribes has necessitated visits by the General Officer in Command of the Fars Division and of the Officer in Command of Amnieh. Little seems to have been done during the year by the various Military Governors to speed up settlement of the tribes. Building continues at Tul-i-Khosrau, but it will be difficult to persuade the Kugilu tribesmen to settle there in any numbers.

*Economic affairs.*—The merchant class in general is dissatisfied with restrictions on trade and the intervention of Government as a trader. This particularly affects the export trade of Fars, which is passing into the



hands of various Companies which monopolise trade. Exchange Control also has come into force under which the official buying rate for sterling was fixed at 80 rials to the pound and purchase of foreign currency could only be effected by Banks on behalf of the Exchange Control Commission in Tehran, while sales were only under Government permits issued by the Commission after long delay. This has had a detrimental effect on the foreign exchange turnover of Banks and it has seriously affected all import business

Silver coinage has been out of circulation for most of the year. Owing to the restrictions on foreign trade, Banks report that current account deposits have increased considerably. Some of the surplus has been invested in trading companies and industrial enterprises.

No new taxes have been introduced during the year, but a new Customs Tariff contained several increases including charges on motor vehicles, import and working of which has become a Government monopoly. This has not reduced the cost of services to the public, while both new and second-hand cars have increased in price.

Piecegoods, sugar and tea continue to be the principal imports. They are all handled by monopoly organisations controlled by the Government, in which local merchants have little share. Retailers of piecegoods expect shortly to be put out of business by the opening of shops by the Cotton Piecegoods Monopoly Company.

Export of opium has been considerably restricted. Carpets were shipped freely by merchants until the end of the year when all transactions became a monopoly of the Carpet Monopoly Company. Gum tragacanth, almonds and dried fruits have also become the objects of monopolies during the year given to Central Companies in Tehran. Agricultural products in general are now controlled by interests centred in the Capital and most of the profits go there.

The following Companies have been reported to have been formed during the last two years to handle commodities of interest to the Shiraz trader :—

Sherket-i-Tijareti (general import and export).

Sherket-i-Sheker-wa-Cand (sugar and match import and trade, with a subsidiary organisation to handle tea, which is not yet in working order).

Sherket-i-Panbeh (growing and export of cotton).

Tasbit-i-Ghallel (wheat growing and purchase).

Sherket-i-Pust Narm (export of skins).

Sherkat-i-Qumash (import and trade in cotton piecegoods).

Sherket-i-Ketirah (export of gum tragacanth and gum arabic).

Sherket-i-Khoshkbar (export of dried fruits, almonds, etc.).

Sherket-i-Khollar (wine making and trade).

Sherket-i-Khal (carpet trade).

Sherket-i-Sadaret-i-Fars wa Banader (production and sale of native crafts, silver, enamel, mosaic work, and hosiery).

Most of the principal articles of trade are thus covered by these Companies. They are not well-managed. Directors and Managers are permitted to engage in private trade. They are inclined to behave as though they were above the Law and injured parties do not dare to take the matter to the Courts. Large profits are admitted to be made by buying imported goods and holding them off the market. This seems a curious way of spending the tax-payers' money which goes to finance such concerns. The control exercised by the Government over these Companies and their policy is loose. Meanwhile all private trade is being throttled, taxes increase, the cost of



living goes up steadily and there is little return to be seen locally except more and more barracks.

Industrial development in Shiraz and the Province of Fars has already been mentioned. The Cotton Spinning Mill at Shiraz, owned by the Fars Manufacturing Company, has given very satisfactory results. A dividend of 86 per cent. was paid on the year's working. Three shifts of operatives, each of 200, are working day and night. Hadji Mohammed Hassan Behbehani, the Managing Director, visited Tehran during the summer and obtained a Government permit for extension of the premises. The buildings have since been erected and it is intended to increase the plant to 10,000 spindles. The necessary exchange permit has been promised by the Ministry of Finance and the order for spinning machinery is probably to go to Platt Brothers, of Oldham, who supplied the existing plant, and for diesel engines and electrical plant to Mirrlees and the General Electric Co. But some difficulty has arisen over the actual issue of the permits and the machinery cannot for the present be shipped.

During the year, the same Company imported German machinery which has been sold to the Shahriza Company at Isfahan.

The second Spinning Mill at Shiraz, owned by the Brothers Dehkan who also own the Fars Electric Company, has installed German machinery which was ready for testing at the end of the year. Large stocks of raw cotton are ready for use. A permit to import British machinery was refused by the Ministry of Finance.

The Electric Power Station succeeded in giving an all-night service during the month of Ramadan. A second Mirrlees diesel motor is expected shortly which will improve the already fairly reliable town-lighting.

The Merv-Dasht Sugar Refinery, near the Isfahan road some 25 miles north of Shiraz, which was opened in October 1935 commenced work a year later. Local beetroot has been used and by the end of the year sugar was placed on the market. It is of good quality. 40,000 tons of beet are said to be available, giving 18 per cent. of sugar, 7,200 tons of sugar have been produced at the rate of 35 tons per day. But production is said to cost 200 per cent. more than the European sugar, *c. i. f.* Bushire.

*British interests.*—The Consulate was in charge of Mr. H. A. D. Hoyland, M.B.E., until April 22, when he proceeded on leave prior to transfer handing over to Mr. W. H. Young, Acting Vice Consul. Mr. C. A. Gault arrived from Kermanshah in July and remained in charge until November 21, when Mr. A. E. Watkinson took over on transfer from Ahwaz.

The Governor-General of Fars called on His Majesty's Consul on the occasion of the death of His Majesty King George V. Owing to Court Mourning no official celebration took place on the Birthday of His Majesty King Edward VIII. News of the abdication of King Edward in December was reported without comment in the local Press. The flag was flown on December 14 on the occasion of the Birthday of His Majesty King George VI.

During 1936, the Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, the Secretary to the Political Resident, and the Residency Surgeon, visited Shiraz on recess. Mr. Butler and Mr. Reilly, of His Majesty's Legation at Tehran, also visited Persepolis and Shiraz. His Majesty's Consul at Kerman also passed through Shiraz.

Mr. R. F. G. Sarell and Mr. Robert Cecil, Probationer Vice-Consuls, arrived at Shiraz on December 31 to be attached to His Majesty's Consulate as language students. Mr. W. H. Young left for Tehran a few days later.

Other British visitors during the year included Brigadier-General Prickett, Lord Alington, the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf, the Tehran and Isfahan Managers for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., and various geologists, together with Mr. Schofield, an industrialisation expert, who was touring Iran under the auspices of the Oil Company, members of



the Church Missionary Society, and an archæologist and an Indian professor. And a large party of students from London camped in the Consulate garden in September, as they were unable to appreciate the accommodation provided for them elsewhere by the local authorities who otherwise did all that could be desired to render their visit profitable and to facilitate their departure. A party of photographers employed by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. visited Persepolis and the Sugar Factory in December and was endeavouring to find camels and lorries in close juxtaposition in accordance with modern ideas of advertisement, and to satisfy certain recent Police regulations.

In addition to the above activities, the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, sent a large geological expedition to make a survey of the whole area between Shiraz and Bandar Abbas and of the Ardakan area in the west of the Province, with a view to determining whether any portion of Fars is to be included in the final concession area. The Company also made arrangements for the supply of oil in bulk from Bushire to the Sugar Refinery at Marv Dasht and installed large depots with petrol pumps at Kazerun and at Shiraz. It is reported that a motor road is to be made by the Company from Ganawah to Borazjan, which may render them independent of the present tracks over the "mashileh".

The work of the Church Missionary Society's Hospital at Shiraz has continued successfully. Some difficulty with the Municipal Health Officer was settled by the Governor-General at the request of the Acting Consul. Bishop Thompson visited the district in September and inaugurated a church at Qalat, 25 miles to the north-west of Shiraz.

The Fars Manufacturing Company's cotton mill has been mentioned elsewhere. Three English engineers employed there resigned early in the year, as payment of their salaries in accordance with their contract was not in accordance with the new fiscal regulations. They were replaced by two other English engineers who accepted payment on different terms. Mr. Hussein Agar, of the firm of Hadji Ali Akbar and Sons of Manchester and founder of the Fars Manufacturing Company, was absent in Bushire at the end of the year supervising the erection of another factory, having resigned his post as Director of Government Trading Companies. His son, Mr. Charles Agar, was technical manager of the Shiraz mill throughout the year.

The British colony in the district of His Majesty's Consul at Shiraz numbered 123 at the end of the year. Half of these are at Isfahan and half at Shiraz. A considerable amount of the work of the Consulate consisted in routine matters connected with Isfahan. His Majesty's Consul and the Acting Consul each paid long visits to Isfahan during the year. Arrangements were also made by the Consulate for the lease of houses, payment of rent, engagement of a gardener and guard, and supply of furniture on behalf of the Honourable the Political Resident. Other activities included an exhaustive report on the production of gum tragacanth for the information of a Cambridge professor and the collection of samples of cotton from different parts of the districts for the Institute of Plant Industry at Indore.

Subscriptions were sent by the Acting Consul to the King George Jubilee Trust and to the Earl Haig's Fund as the result of collections in Isfahan and in Shiraz.

*Foreign interests.*—After the British community, the German colony is the most important in Shiraz. There are two families established for many years, one of whom owns a flour mill. The other one was formerly land agent to the Qawam-ul-mulk. A German is in charge of the Wine Factory controlled by the Government and two Germans are employed at the School of Arts and Crafts under the Education Department. German mechanics are in charge of machinery at the Fars Electric Company's spinning mill



There is an Austrian veterinary surgeon established in Shiraz.

An Italian engineer is employed by the Municipality and by the Cotton Monopoly Company.

American archaeologists under Professor Schmidt were at Persepolis in the winter of 1935-36, but work had not been resumed by the end of 1936.

The Bahrein Oil Company has been endeavouring to obtain houses in Shiraz for summer quarters for their American and European employees. Several Americans visited Shiraz during the summer. They have also been trying to make arrangements for supplies of fruit and other local produce to be shipped from Bushire. It seems unlikely that the difficulties of transport and of export regulations will be surmounted.

Foreign visitors to the district during the year 1936 included the U. S. S. R. Ambassador and the Italian and Roumanian Ministers from Tehran; the German Minister at Baghdad; the members of the French Air Mission in Tehran and various archaeologists of American, French and Belgian nationality.

*Miscellaneous remarks.*—Active work at Persepolis stopped in October and all the Americans departed, leaving a Russian photographer in charge. Mr. McCown was sent from Rey to be in residence in the event of the Shah's visit taking place, but left again at the end of the year.

The Tombs of Darius (Naksh-i-Rustem) can now be reached by car on one of the tracks made for collecting beet.

The Louvre Mission was working at Shahpur during part of the year.

The maximum temperature recorded in 1936 was 98° in September, as compared with 98° in August of the previous year. The lowest temperature recorded in the winter of 1935-36 was 24°. In mid-December 1936 the thermometer fell to 22° on several days. The cold was unusually early as well as extreme and some damage was reported to fruit trees, while many early seedlings perished.

The rainfall for the winter season of 1935-36 was 4 inches less than in the preceding year. Prospects for the present season indicate even greater shortage of water.

A. S. WATKINSON,

*His Britannic Majesty's Consul.*

British Consulate, Shiraz,

January 28, 1937.



CHAPTER IV.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE KERMAN AND BANDAR  
ABBAS CONSULATES FOR THE YEAR 1936.

PART I.

*Kerman.*

1. *Personnel.*—Major C. H. Lincoln, O.B.E., returned from leave on the 26th March when he resumed charge of the Kerman and Bandar Abbas Consulates from Captain J. E. A. Bazalgette, the Acting Consul.

Major Lincoln paid short visits, on duty, to Bandar Abbas and Shiraz in July and September respectively.

2. *British interests.*—(i) 20 British subjects were registered at the Consulate during the year.

(ii) In September, three loaded motor lorries belonging to Indian drivers, while passing through Kerman, were commandeered by the Military authorities for the purpose of transporting military stores to Khwash, but these were released when representations were made by the Consulate to the Governor-General.

(iii) A quiet and informal tea party was given by His Majesty's Consul on the 23rd June, in commemoration of His Majesty the King's Birthday, to which all British Subjects were invited. Owing to Court mourning no invitations were sent to the local officials and foreigners.

3. *Demise of His late Majesty King George V.*—On the 25th January, the British community gathered at the Consulate to receive the condolence of the Iranian officials and other local people. His Excellency the Governor-General conveyed his condolence by letter in which he also mentioned his inability to call owing to his indisposition. The only official to attend was the Assistant Governor-General.

Over 40 Iranians presented themselves on the occasion and several more would have come had they not been discouraged by the local authorities who went so far as to post three men of the Secret Police to pry round the Consulate to note the names of those Iranians who attended the function. The same espionage work was noticed on the 26th January when a Special Memorial Service was held at St. Andrew's Church.

4. *Imperial Bank of Iran and Trade in General.*—Mr. R. C. Fergusson remained in charge of this institution until 22nd September when it closed down on account of the local difficulties arising out of the ever-growing barrier of exchange restrictions and import controls prevalent in the country. These two factors, coupled with the ever-increasing tendency of the Central Government to introduce as many monopolised Companies as possible, and to centralise them at the Capital, have practically killed the independent and individual trading in the province, much to the dislike of the people.

5. *Church Missionary Society.*—(a) *General.*—On his transfer to the Stuart Memorial College at Isfahan, Rev. R. Iliff, M.A., handed over his duties as Chaplain to Rev. M. T. Lord, on the 29th September.

