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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts'

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About this record

Report by Lieutenant Frank Cooke Webb Ware, Political Assistant, Chagai. Printed in Karachi at The Commissioner's Press, 1897. The report concerns the proposal to secure the trade route between Nushki, in what was at the time British territory, and Nasirabad [Nosratabad] in the Seistan [Sistan] region of Persia. The report is partly the result of a journey along the route undertaken by Ware himself between 27 January and 18 March 1897.

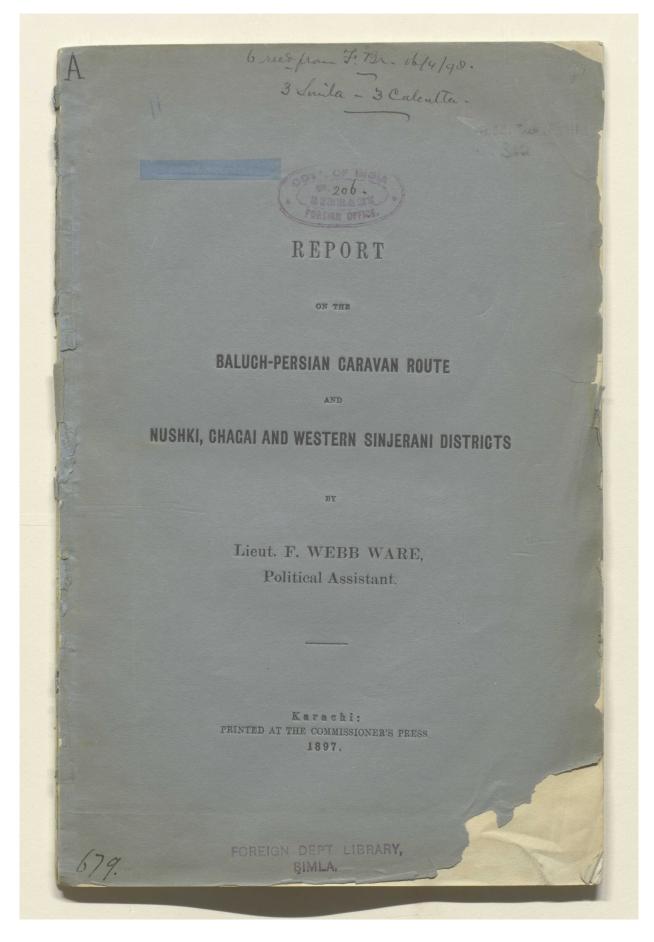
The report opens with a letter from Ware to the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan, Quetta, dated 15 July 1897, in which the main points of the report are summarised. The report itself consists of three appendices, as follows: I Administration and local Trade of Nushki, Chagai, and Western Sinjerani country (folios 5-9); II Quetta-Seistan Trade Route (folios 10-13); III Nushki Trade Returns for months February to June 1897 (folios 15-35). Information on the history, government, economy, geography, and tribes of the region is given.

Folio 14 is a map of the area where the Afghan-Persian, Afghan-British, and Baluch-Persian boundaries converge.



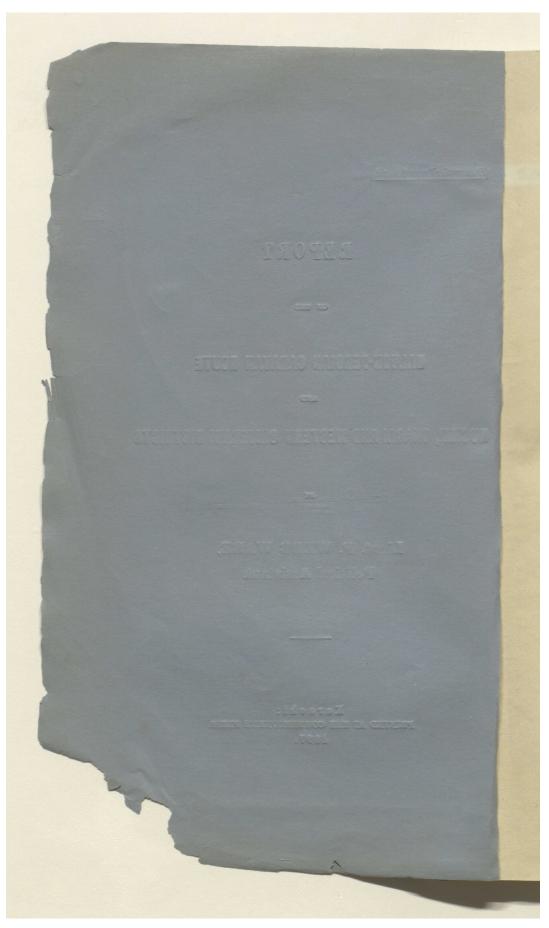
'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [front] (1/72)