(b) *Educational.*—(i) *Boys' School (Dabiristan-i-Jam).*—The number of the students attending at the close of the year showed a slight increase over that of the last year.

The Rev. R. Iliff, M.A., who was the popular Principal for nearly 8 years was transferred to the Stuart Memorial College, Isfahan, in September, much to the regret of all in the school. Mr. T. K. Singh, a British Indian Subject, arrived from Isfahan to assist Rev. M. T. Lord who succeeded Rev. R. Iliff.

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Games of all kinds still figure largely in the life of the school. A new feature of interest this year was the production of the play in English of Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice".

(ii) *Girls' School*.—Miss J. F. Woodroffe remained in charge of the school throughout the year under review. The number of girl students steadily increased. With the discarding of the veil, the school company of the Girl Guides has been revived.

(c) *Medical*.—Dr. G. E. Dodson, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.T.M., remained in charge of the hospital throughout the year.

During the year under report the general health of Kerman has been good and no marked epidemics of disease occurred.

The work of medical mission continued satisfactorily during the year with but one change in the European staff. There has been a marked increase in the work all round. The Welfare work was in abeyance in the town after Miss Robinson went on furlough in April, and until Miss Stratton's return in October. The welfare statistics therefore show a noticeable decline.

(d) The Right Reverend Bishop W. J. Thompson, Bishop in Iran, visited Kerman twice during the year.

6. *The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, Limited*.—Aqayi Jalil Sohai remained in charge throughout the year. The business of the Company at Kerman continued to increase in the absence of any foreign competition. Another reason for the increase in question was that the supplies for the Eastern Iranian markets were imported at Kerman *via* Bandar Abbas, and then forwarded to Zahidan for distribution.

Mr. E. Tevoit Ker, accompanied by Mr. G. N. T. Fergusson, who succeeded him as the Company's Manager for the Central Iranian Branch of the Company at Isfahan, inspected the Company's depots at Kerman, Bam and Sirjan during April. During the year, Mr. Cox succeeded Mr. Fergusson and was himself succeeded by Mr. Mitchell. Messrs. Cox and Mitchell paid a similar visit in November.

A party of Anglo-Iranian Company's geologists from Bandar Abbas passed through Kerman on their way to Isfahan, on 22nd November.

7. *Carpet Trade, etc.*—The following is a summary of the Kerman carpet and tribal rug trade, with approximate values, exported to United States of America and Europe during the year. The figures for the three preceding years are also shown. The value has been expressed in thousands of Rials.

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Kerman carpets and rugs . . . . .	11,540	11,751	9,545	9,704
Tribal rugs . . . . .	930	940	51	245

On the formation of the "Shirkat-i-Sihami-i-Farsh" (Carpet monopolised company) at Kerman in June, a notice was given to all the independent carpet dealers, most of whom are Europeans and represent the European and American firms abroad, that they may continue in their private individual trade of this important industry until 20th March 1937, after which all transactions would have to be conducted through the monopolised company. This state of affairs gave a stimulus to the transitory revival of this industry so much so, that prices rose 100 per cent. towards the last quarter of the year.

8. *Communications and security*.—(a) *Communications*.—Aqayi Sadri, the Rais-i-Turuq, was transferred in the same capacity to Shiraz in April, handing over charge of his office to Aqayi Amiri who remained in office throughout the remainder of the year.

The old roads were maintained throughout the year and traffic was normal. A portion of road between Hajiabad and Gakhum on the Kerman-Bandar Abbas road was washed away by heavy rain in the last week of



March, impairing the traffic and mail service for about a week. No new alignments of roads worthy of note were opened during the year. The Kerman-Jiruft motor road is still in abeyance.

(b) *Security*.—The security on all motor roads throughout the province was satisfactory, and no attacks on motor vehicles were reported.

(c) *Posts and Telegraphs*.—No new post and telegraph offices were opened in the province during the year. The postal services maintained in Kerman were the same as reported in the previous year.

(d) *Wireless*.—The Wireless station remained closed throughout the year except for testing purposes once a week.

(e) *Aviation*.—No civil or military aeroplanes visited Kerman during the year, and the two aerodromes continued to remain uncared for.

#### *Local Government.*

9. *Condition of the country*.—(i) Law and order were maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.

(ii) Several Government inspectors of different departments visited Kerman.

(iii) Aqayi Arbab Kaikhosrou Shahrokh, M.P., for the Zoroastrian community in Iran arrived at Kerman *via* Yezd on the 2nd June. The object of his visit to the above places was to persuade his community to fall in with the views of the Government in discontinuing the almost obsolete method of disposing of their dead in the Towers of Silence which was considered non-hygienic.

10. *H. I. M. the Shah's Birthday*.—The Acting Governor-General, on behalf of the Municipality gave a soirée on the 14th March in the Governorate-General, in honour of the occasion. The invitation included, for the first time, the ladies, and required gentlemen to attend in frock coats, as a result of which only 50 people of both sexes (including Europeans) attended. His Britannic Majesty's Consul did not attend the function on account of court-mourning.

11. *Local Officials and Departments*.—His Excellency Aqayi Abul Hassan Peernia, the Governor-General, was summoned to Tehran in February and was suspended on arrival there, owing, it is said, to his slackness in enforcing orders about discarding the veils. He handed over charge of the Governorate-General to his assistant Aqayi Muhammad Mirza Arasteh.

His Excellency Aqayi Amanullah Ardelan, late Governor of Gulf Ports, arrived on transfer from Bushire on 2nd June and assumed charge as Governor-General of the Kerman province. He is more active than his predecessor and many improvements in the town have been put into effect since his appointment. His relations with the Consulate throughout the year were most cordial and courteous.

*Finance and Revenue*.—Aqayi Muhammad Taqi Beenish remained in charge as Provincial Director of Finance. The opium crop which was said to be extraordinarily good, suffered slight damage just before the harvesting season, nevertheless a quantity of about 700 Tabrizi maunds was delivered at the Finance Department for bonderolling purposes. A similar quantity is said to have been retained by the cultivators for smuggling purposes. Towards the close of the year the price of bonderolled opium which was Rials 1.25 per misqal of about 5 grammes was increased by 10 dinars in January, and by another 10 dinars in October, thus bringing the retail price to Rials 1.45 per misqal. The Finance Department notified the opium cultivators during the year that the Government intended to curtail the cultivation of opium in the province and to encourage the growing of cotton in its place. The scheme is considered to be detrimental to the prosperity of the province.



Wheat and barley were monopolised by the Government with effect from the 23rd October and were placed under the supervision of the Finance Department. The price of wheat was fixed at Rials 200 per kharwar of 650 lbs., and that of barley at Rials 110.

*National Bank of Iran.*—Monsieur Arsin Barkhurdarian was in charge throughout the year.

A branch of the bank was opened in Rafsinjan and other branches are likely to be opened in Sirjan and Bam, the other two important towns of this province, in the near future.

*Police.*—Yawar (Major) Abdul Hussein Mirza Jehangiri, was transferred to Shiraz in January and was succeeded by Yawar Hashim Mirza Daulatshahi who remained in office until August when he was appointed the Chief of Ceremonies of the Shrine of Imam Reza at Meshed. Pasyar II (Lieutenant-Colonel) Seyed Habibullah Fatemi arrived at Kerman as Rais-i-Shahrabani in September and remained in the office to the end of the year.

*Justice.*—Aqayi Fazlullah Ashteyani, the Acting Chief Judge of the Appellate Court and the Chief of the Judicial Administration, Kerman, was transferred to Kermanshah in May and was replaced by Aqayi Ghiyasi. Aqayi Khorshidi the Amini Sulh at Rafsinjan was suspended in August, on certain charges of corruption, and was succeeded by Aqayi Rejaai.

Aqayi Sharifi and Aqayi Sadooqi, Public Prosecutor in the Court of First Instance and Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court, Kerman, respectively were also suspended from service for similar reasons in November.

The Court of First Instance at Zahidan was placed under the jurisdiction of the Kerman Court with effect from June.

*Registration of the Property Department.*—Aqayi Fateh 'Ali Houshmand held the portfolio of this Department throughout the year.

*Post and Telegraph Department.*—Aqayi Muhammad Mirza Afsar remained in office until July when he proceeded on a month's leave to Tehran from where he was transferred in the same capacity to Mazenderan. He was succeeded by Aqayi Obehee, the Director of the Telegraph Department of the Medjliss and assumed charge as Provincial Director of Posts and Telegraphs Kerman early in November.

Aqayi Afsar, while at Kerman, surveyed the Jiruft district for the construction of a telegraph line and submitted his report to Tehran.

The postal and telegraph services on the whole were satisfactory.

*Education.*—Aqayi Mayal Tavisarkani held the charge of Educational Department, throughout the year. The Imperial Bank of Iran, Kerman's office, and their property which included the Manager's and Accountant's bungalows, were purchased by the Education Department for a sum of about Rials 220,000 (£2,750). The former was converted into the office of the Educational Department and the latter into a Government school.

Evening classes for the compulsory education of adults were enforced in Kerman with effect from September.

*Amnieh.*—Sarhang II Khawjuai held the post of Officer Commanding Amnieh Force (Road Guards) throughout the year.

*Customs.*—Aqayi Olfat remained in charge of the Customs throughout the year. All carpets which are exported are examined and sealed in this branch here, so as to avoid a second inspection at the port of export. No other service beyond this is performed by this branch.

*Municipality.*—Aqayi Arefi assumed charge of the Municipality from Aqayi Mansoori in April and remained in office for the rest of the year. The Municipality on the whole was more active during the year and several improvements, including the reconstruction of the main artery road by a German Engineer, have been made.



A scheme to build an almshouse to put a stop to street begging is under consideration.

Aqayi Hashimi the Editor of the local paper "Bidari" was elected President of the Municipal Committee in the new elections which took place in November.

*Agriculture.*—The wheat and barley crops during the year were fairly satisfactory. The cultivation of cotton was greatly encouraged by the authorities, in place of opium. The pistachio crop was more satisfactory than that of the last year, though the rates remained at the same level, viz., Rials 21 to 24 for 6½ lbs.

*Locusts.*—No swarms of locusts were seen in the province during the year.

*Sijil-i-Ahwal (Census Department).*—Aqayi Sam held the post of acting Head of this Department throughout the year.

12. *Local Politics.*—There are practically no politics in this backward and isolated place—Kerman. The Kermanis have learnt the lesson to submit blindly to the will of those who represent the Government and compel them to abide by the new laws and ever-changing regulations. For instance, although the bi-lateral arrangements of the Government in monopolising nearly the entire trade, and in restricting the foreign exchange, is much disliked by the people, yet they are compelled to invest a part of their capital in such monopolised companies, in which they have little or no confidence.

The unveiling of women which came into effect in January was the most striking event of the year. Although the movement was carried out by public functions supposed to have been voluntarily organised by the public, yet, in truth, Government influence was behind it. The Military had orders to accord their full support to the Police in time of emergency.

The power of the once-powerful Mullahs continues to decrease.

The Muharram festivals which followed the unveiling movement passed off practically unnoticed.

13. *Press.*—There are nominally 4 weekly periodicals published in Kerman but only one of them appears with even a semblance of regularity. These papers subsist not so much by sales or genuine subscriptions, but by voluntary donations from the local personages, who often find it safer and advisable to pay an insurance premium against paper criticisms of their conduct. These papers often publish notices about the registration of property and carefully censored news extracted from the papers of the Capital. The "Istiqamat"—the leading local periodical published a suitable obituary article on the death of our beloved King.

*Health and General Welfare.*—Dr. Perviz Sediq held the post of Rais-i-Behdasht (Health) throughout the year. There were no epidemics. The general health of Kerman was good.

14. *Military and Conscription.*—Sarhang Ali Akbar Seyahpush remained in command of the Kerman Brigade throughout the year.

The question of converting the Brigade into a Division is still under consideration at the Capital.

The 15th Anniversary of the Coup d'etat was celebrated by the Military authorities on the 23rd February and attended by both sexes. His Britannic Majesty's Consul did not attend owing to court mourning.

The work on the partly constructed barracks on the Saraseyab road was abandoned. Elaborate Military barracks to accommodate a complete division are now under construction at Saraseyab, about six miles to the east of Kerman.

Sartip Jehanbani arrived at Kerman during the month of June to supervise the Military manoeuvres and mountain battery gun practice which



were carried out in the Balliabad Hills situated about 21 miles to the south-east of Kerman.

15. *Conscription*.—Sargord Ali Naqi Mirza Abul Maluki remained in charge of the Conscription Office throughout the year.

*Bam, Sirjan, Rafsinjan, Rudbar*.—Nothing of importance to report.

## PART II.

### BANDAR ABBAS.

#### A.—BRITISH INTERESTS.

1. *Mesopotamia Iran Corporation Limited*.—Mr. P. S. M. Desouza held charge of the Bandar Abbas Branch of the Mesopotamia Iran Corporation Limited throughout the year.

2. *Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, Limited*.—The business of the Company continued to increase. Supplies of kerosene oil and petrol for the Eastern Iranian markets, Sirjan, Kerman and Rafsinjan arrive regularly by the Company's small tanker "Khuzistan" and are landed at Bandar Abbas from where they are forwarded to Kerman and Zahidan.

A party of British Geologists arrived at Bandar Abbas by road during the month of November. The party had been surveying the country between Shiraz, Sirjan and Hajiabad. Two of the party returned by road, the rest taking passage by steamer to Khoramshahr.

#### B.—LOCAL OFFICIALS.

*Governorate—Personnel*.—Aghaye Ismail Khan Bahadur was Governor of Bandar Abbas till the 9th August when he proceeded to Tehran on leave after handing over charge to Agaye Paimani who was officiating Governor from 10th August to 24th December. Aghaye Bahadur returned from Tehran on the 25th December and resumed charge of the office. The Governor and the officiating Governor were the Presidents of the Municipality.

*Provincial Customs and Finance Department*.—Aghaye Mohommad Alli Doulatshahi was Director of the Customs and Finance Department till 21st August when he proceeded to Tehran, and Aghaye Mehdi Nik-Khan took over charge and was officiating to the end of the year.

Inspectors from the Customs and Finance Departments, Tehran, arrived during the months of March and April to inspect the work of the Departments at Bandar Abbas.

In October one Omani Dhow bound from Khazab to Dibai with Omani crew, two female Arab passengers, a cargo of firewood, and having two rifles on board was seized when under sail near the south-west point of Hormuz (about 4 miles from the Island and 10 miles from Bandar Abbas) by the Iranian Customs launch and brought into Bandar Abbas. The crew and passengers were handed over to the Military authorities and were tried by martial law on a charge of carrying firearms in Iranian waters, and released on 30th October, but the two rifles were retained.

*Shahrabani (Police)*.—Sarbah (Sultan) Ashrafi held charge till 3rd March when he proceeded to Tehran on transfer. Rasadban II Rahimiyan officiated till the 19th when he was relieved by Sarbah Nikzad who held charge till July. Sarbah Nikzad was relieved by Rasadban II Daftareyan, who officiated till 21st August when he was relieved by Sarbah Syed Reza Khan Johan-Aara.

*Passport Department*.—Passport work is still in the hands of the Shahrabani Department.



*Frontier Guards.*—Setwan I Haji Baba Rafiei held charge till 31st March. At the time of handing over charge he had misappropriated certain sums of money. He left for Tehran but was arrested at Kerman and was sent back to Bandar Abbas for trial.

The Department was amalgamated with the Amnieh Department from 1st April.

*Amnieh.*—The Amnieh Department consists of one Setwan III as Officer Commanding and 190 men. The Amnieh area under Bandar Abbas is Doulatabad, Hajiabad and Minab.

Rahematulla Salehi, Setwan III, was the Officer Commanding till October when Nusratullah Afshar was appointed as Officer Commanding until the end of the year.

Lashkarbul Morteza Khan Yazdan Panah accompanied by Sarhang Khajavi, the Officer Commanding, Kerman, and Sargord Amir Shahi arrived at Bandar Abbas in October to inspect the Department.

*Banque Mellie Iran.*—Hussain Agha Afshar held charge till 27th May when he proceeded on leave. Ali Reza, Accountant, officiated during his absence. Aghaye Afshar returned on 9th July and resumed charge till 17th December when he was transferred after handing over charge to Agha Fathullah Pirmoradi who arrived from Bushire.

A notice was published on the 5th March in accordance with orders from Tehran, that all foreign exchange was monopolised by the Government and that persons in possession of foreign exchange should sell same to the Bank within 3 days, failing which they would be liable to prosecution. Shippers were also required to sell foreign exchange against each shipment 2 months after shipments were made.

The following Companies have been formed:—

Sherkat Panbeh Poost va Pashm.

Sherkat Sahami Qomash.

Sherkat Najari (Carpentry).

Sherkat Artesian.

*Sherkat Artesian.*—Efforts were made to bore an Artesian well in Hussainabad (a seaside village, one mile to the west of Bandar Abbas). Mr. Cyril Nautin Blakeman, an East Indian from Bombay was engaged by the local authorities to do this work. He arrived at Bandar Abbas in June and started this work. As his efforts, after several months, were unsuccessful, work was abandoned, and he is now boring at Banu Band, a site about 12 miles to the north-west of Bandar Abbas.

*Municipality.*—Aghaye Ismail Khan Bahadur, the Governor of Bandar Abbas, who is also President of the Municipality takes a keen interest in improving conditions in the town. While at Tehran he did his utmost to obtain a grant of Rials 300,000 (£3,750) for town improvement.

The water-supply for the town is brought from Naiband by the Qanat system (under ground channel). The water is slightly brackish.

*Electricity.*—The Electric plant broke down several times during the year. An Engineer from Tehran was brought to repair it.

A company with a capital of Rials 200,000 (£2,500) was formed during the month of July for the installation of electric and ice plants. It is reported that the machinery will be imported from Germany.

*Education Department.*—Aghaye Noor Alli Basti has been the Director of Education throughout the year.

The Raise Moaref Bushire visited Bandar Abbas during the year.

*Posts and Telegraphs.*—Aghaye Mirza Ibrahim Khan Arbabi held charge till 10th September when he proceeded on leave. He handed over charge to Aghaye Farah who officiated till 11th November when the former returned from leave and resumed charge.



This Department worked satisfactorily during the year.

*Quarantine and Health Department.*—Aghaye Bozorgmehr, Assistant Director-General, Health Department, Tehran, arrived at Bandar Abbas during May on a tour of inspection. He also visited Kishm Island and Minab before returning to Bushire.

Doctor Ashraf relieved Doctor Fariz who proceeded on one month's leave to Kerman on the 10th August and returned on the 4th September. Doctor Fariz left for Bushire on transfer on 10th September handing over charge to Doctor Ashraf who held the post till the end of the year.

*Adlieh (Judicial Department).*—Aghaye Samawi held the post of Raise Adlieh till 17th June when he was transferred. Aghayi Sediq who took over from him was in charge till 6th December when Aghaye Amini arrived to assume charge.

*Aviation.*—D'Estailleux Chantervine Phelijijie, Pilot and representative of the French Air Ministry arrived from Bushire in a French Plane F-ALGK on the 19th April. He was accompanied by Dr. Rechou Maxime and Vornozandre, mechanic. The plane left for India the next morning.

*Iranian Navy.*—The following sloops visited Bandar Abbas during the year:—

"Babr", 13th April, 26th June, 3rd July.

"Palang", 7th January, 13th April.

"Shahbaz", 10th March, 16th and 22nd May.

"Karkas", 6th August.

"Niru", 9th January.

"Shahruk", 26th and 29th September and 3rd and 6th October.

"Simorgh", 20th November, 1st December.

*Condition of Roads.*—The Shiraz-Bandar Abbas road was declared open in March when Aghaye Mehdi Ansari and Aghaye Sadri visited Bandar Abbas. Motor drivers say that the road is unsuitable for motor transport. So far very few have travelled by this route. A Shahrabani officer who travelled by an autobus by this route to Bandar Abbas took 15 days to do the journey.

*Trade and Commerce.*—The trade of Bandar Abbas is decreasing. The majority of merchants are petty traders. The prohibitive duties, Government restrictions, and the number of monopolies created by the Government have brought trade to practically a stand still.

*Economic conditions.*—Owing to scanty rainfall the crops suffered badly and the harvest was very poor. Barley and wheat for local consumption had to be imported from Dailum and Khuzistan.

*Security.*—Parts of the district between Bandar Abbas and Lar were unsafe for travellers. A number of thefts and a small number of highway robberies took place in the more remote districts. A postal lorry was looted between Lar and Shiraz.

*Military.*—The strength of the Bandar Abbas Area Force is 2,982. Sarhang Abdul Hussain Saqafi was Officer Commanding Bandar Abbas till 29th June when he handed over charge to Sargord Hussain Sharif Razi who has been acting ever since.

Saqafi paid a visit to Jask in January. He went to Minab in February and returned with Sarhang Seyapoush who returned to Kerman a day later. Sarhang Saqafi went again to Jask in April. Sargord Hussain Sharif Razi paid a visit to Minab, Jask and Charbar in September to quell the trouble between Baluchi chiefs. It is said that the Government paid Rials 60,000 (£750) to the Baluchi Chiefs. Sargord Sharif Razi paid a second visit to Minab in October accompanied by Sargord Qutbi who proceeded to Bashakard as Military Governor.



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The troops left for their summer residence (Ginau mountains) on the 14th July, and returned to Bandar Abbas in September.

Sarhang Nasrullah Khan, Director-General of Military Music, arrived from Bushire in January and left for Kerman.

The famous Abdul Hussain Kamoran surrendered with 126 of his followers in April. As reported he was appointed by the Government to guard the roads of Bashakard and is paid a salary of Rials 60,000 (£750) per annum.

*Conscription.*—972 conscripts were discharged and 2,580 were enlisted during the period 15th Mehr to 30th Azar (7th October to 21st December).

*Mines.*—Iranian Mining Engineers and Inspectors from Tehran paid frequent visits to the Red Oxide mines at Hormuz Island during the year.

The Customs Department has been working the Red Oxide mines. During the month of October Sulaiman Zadeh, a Mining Engineer, arrived from Tehran and started work in the salt mines on the Island. He also started the construction of a road from the salt mines to the beach in front of the Customs House for the transportation of salt. Plans have been submitted to Tehran for the erection of a Government building and store room on the Island.

Two geologists under Mr. Abdaaleyan arrived from Tehran to proceed to Jask from where they would go to Lingah and Bustanah to survey the mines.

Messrs. Martin Brothers of Tehran were granted the sole monopoly of sales of Hormuz Red Oxide in India and the East and shipped 3,000 tons of red oxide to Calcutta during the month of June.

Mirza Abdul Mohommad Danishwar of the firm of Irano-Japan Trading Company, Tehran, who is reported to have been granted the monopoly right of the Salt mines of Namakdan (Kishm Island), in partnership with the Banque Falahati (Agricultural Bank), arrived during November, and was accompanied by a Russian Engineer and a mechanic. Work has commenced at Namakdan and it is said that 6,000 tons of salt are ready for export.

Mr. Eichi Machi, representative of the firm of Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Limited, Tehran, arrived from Tehran during the month of November. After visiting the salt mines of Hormuz and Namakdan he proceeded to Japan. It is believed that this Company intend competing with the Irano-Japan Trading Company for the purchase of salt from the Sherkate Namak.

13,837 tons of Red Oxide were shipped to foreign countries during the year.

*Shipping and Navigation.*—146 steamers of all nationalities aggregating 330,308 tons entered and cleared the port of Bandar Abbas. Of these, 131 vessels with a total tonnage of 262,868 were British, 10 vessels with a total tonnage of 45,000 German, 3 vessels with a total tonnage of 13,500 were Japanese, and 2 vessels with a total tonnage of 9,000 were Greek.

*Russian interest.*—11,001 bags of Russian granulated sugar and 25,505 bags of Russian loaf sugar were imported at Bandar Abbas for the Iranian Government during the year.

BRITISH CONSULATE KERMAN, C. H. LINCOLN, MAJOR,  
Dated at Bandar Abbas, 4th February 1937. His Majesty's Consul.



CHAPTER V.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE KUWAIT POLITICAL AGENCY FOR THE YEAR 1936.

I.—THE POLITICAL AGENCY.

*Personnel.*—(a) Lt.-Colonel H. R. P. Dickson, C.I.E., I.A., held charge of the Agency from the 1st January to the 3rd February.

Captain G. S. de Gaury, M.C., held charge from the 4th February until the end of the year.

(b) Assistant Surgeon A. L. Greenway, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Lond.), I.M.D., was in medical charge of the Charitable Dispensary and performed the duties of Quarantine Officer throughout the year.

II.—THE RULING FAMILY.

His Excellency the Shaikh Sir Ahmad ibn Jabir as Subah has continued to be the Ruler of Kuwait, and administered the State during the year under review. His Excellency did not leave the State.

2. Shaikh Abdulla as Salim (who has acted for the Ruler when he has been absent) only left the State for a short visit to Baghdad by private invitation in October. He contracted an illness in Baghdad which kept him confined to his house until the end of the year.

3. The obligation of His Majesty's Government towards the Shaikh of Kuwait in 1914 in guaranteeing freedom from taxation for his date gardens in Iraq remains, as reported last year, undischarged although official correspondence on the subject continues.

III.—THE POLITICAL AGENT'S RELATIONS WITH THE SHAIKH.

The relations between His Majesty's Political Agent and the Ruler have continued to be correct throughout the year.

IV.—LOCAL INTERESTS.

(a) *Customs.*—A full report on the imports and exports for the year will be found in the Kuwait Trade Report, a non-confidential publication. The Customs duty on exports was raised by  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to permit of increased expenditure by the State on education: the total with another  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. added at the end of the previous year comes now to 5 per cent. This increase, however, does not affect the imports into Kuwait by British subjects, duty on which continues to be at 4 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Equitably, in view of this Imperial Preference has now been made applicable to goods exported by Kuwait to Empire countries.

The Ruler has selected a site for a Customs-cum-Passport Control Post on the North frontier.

(b) *Municipality.*—No remarkable changes in the township of Kuwait or its administration have taken place during the year.

The Ruler continues, with excellent results, to forbid a local newspaper, cinemas, theatres, alcoholic drink and gramophones in coffee shops. The heady wine of Western "civilization" is thus being taken in sips not gulps, and only by the wealthier class, which is able to resort to Basra.

(c) *Education.*—The Ruler has obtained as from the 10th November 1936 the services of four young Palestinian schoolmasters to teach English and improve the standard of education of those who will, it is hoped, be required as Clerks, Police, Customs Officials, mechanics, etc. (The sons of the wealthier Kuwaitis have for long been going to Aligarh University, Schools in Singapore and Bombay and the theological colleges of Hassa, Medina and al Mecca).



The schoolmasters are all young, under 25 and the Palestinian authorities had no observations to make on their part. The educational programme is already much improved and football has been introduced.

(d) *Police*.—The Ruler has selected suitable metal number badges for the Kuwait Watch, which is no doubt destined to be the basis of a future Police Force.