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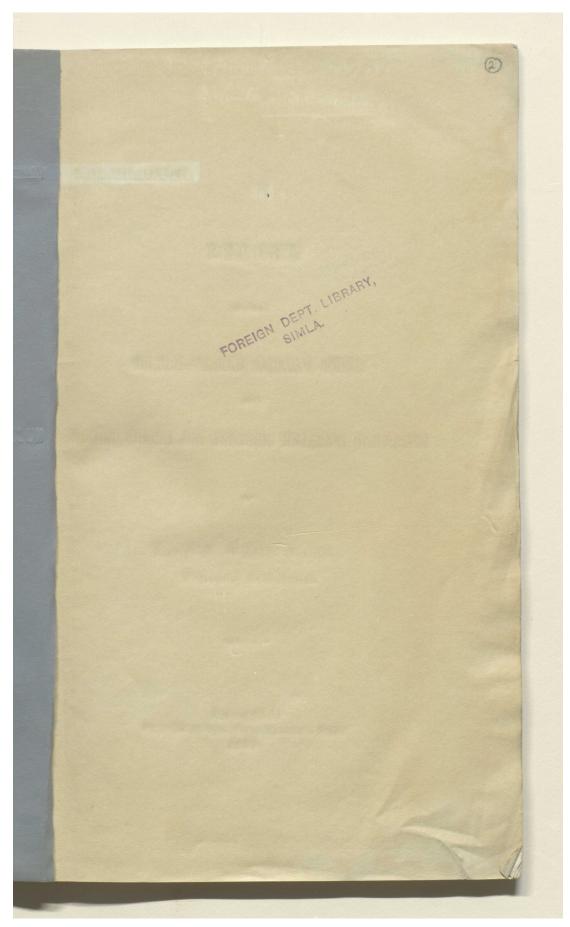


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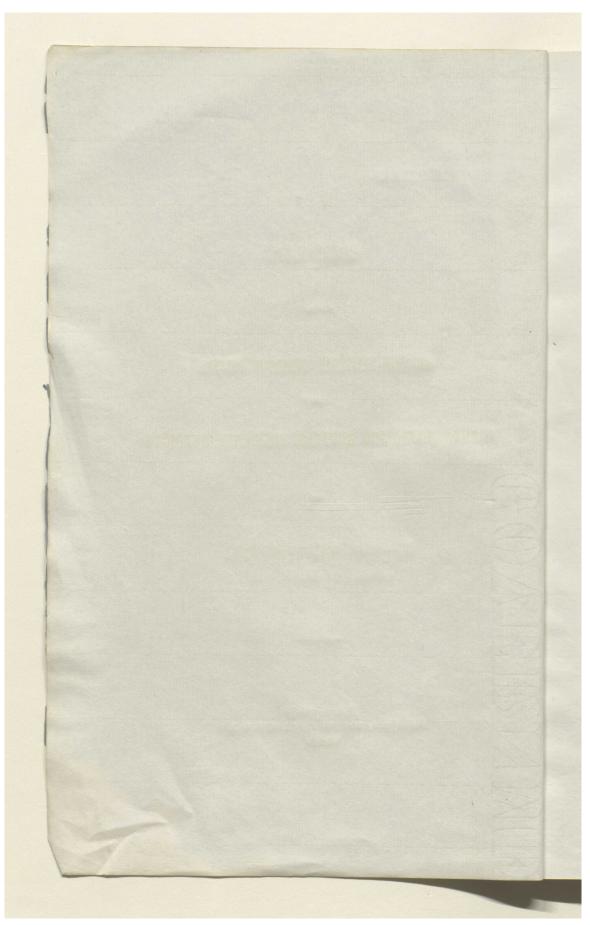
'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [2r] (3/72)



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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [3r] (5/72)

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FOREIGN DEPT. LIBRARY, REPORT

ON THE

BALUCH-PERSIAN CARAVAN ROUTE

AND

NUSHKI, CHAGAI AND WESTERN SINJERANI DISTRICTS

BY

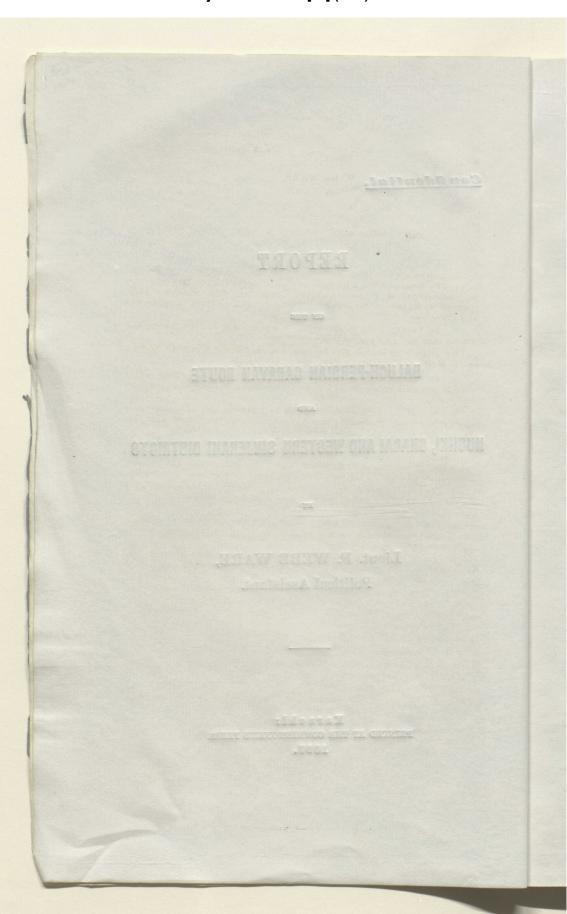
Lieut. F. WEBB WARE. Political Assistant.

Karachi: PRINTED AT THE COMMISSIONER'S PRESS. 1897.

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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [3v] (6/72)



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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [4r] (7/72)

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No. 215.

Dated Quetta, the 15th July 1897.

From

LIEUTENANT F. C. WEBB WARE, Political Assistant, Chagai,

To

THE AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN BALUCHISTAN, Quetta.

Sir,

In accordance with the provisions of Foreign Department letter No. 2931 F., dated 30th October 1896, I have the honour to report that, having taken up my appointment as Political Assistant, Chagai, on 15th November 1896, 4 started for NUSHKI on 1st January 1897, taking with me three jamadars and 17 Levy sowars.

2. In NUSHKI, much to my chagrin, I was detained 21 days, hearing and settling cases and giving effect to *jirga* findings.

3. Leaving NUSHKI on 27th January, I reached ROBAT KOH-I-MALIK SIAH on 5th March and NASIRABAB SEISTAN on 18th March.

4. In SEISTAN, Russian influence was much in evidence. Their policy towards that country has clearly been an advanced one, and has been prosecuted with vigour.

5. Several untoward events combined to make my stay in SEISTAN more lengthy than I had anticipated; and thus it was not till the 10th of April that I returned to Robar, and not till the 5th June that I reached Quetta.

6. To safeguard the trade route and protect caravans, before returning, I established four thanas and five chaukis, manned by a total strength of 4 Thanadars, 22 sowars and 28 Khasadar guides. For both thanas and chaukis, sufficient accommodation has been, or is now, under construction.

7. The route selected, viz., via DALBANDIN, MERUI, AMIRCHAH, DRANAH KOH and ROBAT, is the most direct, and from every aspect the one best suited to the exigencies of caravan traffic.