(e) *Bank for Kuwait*.—The question of a suitable Bank for Kuwait has been among the subjects which have engaged the serious attention of the Ruler during the year under review. Nothing final has yet been decided.

(f) *Post Office*.—The Ruler continued during the year under report to press the Political Agent for a Post Office under either his or the Political Agent's influence unlike the Iraqi Post Office now here, which acknowledges no control of anyone in the State. This has been the subject of correspondence and progress towards a better arrangement has been made.

(g) *Telephone System for Kuwait*.—The question of a telephone installation for Kuwait was for the first time mooted during the year. The Political Agent has put several British firms interested in touch with the Ruler, who is considering the matter.

(h) *Imperial Airways*.—The services, two eastbound and two westbound by land machines, continued as in the last year.

The percentage of non-landings to the whole number of passages across the territory was roughly 20 per cent., *i.e.*, a proportion of 4 : 1 between landings and non-landings. No building or equipment has yet been provided by Imperial Airways on the landing ground except a small and simple fire apparatus in a box. Their agents for supply of petrol have built a small store.

The local manager from Basra visited Kuwait at the end of the year and spoke of improvements in accommodation and air mail arrangements. He inspected the site of the seaplane anchorage.

(i) *Boat Building and Pearl Diving* —*Boats*.—A note on the number, tonnage, etc., of boats built during the year will be found in the Trade Report for 1935. The boat building industry has greatly improved and the yards were kept busy throughout the year; many boats being ordered from elsewhere on the Arabian Coasts, where the leading Kuwait builders are gaining a very high reputation for sound building. Applications were received from as far away as Makalla and Karachi.

*Pearls*.—The pearl season showed a slight improvement in prices and in finds over last year, the former, it is believed, due to the expected Coronation in England.

The number of boats which set out for the pearling banks was 300, a larger number than last year and the same as in 1934.

The largest pearl found this year, said to be worth £600 was collected by chance by fishermen off Kuwait in December. It was despatched to India by the first air mail.

(j) *The Pilgrimage to Mecca (Haj) from Kuwait*.—The number of pilgrims who left Kuwait this year was:—

Kuwaitis by camel . . . . .	198
Kuwaitis by sea . . . . .	Nil
Kuwaitis by car . . . . .	4
Iraqis by car through Kuwait—30, in 10 cars.	

Many Iraqi pilgrims now prefer the Kuwait route to that from Nejd *via* Hail.

The Ruler has given orders which will ensure the Quarantine Building and Isolation Hospital being kept in good order.



(l) *The Radio*.—Radio sets from being rather rare have become common in Kuwait during the year, mostly Philips, and not British, as there is no such make as cheap and efficient as the foreign makes.

Radio news in Arabia and Arab music is received by Kuwaitis chiefly from Rome and Cairo. Jerusalem has a shortened and for Arabs uninspiring news programme and the tri-lingual programme is disconcerting to listeners.

V.—DEATH OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE AND ACCESSIONS OF KING EDWARD AND KING GEORGE VI.

News of the death of the late King was received on the 21st January. The Ruler sent a message of sympathy to King Edward and the Queen Mother.

The bazaars were closed and the Europeans took care to mark in appropriate ways their sorrow. On the accession of His Majesty King Edward VIII and His Majesty King George VI the Ruler sent telegrams expressing his humble duty, receiving to each a gracious reply.

VI.—CONDITION OF THE COUNTRY.

Law and order have remained unchanged. Security in the hinterland continues to be good.

VII.—FOREIGN RELATIONS.

(a) *Saudi Arabia*.

His Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia arrived in Kuwait on 29th January and stayed until 6th February making a private visit—if private can be distinguished from official in such matters in this part of the World—to the Shaikh of Kuwait.

He was accompanied by a number of his sons, notably the Emir Muhammad and the Emirs Khalid and Mansur. His total party numbered 673 travelling in 146 motor cars.

Gifts were exchanged by the King and the Shaikh. The Shaikh in accordance with custom provided each of the party from the Royal visitors downwards with pocket money and new dresses and cloaks.

Figures which give an idea of the scale of the many presents are—

Present from Ibn Saud to the Subah family . . . . .	11 motor cars.
Present from the Shaikh to the King's followers . . . . .	750 cloaks.

His Majesty was without doubt much pleased with the visit and relations have been most cordial ever since, the two Rulers exchanging private letters every few weeks.

2. The Trade Blockade continues but it has been the subject of official correspondence and may be nearer solution.

(b) *Iraq*.

1. The Ruler reported a total of 12 incursions of which 11 were Iraq Police by land and 1 Iraq Customs officials by sea into Kuwait waters. No redress has been received. Newspaper attacks on Kuwait continued notably in "Al 'Iraq" of 18th June, "Al Karkh" of the 22nd June, and "Al Nas" of the 2nd July.

With the departure from the Iraqi scene of Yassin Pasha al Hashimi, the *ex-Turkish* General Prime Minister in October, it is hoped that the campaign of calumny of Kuwait, which began with the publication in his party newspaper "Al Ikha Al Watni" of 31st January 1934, of a warning to the Ruler of Kuwait to give way to his, Yassin's wishes or be damned, is ended.



Since that date until his fall from power and flight there had been constant incursions by the Iraq Police. Propaganda against Kuwait had been continuous and had largely succeeded in its purpose of convincing a wide public of smuggling and gun-running by Kuwaitis and the Ruler.

2. On the 27th November, after the Iraq coup d'etat, it was intimated that stringent orders had been given to the Iraq Police not to cross the frontier and no incidents occurred afterwards.

No newspaper attack was made between the advent of the new Cabinet and the end of the year. The cordiality of the new Iraqi Foreign Minister when he passed through Kuwait in November was very marked and relations now are likely to be happier.

(c) *Iran.*

The only incident during the year occurred off Lingah on the 14th May 1936, when a Kuwaiti dhow bound for Kuwait from Zanzibar was shot at by an Iranian Customs launch and 3 of the crew wounded.

Representations were made by the British Legation in Tehran to the Iranian authorities. No reply has been received.

(d) *Palestine.*

The widespread repercussion from the Palestine strike did not miss out Kuwait.

Subscriptions were made but late in the day and the strike came to an end just before the amount collected was despatched.

A most unfortunate impression has been given to the Arabs of North-East Arabia by the whole affair and feeling was growing very strong in the last few weeks of the strike. The summer heat and lack of desert water prevented any young warriors going off by camel but some according to reports were about to do so from the Northern Saudi Arab tribes when the halt came.

Townsmen are outspoken in their dislike of British Policy in Palestine and regard the affair as not ended yet.

VIII.—OIL.

The Kuwait Oil Company well at Bahra, North of Kuwait Bay, had reached 5,900 feet by the end of the year. Oil has not yet been reached.

The personnel now numbers:—

British . . . . .	15
American . . . . .	18
British Indian . . . . .	38
Kuwaiti . . . . .	220
Others . . . . .	2

With the wives of some of the above, there were at the end of the year 13 European and American women in Kuwait territory—a record.

The Company has established a camp of exploitation for their Seismic Party at Ma'adaniyat, South of Kuwait and has applied for a site on the water-front immediately west of Kuwait for development as a landing place.

IX.—ROYAL NAVY.

His Excellency Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander R. M. Ramsay, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, visited Kuwait in his flagship H. M. S. "Norfolk", from 14th to 16th October. He was accompanied by Captain V. S. Butler, D.S.O., Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf in H. M. S. "Shoreham".

Other visits were paid by His Majesty's ships, sloops of the Persian Gulf Division during the year.

46(C) ExAffairsDept



X.—ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Aircraft of the Royal Air Force landed at Kuwait as usual in the course of their ordinary routine duties during the year under review.

Air Vice-Marshal W. G. S. Mitchell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., etc., Air Officer, Commanding, Iraq Command (See paragraph XI—Visitors) and the Chief Air Staff Officer both visited Kuwait during the year.

XI.—VISITORS.

Besides three visits from the Honourable the Political Resident, 1 from the Acting Political Resident, one each from the Political Agents at Bahrain and Muscat and 1 from the Vice-Consul, Bushire, the visitors during the year included:—

- (1) The Rt. Honourable Baron Alington—on 29th February 1936.
- (2) Mr. Crosthwaite of British Embassy, Baghdad—on 3rd March 1936.
- (3) Mr. Reilly of British Legation, Tehran—on 3rd April 1936.
- (4) His Excellency Sir Archibald Kerr Clark Kerr and Lady Clark Kerr—on 24th April 1936.
- (5) Mr. C. H. Bateman, M.C., Counsellor of the British Embassy, Baghdad—on 2nd May 1936.
- (6) Mr. Nevile Butler, Counsellor at the British Legation, Tehran—on 24th November 1936.
- (7) Air Vice-Marshal W. G. S. Mitchell, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., etc.—on 30th November 1936.

XII.—METEOROLOGICAL.

- (a) 4.78" of rain fell during the period under review.
- (b) Maximum temperature—120° F.  
Minimum temperature—32 F.

G. S. DE GAURY, CAPTAIN,  
Political Agent, Kuwait.



CHAPTER VI.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE BAHRAIN AGENCY FOR  
THE YEAR 1936.

1. *Personnel.*—(i) *Political Agent.*—Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Loch, C.I.E., held charge of the Agency until the 6th May when he proceeded to the United Kingdom on leave. He returned from leave on the 22nd July and left for Bushire on the 26th July to officiate as Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. Lieutenant-Colonel Loch returned from Bushire on the 21st October and resumed charge of the office of the Political Agent, Bahrain.

During the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, on leave and while he was officiating as Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Captain T. Hickinbotham, Assistant Political Agent, officiated as Political Agent, Bahrain.

(ii) *Assistant Political Agent.*—Captain G. A. Cole held charge of the post of Assistant Political Agent, Bahrain, until the 4th April, when he proceeded on leave.

Captain T. Hickinbotham arrived from India on the 21st March and took over charge as Assistant Political Agent, Bahrain from Captain G. A. Cole. He relieved Lieutenant-Colonel Loch as Officiating Political Agent from the 7th May to the 20th October, after which he proceeded on leave.

Lieutenant J. B. Howes arrived from India on the 12th May and assumed charge of the office of Assistant Political Agent. Lieutenant J. B. Howes left for India on the 6th December.

Captain A. C. Stewart arrived from Bushire on the 15th December and assumed charge as Assistant Political Agent.

(iii) *Indian Assistant.*—Khan Bahadur 'Abdul Haiy Elhashmy returned from leave on the 12th April and resumed charge as Indian Assistant, Bahrain, on the 13th April.

During the absence of Khan Bahadur 'Abdul Haiy Elhashmy on leave, Mr. S. M. Siddiq, M.A., officiated as Indian Assistant, after which he proceeded to Bushire.

2. *Ruler of Bahrain and Al Khalifah Family.*—(i) His Excellency Shaikh Sir Hamad bin 'Isa Al Khalifah, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., celebrated the third anniversary of his accession to the Rulership of Bahrain by declaring the 28th, 29th and 30th December public holidays.

(ii) His Excellency Shaikh Sir Hamad bin 'Isa Al Khalifah accompanied by Mr. C. Dalrymple Belgrave, C.B.E., Adviser to the Bahrain Government, Shaikh Da'ij bin Shaikh Hamad, Shaikh Ahmad bin Shaikh Hamad and three servants left Bahrain on the 4th June in H. M. S. "Deptford" for England (*via* Basrah) where he was the guest of His Majesty's Government for a fortnight and afterwards paid a short visit to Scotland. His Excellency was accorded the honour of an Audience with the King, at which he was decorated with the insignia of the K.C.I.E. and he presented a golden sword and dagger to the King.

During the absence of His Excellency, a Council consisting of Shaikh 'Abdullah bin 'Isa and Shaikh Salman bin Hamad was appointed to take charge of State affairs. Shaikh Muhammad bin 'Isa spent eight months of the year abroad in Europe and Syria.

(iii) Shaikh 'Abdullah acted as President of the Manamah Municipality during the absence of Shaikh Muhammad. Shaikh 'Abdullah has been President of the Muharraq Municipality throughout the year.



(iv) Shaikh Rashid bin Muhammad was appointed a Magistrate on the Bahrain Court to sit with Shaikh 'Abdullah bin His Excellency Shaikh Hamad.

3. *Local Government Officials.*—Mr. C. Dalrymple Belgrave, C.B.E., Adviser to the Bahrain Government, proceeded on leave to England on 4th June and returned on the 1st November. During his absence his work was carried out by Mr. C. C. L. deGrenier.

Mr. C. C. L. deGrenier performed the duties of Director of Customs and Port Officer, Bahrain, throughout the year.

Mr. W. B. Steele has been State Engineer to the Bahrain Government throughout the year. He acted as Commandant, State Police, Bahrain, during the absence of Mr. C. Dalrymple Belgrave, C.B.E., on leave.

The honour of a Commandership of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was conferred upon Mr. C. Dalrymple Belgrave in the Birthday Honours List.

4. *Bahrain Police*—

<i>Police.</i>	Strength on	
	1st January 1936.	31st December 1936.
Indian Police . . . . .	3	4
Arab Police . . . . .	168	200
Followers . . . . .	11	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	182	218
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Naturs (Watchmen).</i>		
Manamah . . . . .	66	63
Budaiyah . . . . .	..	5
Rafa' . . . . .	..	5
Muharraq . . . . .	42	51
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	108	124
	<hr/>	<hr/>

*Police, Naturs, Law and Order.*—Police duties have increased during the year. Owing to the amount of traffic and the large numbers of foreigners employed by the Bahrain Petroleum Company more men have to be placed on duty in the bazaars and elsewhere. Cases of motor accidents have to be dealt with almost daily. A section of police is stationed at the Bahrain Petroleum Company's Camp by arrangement with the Company and this has been found to be very useful in dealing with cases at the Camp. Although the Force is slightly larger than it was in 1935 it is rarely possible to collect more than forty men on parade. A regular course of musketry has been arranged and it is intended that every man in the force shall fire a course once during the year. The standard of firing is steadily improving. The health of the police is better and they are not getting malaria as frequently as in the past. Six non-commissioned officers and men are in India doing a course of training with the 10th Baluch Regiment. This is the second contingent which has been sent to India, as the first experiment was very successful. The police head-dress was changed during the year from the Arab aqal and kuffiah to turbans similar to those worn by troops in Egypt, the Sudan and the Somaliland. The turbans are more economical and more practical than the other head-dress.

There has been an exceptionally small amount of crime during the year partly because there is less unemployment and partly because most of the notorious rogues are employed by the Bahrain Petroleum Company. Illicit arak brewing has decreased and the use of methylated spirit mixed with eau de cologne has become popular especially with the women of the town,



though methylated spirit is denaturalised and every effort made to suppress this form of evil.

Partly owing to the amount of traffic on the roads at night there has been no cases of dacoity during the year.

There has been no change in the organisation of the natures who have carried out their duties satisfactorily under the various Amirs. A natur post has been opened at Budaiyah.

5. *Local Affairs.*—(i) On the night of the 15/16th December a serious fire broke out and destroyed the vegetable and wood markets. Almost the entire stock of firewood in Manamah was burnt. His Excellency Shaikh Sir Hamad bin 'Isa Al Khalifah, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Ruler of Bahrain, contributed Rs. 2,000 and the Bahrain Government Rs. 2,000 to the permanent fund of the Manamah Municipality for fire relief victims to be allocated by the Council among the sufferers from this fire.

(ii) A party of small boys, who were playing in a water channel at Shakhura village, chanced upon a concealed hoard of gold coins, which tumbled out of an hole in the bank on the site of an old house. A number of the coins were found to be Turkish coins of the time of Sultan 'Abdul Hamid bin Ahmad (A. H. 1187). One coin was, however, a Venetian gold ducat of A. D. 1280—89.

6. *The Bahrain Petroleum Company, Limited.*—(i) Mr. G. W. R. Smith acted as Chief Local Representative throughout the year.

(ii) Mr. B. A. Skinner acted as Resident Manager throughout the year.

(iii) Work on the Refinery proceeded apace during the year. The construction work was not, however, completed, as it had been hoped, by the end of the year.

(iv) On the night of 18/19th April a small section of the temporary British personnel employed in connection with the construction of the Refinery, who had for some time been giving trouble, started a real "Rough House" in the course of which the Resident Manager, who had attempted to quiet the disturbance, was assaulted and several persons more or less badly hurt. The Political Agent's help was invoked by the Company. Special Constables were appointed and on one night when serious trouble appeared possible, a strong party of Bahrain Police, under the Commandant of Police (Mr. C. Dalrymple Belgrave), was stationed on the outskirts of the Camp until early the next morning. Four of the ringleaders were on the 25th April repatriated under Section 21 (1) of the Bahrain Order in Council.

(v) 500,400 tons of crude oil and 9,200 tons of fuel oil were shipped from Bahrain during the year in forty-one tankships of various nationalities (8 American, 16 Norwegian, 6 British, 3 Danish, 5 Japanese, 2 Italian and 1 French), the total royalty due to the State amounted to Rs. 17,83,600.

(vi) On the 31st December the Company's employees by nationalities numbered:—

Americans . . . . .	153
European British subjects . . . . .	157
Indian British subjects . . . . .	323
Bahrainis . . . . .	3,747
Others . . . . .	658

7. *Agriculture.*—The question of re-establishing the Department of Agriculture, which was closed owing to financial stringency, has been under consideration.

8. *Customs.*—The Customs revenue amounted to Rs. 8,12,417 as compared with Rs. 6,31,779 collected during the previous year. Of this amount transit duty on shipments to the mainland amounted to Rs. 1,10,350 compared with Rs. 84,455 during the previous year.



9. *Municipalities —Manamah.*—A large area of the swamp behind the Mission building, municipal property, was filled in with stone. Owing to the abnormal heavy rains the reclaimed area has become covered with water again.

Crude oil is being used on stagnant water near the town and it is generally said that there are many less mosquitoes than there used to be.

A number of roads have been widened and some new roads have been built such as one through Ras Rumman which joins the Manamah-Muharraq road, and a diversion of the Manamah-New Camp at the place where the new Direction Finding Wireless Station is being erected.

Shaikh 'Abdullah bin 'isa acted as President of the Council for eight months during Shaikh Muhammad's absence from Bahrain.

The original subsidy of Rs. 2,000 per month was paid to each of the Municipalities from 1st Muharram 1355. This payment had been reduced to Rs. 1,000 per month at the time when cuts were made in all departments.

The Council decided to discontinue the method of employing a contractor to do the town cleaning and undertook the work itself.

*Muharraq.*—In Muharraq little has been done during the year except the normal town cleaning and some widening of roads and filling in of the creek at the Muharraq landing place. The municipality undertook a special programme of work in Hedd which they have now completed. The main street was widened to allow cars to reach almost to the end of the town, the large sewer in the middle of the town has been filled in with stone and mud, and is now used as a road, and a dispensary was opened in some buildings which were taken over by the Government for a debt.

10. *Public Works.*—Work on the following buildings, etcetera was carried out during the year :—

- (1) Manamah-Muharraq road completed except the parapet, up to the channel.
- (2) New Customs House.
- (3) Repairs to Fort including a barrack room and armoury.
- (4) Dispensaries at Naim and Bilad al-Qadim.
- (5) Two shops in Barrett Street.
- (6) Wall in front of the palace and interior repairs.
- (7) Usual repairs and upkeep of buildings.
- (8) Repairs on Budaiyah road.

11. *Electric Department.*—The Electric Department made a slight profit after paying depreciation and all expenses and it is expected that there will be a larger profit in future years.

The staff of the department are continually occupied in wiring more premises and the number of people who use electricity for lighting is steadily increasing but unfortunately the revenue does not increase in proportion because there is a tendency to replace high powered lamps by cheap Japanese low power lamps. During the year a new ice plant was purchased by Manamah Municipality and installed in the power-house. During the year the Jufair Naval Base was connected with a load of 10 kilowatts and a printing press with a load of 3 kilowatts.

A new telephone exchange was installed during the year and a day and night service was introduced at the same time. The Manamah exchange is now linked up with 114 lines including those of the Bahrain Petroleum Company.

12. *Education.*—All schools show an increased attendance. The public are still asking for more advanced education and especially instruction in English. The opening of small country schools at Budaiyah and



at Kurzakhan is under consideration and a building at Budai'yah has been acquired cheaply which will be used as a school.

All the older boys from the Manamah, Muharraq and Hedd schools have left and obtained work with the Bahrain Petroleum Company. During the last two years over 150 boys from the schools have obtained employment mostly of a clerical nature at wages from Rs. 20—Rs. 120 per month. This is in some ways satisfactory but it has depleted the schools of all boys who have learnt a few words of English and have a slight knowledge of arithmetic. These boys have left school and obtained work before completing their education and probably they will be no longer employed when the construction work ceases.

In the girls' schools good progress has been made in sewing, embroidery and knitting.

Number of schools in existence on 1st January 1936 . . . . .	7
Schools opened during the year . . . . .	1
Schools closed during the year . . . . .	..
Students on the rolls on 1st January 1936 . . . . .	1,184
Students on the rolls on 31st December 1936 . . . . .	1,063
Number of teachers on 1st January 1936 . . . . .	35
Number of teachers on the 31st December 1936 . . . . .	40

13. Trade.—(i) *Pearling Industry*.—There was a further decrease in the number of pearling boats. The market was very dull and except Mr. Sol Pack no foreign buyers of importance visited Bahrain. A number of divers found employment with the Bahrain Petroleum Company and both they and their nakhudas profited, the latter receiving Rs. 5 per month from the diver's pay. The Salaf and Tisqam (advances paid to divers and pullers) were the same as during the previous year. No large pearls were found during the season and the catch was considerably less than last year. There was an increase of Khammas divers and a corresponding decrease in the Selafieh divers.

(ii) The total value of imports into Bahrain amounted to Rs. 1,78,43,760 as against Rs. 1,20,93,400 and exports to Rs. 1,15,46,090 as against Rs. 91,67,070. These figures do not include material and apparatus imported free by the Bahrain Petroleum Company Limited under the terms of their concession.

(iii) Cargo valued at Rs. 64,71,640 was transhipped at Bahrain for the mainland and other ports as compared with cargo valued at Rs. 42,22,750 transhipped during 1935.

14. *Boat Building and Shipping*.—(i) 58 launches were plying for hire on 31st December 1936 as opposed to 59 on the 31st December 1935.

(ii) Two hundred and sixty-four pearling crafts were licensed during the year as against 316 last year.

(iii) Six new motor launches were built during the year and three imported into Bahrain. Three sailing crafts were fitted with engines.

(iv) 164 British ships, 17 German, 16 Japanese, 2 American, 1 Italian, 1 Norwegian, 2 Dutch and 41 Tankships entered and cleared the port of Bahrain during the year as compared with 150 British, 12 German, 9 Japanese and 3 Italian ships and 15 Tankships during the preceding year.

(v) On 10th December a Qatif jollyboat ran aground on Fesht al Jarim. A local motor launch went to its assistance and brought back two women and two male passengers. The crew remained with the jollyboat which was afterwards refloated.



15. *Naval*.—His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Naval Forces in the East Indies the Honourable Sir Alexander R. M. Ramsay, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., arrived in H. M. S. "Norfolk" on the 9th October. The customary calls were exchanged and a Guard of Honour was drawn up in front of the Palace. The Commander-in-Chief was attended by his Secretary and Flag Lieutenant. The Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf Division, and Captain L. H. K. Hamilton, D.S.O., R.N., the Flag Captain, were also present.

On the 10th October His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief accompanied by his staff and the Political Agent witnessed a water polo match and a football match at Jufair. His Excellency Shaikh Sir Hamad bin 'Isa Al Khalifah, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Ruler of Bahrain, came informally to see the polo and football.

On the 11th October His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief with his staff and the Political Agent and the Assistant Political Agent visited the Bahrain Petroleum Company's oil field and were shown round by the Resident Manager, Mr. E. A. Skinner.

On the 12th October His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief visited the office of Monsieur S. Pack, a French pearl merchant, and was shown methods of drilling pearls.

His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief left for Basrah in H. M. S. "Norfolk" on the 13th October.

16. *Aviation*.—(i) Flying boats and aeroplanes of the Royal Air Force have paid frequent visits to Bahrain. The flying boats have used their moorings in the Khor Qalal'ayah and aeroplanes the civil Landing Ground at Muharraq.

(ii) On 29th August Imperial Airways liner "Horsa" made a forced landing 40 miles south of Salwa wells on the mainland. Immediate search was made by the Royal Air Force directed by Group Captain Callaway, A.F.C. The machine was located on the 30th August and passengers brought to Bahrain on the same day. Arrangements were made with the Al Murrah tribe through Shaikh Abdullah bin 'Isa for guarding the machine.

17. *British interests*.—(i) Mr. G. W. R. Smith held charge of the Bahrain Branch of the Mesopotamia Persia Corporation, Limited, until the 30th September when he was relieved by Mr. D. T. M. Munn. The Mesopotamia Persia Corporation, Limited have acted as Agents for Imperial Airways, Limited, throughout the year and are also in charge of the landing arrangements for the Bahrain Petroleum Company, Limited, and California Arabian Standard Oil Company.

(ii) Mr. C. W. F. Skrimshire held charge of the Eastern Bank, Limited, throughout the year.

(iii) Khan Sahib Yusuf bin Ahmad Kanoo, C.I.E., has been local Agent of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, Limited, throughout the year.

(iv) Mr. C. Bottomley has been Officer-in-Charge of the Bahrain Branch of Cable and Wireless, Limited, throughout the year.

18. *Post Office*.—(i) Sayed Zaffar Hussain held charge of the Post Office from 1st January 1936 to 27th September 1936, when he was relieved by Mr. Muhammad Khan who remained in charge until the end of the year.

(ii) There was a further increase in the work of the Post Office due mainly to oil developments and the transfer of the Naval Base to Bahrain.

The following are the figures for registered letters and parcels dealt with during the year:—

Number of Registered letters received . . . . .	7,178
Number of Registered letters despatched . . . . .	6,766
Number of Registered parcels received . . . . .	4,735
Number of Registered parcels despatched . . . . .	464

Stamps worth Rs. 56,272-9-0 were sold during the year.



19. *Medical*.—(1) *Victoria Memorial Hospital*.—(i) Assistant Surgeon R. Holmes, I.M.D., held charge of the Victoria Memorial Hospital from 1st January to 4th August and from 6th December to the end of the year. He was also Quarantine Medical Officer.

Assistant Surgeon C. E. Hynes held charge during Assistant Surgeon Holmes' absence on leave.

(ii) 14,774 outdoor patients and 275 indoor patients were treated as opposed to 17,454 outdoor and 293 indoor patients during the preceding year. 726 major and minor operations were performed as compared with 1,190. There has been a further slight decrease in the number of malaria cases treated. Smallpox has remained endemic during the year.

(2) *Hospitals of the Arabian Mission*.—(i) Dr. L. P. Dame, M.D., assisted by Dr. W. W. Thomas, M.D., and Dr. W. H. Storm, M.D., held charge of the Hospital until May 2nd when he went on leave. Dr. Dame subsequently tendered his resignation and took up an appointment with California Arabian Standard Oil Company.

(ii) A lady doctor Dr. E. Barny, M.D., was in charge of the women hospital from April until the end of the year. She was assisted by Miss J. Bast.

(iii) On 31st March, Dr. Storm returned from a ten months tour of the Arabian peninsula. During the course of his tour Dr. Storm visited Asir, Hadramaut and Dhufar. Dr. Storm is said to have discovered several hitherto unknown centres of indigenous leprosy.

Dr. W. W. Thomas went to Riyadh on 26th December and had not returned at the end of the year.

(iv) 79,127 cases were treated during the year as compared with 51,379 during 1935. 1,355 indoor patients were treated compared with 1,283. 1,304 major and minor operations were performed as compared with 1,371 performed during the previous year.

20. *Judicial*.—The total number of civil suits was 1,588 as compared with 1,804 in 1935. The total number of criminal cases was 224 as compared with 403 in 1935. No insolvency cases were dealt with during the year.

21. *Movements of foreigners*.—(i) Mr. K. Ohba (Japanese), a representative of Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Limited, arrived at Bahrain on 21st February. During a week's stay Mr. Ohba arranged that Khan Sahib Haji Yusuf bin Ahmad Kanoo should undertake shipping agency work for his line. Whilst in Bahrain Mr. Ohba stayed with an Iranian merchant, Mr. Muhammad Tayib Khunji, who has a son in Japan studying business. Mr. Ohba at first wished to arrange for Mr. Muhammad Tayib Khunji to take up his line's shipping agency, but the request was refused by the Bahrain Government as the firm had no experience of such work.

(ii) Herr H. I. Fritze (German), agent in Bushire of the Hansa Line, arrived from Bushire on the 7th April 1936. He lived on board the S. S. "Marienfels", where he joined Herr Bruhn, the Line's Manager for the Persian Gulf area. He left by the S. S. "Marienfels" on the 10th April.

(iii) Herr R. Kulenkampff (German), the representative of Johann Schlinz Nfg., Vienna, arrived in Bahrain, to buy pearl shells.

22. *Movements of British Officials*.—(i) The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Fowle, C.B.E., the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf arrived at Bahrain, on 15th January and left on 23rd January. He was accompanied by his Under Secretary Mr. J. Croning, M.B.E.

(ii) On the 28th April Lieutenant-Colonel Loch, Political Agent, accompanied by Captain T. Hickinbotham, Assistant Political Agent, and Assistant Surgeon R. Holmes, in the Agency Launch "Felix Jones" visited the Shutaiyah Pearl Bank, where early pearling is taking place. Very few boats were out.



(iii) Major J. J. Rooney, I.M.S., Chief Quarantine Medical Officer in the Persian Gulf, arrived from Bushire on the 17th April on a tour of inspection. He left for headquarters on the 20th April.

(iv) Captain T. Hickinbotham, Assistant Political Agent, visited Sharjah on the 21st of April and Dubai on the 22nd returning to Bahrain on the 23rd by Royal Air Force aeroplane.

(v) The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf arrived from Bushire by S. S. "Bamora" on the 19th July accompanied by Captain G. S. de Gaury M.C., Political Agent, Kuwait, Major J. J. Rooney, I.M.S., Residency Surgeon, Mr. J. Croning, M.B.E., his Under Secretary and Mr. Fateh Ali Shaikh, Assistant Engineer, Independent Persian Gulf Sub-Division.

The Political Agent, Kuwait, returned to Kuwait by air mail on the 24th July.

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Fowle, C.B.E., handed over charge of the office of Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General to the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Loch, C.I.E., on the 25th July and proceeded to the United Kingdom on short leave by the air mail of the 26th July.

On September 15th the Assistant Political Agent accompanied by the Quarantine Medical Officer visited the Pearl Banks. The Quarantine Medical Officer treated 44 cases of minor ailments. The Assistant Political Agent went on board several of the diving vessels and distributed small comforts. It was unfortunately too rough to visit as many boats as it had been intended.

The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Fowle, C.B.E., arrived in Bahrain on his return from leave from the United Kingdom on the 19th October. He took over charge of the office of the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General from the Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon Loch, C.I.E., and proceeded to Bushire on the 25th October.

Mr. A. Croad, Superintending Engineer of the Central Public Works Department, arrived from Delhi by Imperial Airways westbound aeroplane on the 22nd and left for Delhi by the eastbound aeroplane on the 26th October.

23. *Visits of Arab Notables.*—Nil.

24. *Sa'udi Arabia.*—At the conclusion of a visit to Hasa early in the year Ibn Sa'ud announced that a new tax 'Jihad Tax' was to be imposed on all people not eligible for military service. Increased taxes were also imposed on sugar, tea and tobacco and anything connected with smoking.

Representations by the Amir of Hasa that the people were too poor to pay jihad tax met with no success and some 70,000 dollars were collected in spite of widespread discontent. Later in the year Hasa was exempted from further taxation under this head. Further efforts were made during the year to reorganize the various departments of the Hasa Provincial Government with a resultant frequent reshuffling of the heads of departments. In particular difficulties were experienced in appointing financial officials and Customs directors who are in the unfortunate position of having to provide Ibn Sa'ud with funds.

Towards the end of the year it was reported that a new exaction amounting to 150,000 dollars was being extracted from the merchants of Hasa. About the same time it was also rumoured that His Majesty King Ibn Sa'ud had requested certain merchants, who had advanced the Sa'udi Government money against Customs duty on their importation of general merchandise, to forego 1/3 of their advances. The merchants are believed to have refused to agree to Ibn Sa'ud's request.

25. *Qatar.*—At the beginning of the year rumours were current in Bahrain that there had been trouble in Doha between Shaikh 'Abdullahi



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bin Qasim Al Thani and certain members of his family. The trouble started over Muhammad bin Khalifah Al Swaidi, father-in-law of the Shaikh, having occupied a tent in the desert owned by Shaikh Thani, the Shaikh's brother, and refusing to vacate it when asked to do so. Shaikh Thani reported the incident to the Ruler of Doha but received no satisfaction.

A slight fracas took place in October between the sons of Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmad Al Thani and the sons of Shaikh Muhammad bin Khalid Al Thani.

26. *Slavery*.—Twenty-four slaves were manumitted by order of the Honourable the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf during the year as compared with fourteen during 1935.

27. *Climate*.—The summer of 1936 was mild. Unusually heavy rains in late December caused considerable damage to houses.

G. LOCH, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL,  
*Political Agent, Bahrain.*



CHAPTER VII.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE TRUCIAL COAST FOR THE YEAR 1936.

1. *Personnel.*—(i) The Trucial Coast has remained under the informal political charge of the Political Agent, Bahrain, throughout the year.

(ii) Khan Sahib Husain bin Hasan 'Amad, Residency Agency's clerk was in charge of current duties of the Residency Agent, Trucial Oman, until 18th May 1936, when Khan Sahib Sayid 'Abdur Razzaq took over charge as Residency Agent.

2. *Trucial Shaikhs.*—The following were the Shaikhs of the various States of the Trucial Coast throughout the year :—

(1) Dubai :—Shaikh Sai'd bin Maktum, O.B.E.

(2) Sharjah :—Shaikh Sultan bin Saqr.

(3) Abu Dhabi :—Shaikh Shakhbut bin Sultan.

(4) Umm al Qaiwain :—Shaikh Ahmad bin Rashid.

(5) Ajman :—Shaikh Rashid bin Humaid.

(6) Ras al Khaimah :—Shaikh Sultan bin Salim.

On the 28th August 1936 Shaikh Sai'd bin Hamad bin Majid al Qasimi, Ruler of Kalba, entered into treaty relations with His Majesty's Government.

3. *British interests.*—Mr. W. C. Janes was in charge of the Imperial Airways Rest House at Sharjah until March 1936, when he was relieved by Mr. A. Thomson.

4. *Tours.*—(i) The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel T. C. Fowle, C.B.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, visited the Trucial Coast in March.

(ii) The Residency Agent, Sharjah, visited Dubai and Ajman in May.

(iii) Captain T. Hickinbotham, Officiating Political Agent, Bahrain, visited Qatar and Kalba in May.

(iv) Lieutenant J. B. Howes, Assistant Political Agent, Bahrain, visited the Trucial Coast in June and July.

(v) Captain T. Hickinbotham visited Kalba in August.

5. *Aviation.*—(i) The east and west bound services of Imperial Airways, Limited were regular and night stops were made at Sharjah throughout the year.

(ii) For some time overtures had been made without success to Shaikh Sai'd bin Hamad bin Majid al Qasimi, Shaikh of Kalba, for a landing ground, petrol store and shelter for passengers at Kalba. In May, however, Captain T. Hickinbotham, Officiating Political Agent, Bahrain, was enabled to enter into active negotiation for the facilities which were finally granted in August in return for the Shaikh's recognition as an independent ruler.

(iii) Flying boats and aeroplanes of the Royal Air Force have frequently visited the various landing grounds and seaplane anchorages on the Trucial Coast.

6. *Royal Navy.*—(i) Sloops of the Persian Gulf Division paid frequent visits to the Trucial Coast.

(ii) In October H. M. S. "Norfolk" flying the flag of His Excellency Vice-Admiral The Honourable Sir Alexander R. M. Ramsay, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Squadron, visited Sharjah, where the Shaikhs of Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qaiwain and Ras al Khaimah were introduced to him by the Residency Agent. The



Shaikh of Abu Dhabi could not attend as he was away at Baraimi. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, accompanied by four Senior Officers, landed and paid a visit to the town. He was given a friendly reception.

7. *Shipping*.—During 1936, fifty-five British steamers and three German steamers called at Dubai and Sharjah.

8. *Medical*.—Smallpox broke out in Epidemic form along the Trucial Coast in the month of December 1935. A vaccinator and a large quantity of vaccine were sent by air to the Trucial Coast from Bahrain and a large number of people were vaccinated in various towns of the Trucial Coast. The Medical Officer, Victoria Memorial Hospital, Bahrain, visited Dubai by air in January and during his stay at Dubai he vaccinated a number of people. Among the deaths from smallpox was Shaikh Humaid bin Shaikh Rashid bin Sultan, son of the Shaikh of Dibah. Mr. W. C. Janes, the former Staton Superintendent, Imperial Airways, at Sharjah, visited Dubai, Ajman, Hira and Khan at the request of the various Shaikhs in order to vaccinate the people. The epidemic abated and ultimately ceased towards the end of October.

9. *Raids and Disturbances*.—Some petty tribal raiding, camel stealing and occasional crimes of violence occurred in various places near the Coast, but there were no serious disturbances.

On 27th January 1936, an Indian, name unknown, travelling from Dibah to Ras al Khaimah on a hired camel was murdered at a place called Alshaghi about 7 miles from Ras al Khaimah. Strong circumstantial evidence pointed to the fact that the murderer was one 'Abdullah bin Salim bin Malkash of Shihuh, who is believed to have shot the Indian dead while he was performing his prayers.

As the Shihuh tribe inhabit Muscat territory the Political Agent, Muscat approached the Muscat Government on the subject and asked what steps they proposed to take in order to deal with the murderer.

The Muscat Government instructed the Shaikh of Shihuh tribe to surrender 'Abdullah bin Salim for trial. The Shaikh, however, refused to take action before he was proved guilty.

Negotiations for the surrender of 'Abdullah bin Salim were still being carried on at the end of the year. Exhaustive enquiries throughout the year failed to elicit the name of the murdered Indian.

10. *Oil*.—(1) *British Interests*.—(i) During the year under review the Shaikh of Ajman granted to the D'Arcy Exploration Company, Limited, a two-year option to explore for oil within the limits of his territory.

(ii) Major Frank Holmes visited Sharjah in May in connection with oil negotiations with the other Trucial Chiefs. His visit met with little success.

(iii) Major Holmes returned to Sharjah in September to resume negotiations with the Shaikh of Dubai. Although the Concession was not actually signed, Major Holmes is reported to have paid the Shaikh of Dubai Rs. 30,000.

(iv) The Shaikh of Ras al Khaimah also visited Sharjah in September in connection with the Concessions but nothing definite was decided. He realised that Concessions for the Southern Shaikhdoms were not being as eagerly sought for as those for the Northern Shaikhdoms of Dubai and Abu Dhabi. He therefore tried to bring about a combine and demanded a consolidated concession from Petroleum Concessions Limited. He appears to have succeeded with Sharjah but the Shaikh of Dubai realised that Dubai and Abu Dhabi would lose by this and so refused to have anything to do with the scheme.

(v) The Geologists of Petroleum Concessions Limited explored Dubai and Abu Dhabi during the two last months of the year, but up to the end of the period under review no report was received.

46(C) ExAffairsDept.



(2) *American Interests.*—In December one Ajib Khan (British Indian subject) visited the Trucial Coast in the interests of the California Arabian Standard Oil Company. The Shaikhs are understood to have taken the line that they have granted options to Petroleum Concessions, Limited, and till those options expire they were not willing to negotiate with others.

B. L. M. TOMLINSON,  
for Political Agent, Bahrain.



CHAPIER VIII.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE POLITICAL AGENCY,  
MUSCAT, FOR 1936.

PART I.

1. (A) *Agency Officials.*—

*Political Agent.*—Major R. P. Watts, I.A., throughout the year.

*Medical Officer.*—Assistant Surgeon R. Easey, I.M.D., throughout the year.

*Treasury Officer.*—Mr. Maqbul Husain Khan officiated as Treasury Officer, Muscat, from 1st January to 30th June, when he proceeded to Bushire on being relieved by Mr. R. I. Barreto who held the post till the end of the year.

(B) *Agency in General.*—A number of improvements were carried out to the Agency building during the year.

The Agency Electric Plant functioned well without a single mishap throughout the 12 months.

2. *Agency Hospital.*—The total number of patients treated during the year was 7,991 of which 127 were "in-patients" and 7,864 "out-patients". The daily average attendance was 51.

The number shows 1,629 less patients than last year. This decrease was due to the filling in and draining of the notorious Muscat "Pond" which was a prolific breeding ground for malarial mosquitoes.

524 operations were carried out during the year and one post-mortem examination was performed. No cases of poisoning were reported.

Skin, eye and digestive system complaints continued to be the most prevalent.

There was a moderately severe outbreak of mumps in Muscat and Matrah.

One imported case of smallpox was treated in the Quarantine Station. Sporadic cases were reported from time to time from fishing villages of the Batinah Coast.

3. *Demise of His Majesty King George V.*—The news of the lamented death of His late Majesty was received in Muscat on the morning of 21st January. The Agency flag and the State flag on the Fort were half-masted. On 22nd January at noon the State Battery fired a seventy-minute gun salute. All British subjects closed their shops and suspended business as a mark of respect. The Sultan's Representative accompanied by the leading Members of the Ruling family and the principal State officials paid an official call of condolence on the Political Agent on 27th January.

On the 28th January the occasion of the funeral of His late Majesty was observed by British subjects as a day of National mourning and all business was suspended in the towns of Muscat and Matrah. The Sultan's Representative also closed the State Offices as a mark of respect. A memorial service was held on board H. M. S. "Fowey" which was in the harbour. She fired a salute of seventy-minute guns at 1000 hours.

4. *Political Affairs.*—The chief feature of the political situation, which was otherwise calm and uneventful, was the absence of the Ruler throughout the year from the capital of the State. The whole of 1936 was spent by the Sultan in Dhofar a district in the extreme south of the State where he occupied himself chiefly in personal amusements. The normal and only reliable means of communication between Muscat and Dhofar is by sailing craft which may take ten days to three weeks for the single



journey and for five months in the year during the monsoon period, communication by sea is entirely cut off. The Official—a Member of the Ruling Family—appointed by the Sultan to act as his representative in Muscat had been invested with restricted powers and the consequence of these conditions was to make the conduct of official business exceedingly difficult and at times impossible. During the year the Political Agent had to proceed three times by air and once by sea to Dhofar to see the Sultan concerning important matters.

Matters of lesser importance affecting the interests of His Majesty's Government and the Sultanate have been dealt with under appropriate headings in Part II of the Report.

The Commercial Treaty between His Majesty's Government and the Sultan was renewed on 11th February.

5. *Judicial*.—Judicial matters form the subject of a separate report.

6. *Trade*.—Imports and exports during the year 1935-36 showed an improvement as will be seen from the following figures supplied by the local Customs Department.

	1934-35.	1935-36.	Increase.
Imports . . . . .	36,13,716	38,37,835	2,24,119
Exports . . . . .	25,61,387	32,64,948	7,03,561

The imports show an increase of Rs. 2,24,119 which is due to increase in the imports of textiles, wheat flour, tea, spices, twist yarns and oils.

Exports show an increase of Rs. 7,03,561, but this is due solely to the exports of Maria Theresa Dollars to the value of Rs. 7,86,042 and Specie and Silver Krans to the value of Rs. 1,12,400. Otherwise a decrease of exports of the usual commodities is shown compared with last year.

This decrease in exports is shown by the following figures :—

	1934-35.	1935-36.	Decrease.
Dry dates . . . . .	11,22,715	7,13,330	4,09,385
Wet Dates . . . . .	2,64,373	2,37,084	57,289
Dried Fish . . . . .	4,06,006	1,43,785	2,62,221

The decrease in the value of dates is due to the lower prices ruling than last year, while the shipment of dried fish heavily declined as a result partly of the Italo-Abyssinian war but chiefly on account of the refusal of the chief importer, Germany, to take any of this produce except on a barter basis which for Muscat has been found impracticable. At the close of the year large stocks of dried fish were on hand in the local warehouses and also in bond in Germany and if these cannot be disposed of, severe losses will be suffered by the merchants concerned.

As in the past year, the chief place as an importer of piecegoods is held by Japan who continues to strengthen her position in the market.

A cheap brand of Japanese cement is making progress against the Indian (Porbunder) cement.

7. (A) *Royal Navy*.—Visits of H. M. Ships and Royal Air Force Machines to Muscat are detailed in Appendix "A" to this Report.

Last year the Sultan accorded permission for the establishment of a recreational station for the use of the personnel of H. M. Ships, on the small uninhabited island of Jazirat-al-Ghanum which is situated to the north of the Mussandum Peninsula and at the entrance to the Persian Gulf.

The station was completed during the year and consists of a Canteen, Officers' Club, Power House, Store-house and Quarters for the Caretaker and Staff.

(B) *Royal Air Force*.—A Royal Air Force reconnaissance with the co-operation of H. M.'s Navy was carried out along the south-east coast of the Sultanate in October-November. The object of the expedition was to



establish two or more emergency landing grounds on the Muscat Aden air route between Masireh Island and Murbat in the Province of Dhofar. This stretch of the coast is one of the most desolate and sparsely populated of any portion of the State, or in fact of any portion of Arabia. The few inhabitants to be met with belong to lawless tribes over whom the Sultan's authority is merely nominal.

H. M. S. "Deptford" left Muscat on October 16th having on board a Staff Officer from Air Headquarters 'Iraq, a Royal Engineer Officer-in-charge of Works and Building attached Royal Air Force, the Political Agent and a representative of the Muscat Government. A call was made at Marhut a small port on the mainland south-west of Masireh Island to embark the Sheikh of the Jenabeh tribe who is the paramount chief of the various tribes inhabiting the districts to be visited.

The first place visited was at Khur Gharim in Sauqrah Bay where an emergency landing ground had been hastily constructed in 1934. The surface of the ground was levelled and cleared and the markings repaired.

On completion of this work a reconnaissance for a new landing ground to the South was carried out and an excellent place was found in Kuria Muria Bay in the Shuwaimiyah District and at a distance of some 115 miles from Khur-Gharim. The surface of the ground was levelled and the usual markings constructed.

After completing the work the expedition returned to Muscat having in addition to making two landing grounds at convenient intervals along this desolate coast established satisfactory relations with the local inhabitants who wherever met showed themselves friendly.

8. *Aviation, General.*—The annual special authorisation for aircraft to land and fly over Muscat and Oman required by the Civil Air Agreement entered into between His Majesty's Government and the Sultan in 1934 was renewed on 2nd January.

The civil aerodrome at Gwador continued to be used throughout the year by the bi-weekly East and West services maintained by Imperial Airways. A number of private aircraft also landed here in the course of the year and a few machines of the Royal Air Force on their occasional flights between Iraq and India or *vice versa*.

The emergency landing ground at Shinas was not used by any Imperial Airways machines.

9. *Foreign Interests.*—(a) The French Consulate remained closed throughout the year.

At the request of the Consul for France, Bombay, a few repairs to the Consulate building were carried out by the Agency Overseer.

(b) American interests remain in the hands of the Political Agent during the year.

10. *Missionary Work.*—The Missionary side of the activities of the American South Arabian Mission (The Dutch Reformed Church of the United States of America) was carried out by the Revd. Mr. and Mrs. Pennings. They were relieved by the Revd. Mr. and Mrs. Dykstra in December.

Dr. P. W. Harrison continued throughout the year in charge of the Medical side of the Mission at their Hospital at Matrah.

Dr. W. H. Storm who by special permission of the Sultan had set up a medical clinic for some 4 months in Dhofar returned in a sailing vessel on the 22nd March to Muscat and left for Bahrain on the 24th.

Dr. (Miss) Hosman attached to the Zenana Mission Hospital at Muscat spent the greater part of the year in touring the Batinah Coast treating the sick.

During the summer months the entire staff of the Mission left Muscat on recess in India as usual.

46(C) ExAffairsDept,







4. *Trade and General.*—This subject has already been dealt in Part I of this Report.

5. *Muscat and Matrah Improvement Scheme.*—As mentioned in last year's report, the Political Agent at the request of the Sultan undertook the execution of certain measures for the improvement of the towns of Muscat and Matrah.

During the period under review, the filling and draining of the notorious Muscat "Pond" a pestilential swampy area of about two acres and a prolific breeding ground for malarial mosquitoes were completed and a number of trees planted therein.

The latest type fish and meat market and slaughter-houses well constructed of stone and ferro-concrete were completed in both the towns of Muscat and Matrah. The buildings were handed over to the State in August but up to the end of the year no attempt had been made to use them the curious reason given for which being that the Municipality in neither town had sufficient funds to keep them clean. The Sultan's return is awaited to make some suitable arrangement for this purpose.

6. *Events in Oman.*—Nothing of importance took place during the year.

As reported last year, discontent continued to exist over the excessive assessment made for the purposes of taxation on dry dates sent to Sur for export to India.

At the beginning of the year, it was reported that Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdullah, the Imam of Oman under pressure from the Hijriyin and Hardh tribes had written to His Highness at Dhofar requesting him to reduce the rate of Zakat at Sur to the level of other places in Oman, *viz.*, 5 per cent. on the value of the dates exported, instead of 1½ dollars per load collected at the time. This rate amounted to over 20 per cent. of the average value of the produce delivered at Sur. Under the terms of the treaty concluded between the Omanis and the Muscat Government in 1920 it was agreed that the duty on dates brought down from the Oman for export should not exceed 5 per cent. *ad valorem.* No satisfactory reply to this communication is said to have been received.

As the Omanis saw that the Sultan was not taking any notice of their complaints, this year they refused to send any of their dry dates to Sur and were considering making an agreement with the Sheikh of the Bani-Bu-Ali tribe whose district is called Ja'lan near Sur to open a new port in his territory. At the same time Sheikh Hamad bin Sulaiman, son-in-law of Sheikh Isa bin Salih, the right-hand man of the Imam of Oman visited Muscat in August to discuss the matter with the Sultan's Representative. The latter after consulting the Political Agent issued orders, in anticipation of the Sultan's approval, reducing the rate to ¾ dollar per load or approximately 5 per cent. *ad valorem.* This action has settled a situation which at one time threatened to become serious.

7. *General Communications.*—No change took place in the establishment of Cable and Wireless Limited.

Modern high speed instruments have been installed in the Cable Office and the cables from Muscat to Karachi and Muscat to Bushire have been "Duplexed". As a result of these improvements a considerable increase in the speed of transmission of messages has been effected.

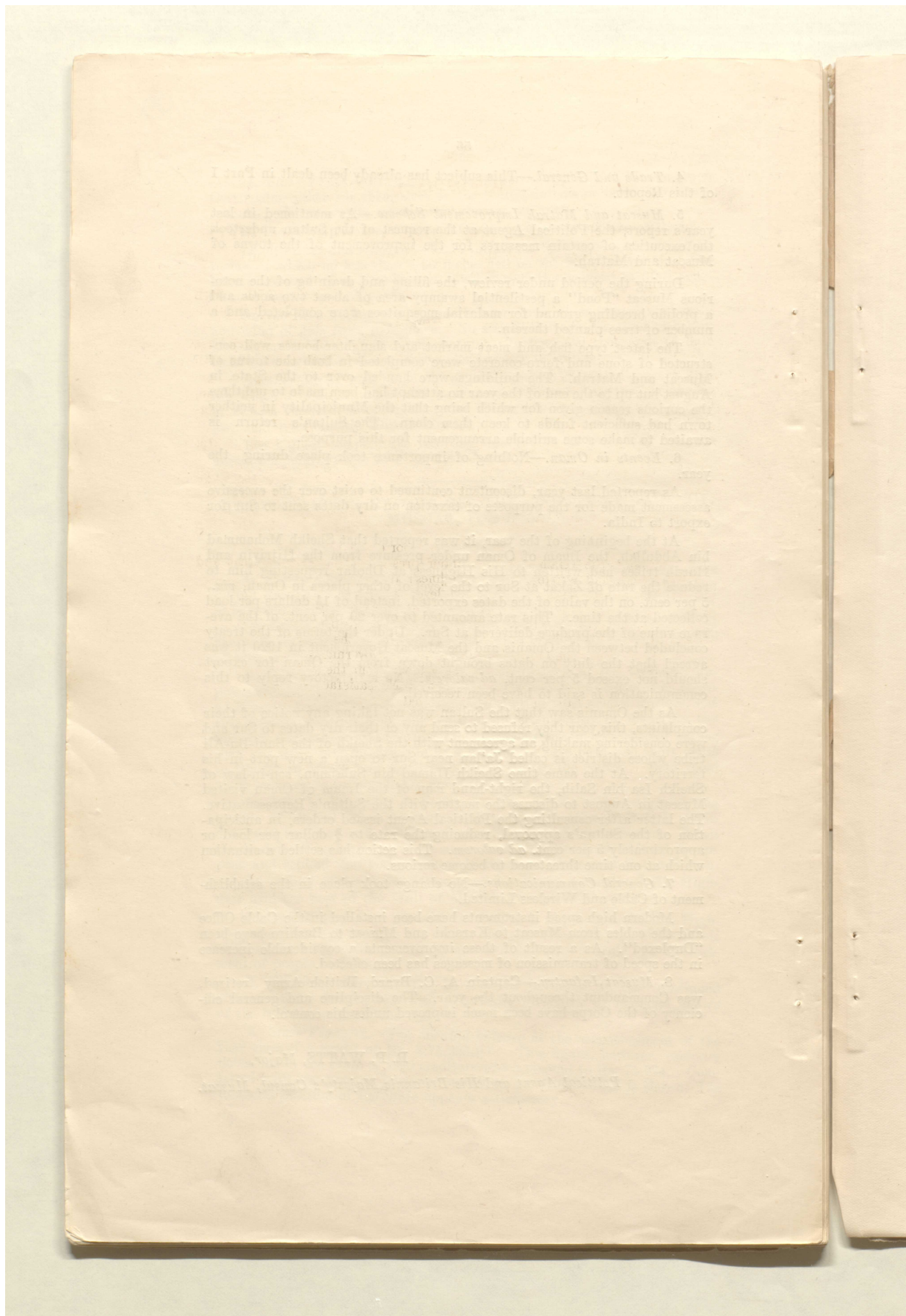
8. *Muscat Infantry.*—Captain A. C. Byard, British Army retired, was Commandant throughout the year. The discipline and general efficiency of the Corps have been much improved under his control.

R. P. WATTS, Major,

Political Agent and His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Muscat.



'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦' [٣٤ ظ] (٧٤/٦٨)





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APPENDIX A.

VISITS OF H. M. SHIPS AND ROYAL AIR FORCE MACHINES.

The following ships of the Royal Navy visited Muscat during the year on the dates mentioned :—

- H. M. S. "Shoreham"—26th January, 24th March, 27th, 28th April, 21st—25th June, 13th and 28th August, 18th September, 8th—10th and 16th November.
- H. M. S. "Fowey"—26th—29th January, 18th—19th March, 1st and 16th—18th April, 20th July, 9th September, 9th—10th and 23rd—24th November and 6th December.
- H. M. S. "Deptford"—21st March, 17th—18th April, 27th June, 8th—10th—12th and 25th August, 15th September, 16th November and 6th December.
- H. M. S. "Bideford"—21st—22nd August, 30th September, 21st October and 21st—24th November.
- H. M. S. "Norfolk"—Flying the flag of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Squadron, Vice-Admiral the Honourable Sir Alexander R. M. Ramsay, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., arrived at Muscat on the 8th and left on the 10th November.

The following machines of the Royal Air Force visited Muscat and other places in the State :—

- Three "Vincentis"—1st—2nd January.
- Four "Wapitis"—7th—17th January.
- Four "Vincentis"—17th—23rd January.
- One "Victoria"—24th—30th January.
- One "Victoria"—25th—29th February.
- One "Valentia"—12th—19th March.
- Five "Vincentis"—28th—31st March.
- One "Valentia"—22nd—23rd April.
- Four "Vincentis"—22nd—23rd April.
- Four "Vincentis"—3rd—6th May.
- One "Valentia"—16th—18th May.
- Five "Vincentis"—26th—29th October.
- One "Singapore" Flying Boat—15th November to 9th December.
- One "Singapore" Flying Boat—6th—11th December.
- One "Valencia"—15th December.
- Five "Wapitis"—15th December.



APPENDIX B.

VISITS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO MUSCAT.

- 1st January to 14th March.—Lieut. R. A. Hasler, R.E., attached to Royal Air Force, 'Iraq.
- 25th-27th February.—Air Commodore Leigh-Malory, R. 'A. F.
- 25th-27th February.—Wing Commander King, R. A. F.
- 21st-24th March.—Mr. D. Reilly of the British Legation, Tehran.
- 22nd-23rd April.—Colonel Chippendale, R.E., Chief Engineer, British Forces, 'Iraq.
- 30th April.—Mr. K. J. Thouless, Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle.
- 3rd-5th May.—Squadron-Leader F. J. Fogarty, D. F. C., A. F. C., R. A. F.
- 10th-30th July.—Mr. D. G. Cummings, Engineer, attached to Royal Air Force.
- 26th August to 1st September.—Major J. J. Rooney, I.M.S., Residency Surgeon, Bushire.
- 16th November.—Mr. N. M. Butler, Counsellor of the British Legation, Tehran.
- 21st-24th November.—Mr. H. C. Brazier, Inspector of Explosives of the Air Ministry, London.



CHAPTER IX.

NOTES ON THE WORKING OF QUARANTINE ON THE ARAB  
COAST OF THE PERSIAN GULF FOR THE YEAR, 1936.

*Inspection.*—The Residency Surgeon visited Bahrain in April and July, Muscat in August and Kuwait in September.

*Epidemics.*—The outbreak of smallpox along the Trucial Coast which started in the last few days of December 1935 carried on into 1936 with gradually diminishing numbers and the Coast was declared free on 14th May. There was a further small outbreak in September but it never reached serious proportions.

There was a small epidemic confined to a group of fishing villages on the Bataneh Coast of Muscat State in May. This, fortunately, remained localised.

Smallpox is endemic along the Arab Coast.

*Buildings.*—The Quarantine buildings at Bahrain and Muscat are in good repair. Those at Kuwait are still dilapidated but are going to be rebuilt on a much better plan in the near future.

*Personnel.*—1st Class Assistant Surgeon R. Holmes, I.M.D., was in charge at Bahrain from the 1st January until he went on leave on the 5th August. He resumed charge on the 6th December and held it until the end of the year. During his absence on leave, 1st Class Assistant Surgeon C. E. Hynes, I.M.D., officiated.

1st Class Assistant Surgeon A. L. Greenway, I.M.D., at Kuwait and 1st Class Assistant Surgeon R. Easey, I.M.D., held charge throughout the year.

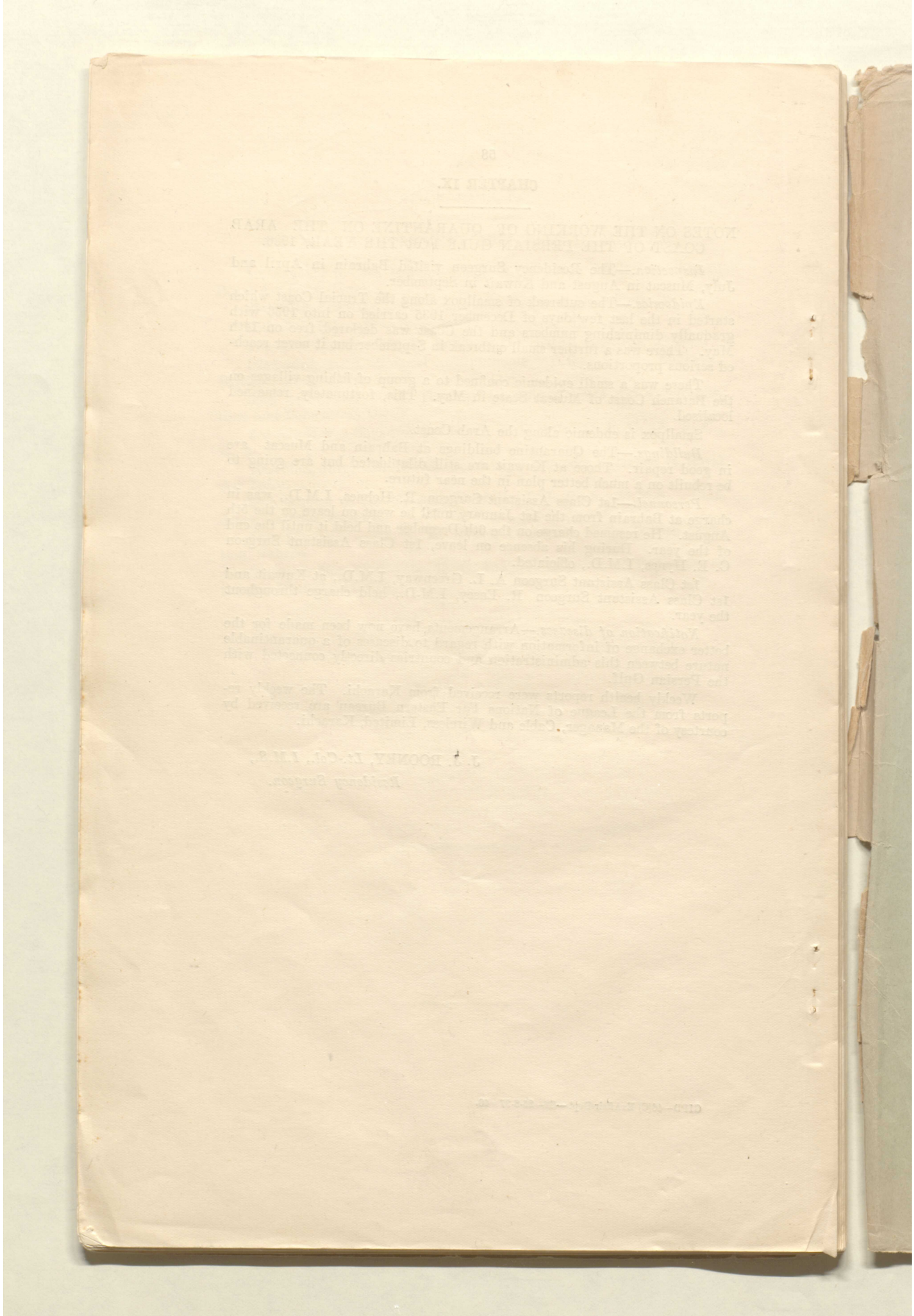
*Notification of diseases.*—Arrangements have now been made for the better exchange of information with regard to diseases of a quarantinable nature between this administration and countries directly connected with the Persian Gulf.

Weekly health reports were received from Karachi. The weekly reports from the League of Nations Far Eastern Bureau are received by courtesy of the Manager, Cable and Wireless, Limited, Karachi.

J. J. ROONEY, Lt.-Col., I.M.S.,  
Residency Surgeon.

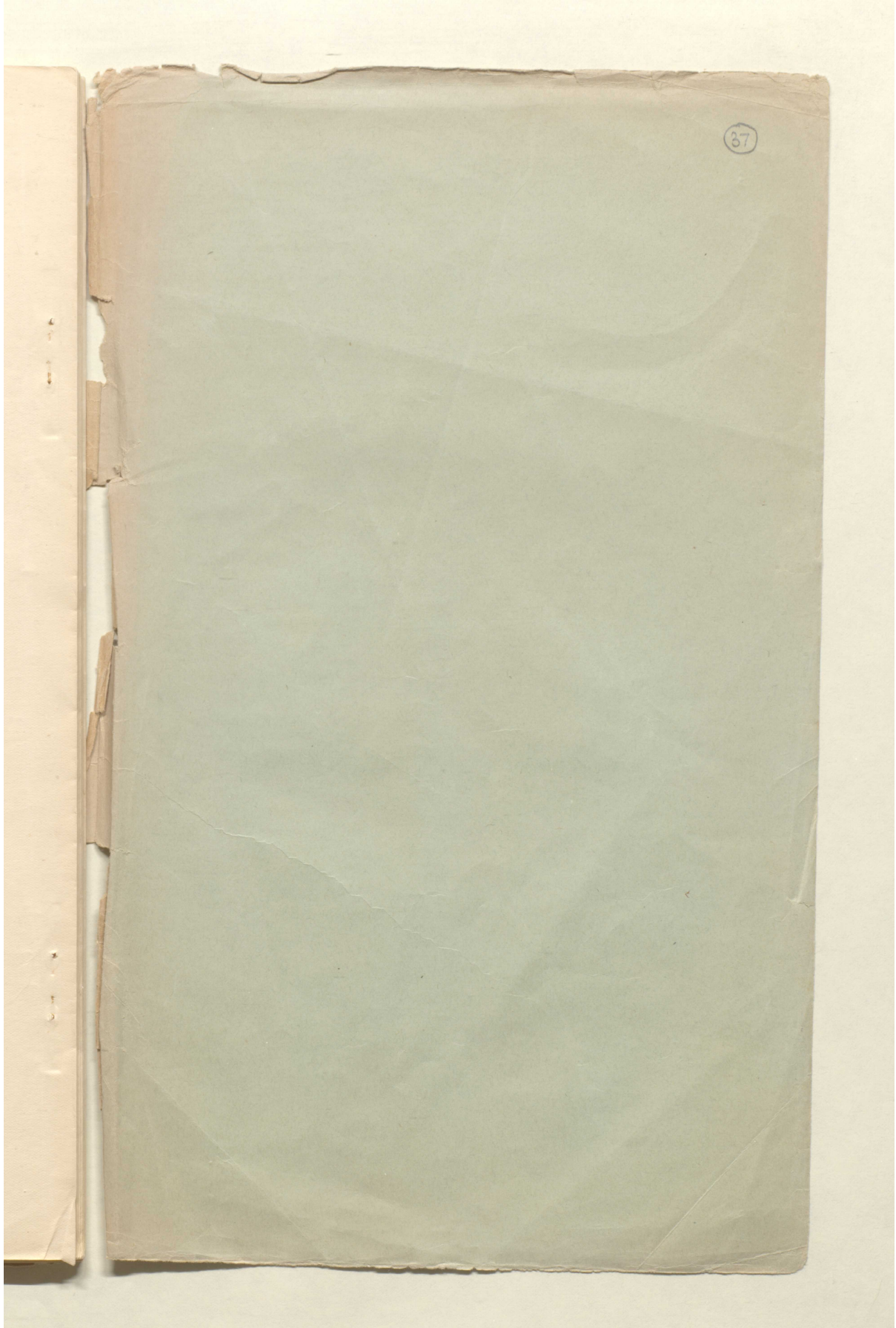


'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦' [٣٦ ظ] (٧٤/٧٢)





"التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [خلفي-داخلي] (٧٤/٧٣)





'التقرير الإداري عن الخليج الفارسي لعام ١٩٣٦ [خلفي] (٧٤/٧٤)