8. The recommendations I have to offer for the more efficient administration of NUSHKI and CHAGAI will be found embodied in paragraphs 10-14 and paragraphs 24-52, Appendix I.

9. I trust that the steps I have taken to sufficient the trade route, and those which I recommend should be taken for its further protection and development, will meet with your approval.

10. Provided the PERSIAN government is not incited to offer either active or passive opposition to trade, no serious impediment exists to preclude the route selected being extensively made use of, and that in the immediate future.

I know for a fact that native commercial feeling from Bokhara to Bombay is keenly interested in the development of the new route.

11. Three Appendices are attached, viz. :-

- I. Administration and local trade of NUSHKI, CHAGAI, and WESTERN SINJERANI country.
- II. QUETTA-SEISTAN trade route.

III. NUSHEI Trade Returns for the months of February, March, April, May and June 1897.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Your most obedient Servant, F. C. WEBB WARE, Lieut., Political Assistant, Chagai.

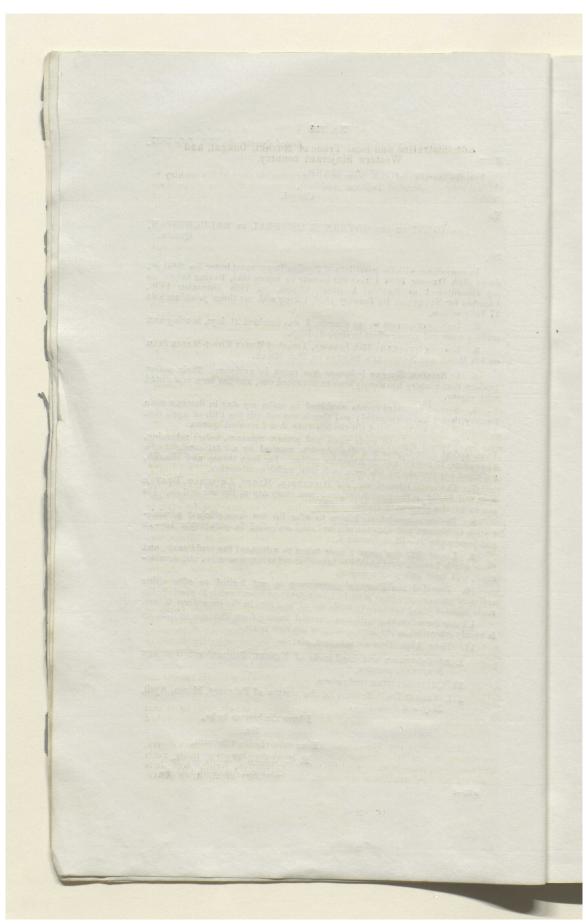
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [4v] (8/72)





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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [5r] (9/72)

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APPENDIX I.

Administration and local Trade of Nushki, Chagai, and Western Sinjerani country.

For the purpose of this Appendix, I propose to treat of the country to which it refers in three distinct sections, dealing in each with one of the three divisions into which by its natural configuration the country falls, and to discuss the trade and administration aspect of each under its own separate heading.

These divisions would be-

- (a) NUSHKI, or the country east of CHAGAI, bounded on the north and east by the lately demarcated frontier, and on the south by the SARLAT RANGE.
- (b) CHAGAI, or the country directly west of NUSHKI, and contained between pillars CLVII and CLXXVI of the BALUCH-AFGHAN boundary on the north, the KASKOH KAMMARAN MALIK SARINDAG hills on the south, and on the west by a straight line drawn from pillar CLXXVI through LAI KHAN to the GOUKOK hill near GALACHAH.
- (c) WESTERN SINJERANI country, or that tract west of the line just drawn and enclosed between the BALUCH-AFGHAN and BALUCH-PERSIAN frontiers.

1. The NUSHKI district to all intents and purposes is inhabited by only two tribes, the ZAGAR MENGAL and RAKHSHANI. Of these, the former, if we include the nomad members, outnumbers the latter in the proportion of seven to one.

In former times, the whole of NUSHKI undoubtedly belonged to the RAKSHANI, with its rich arable lands and pasturage, and this they retained till conquered by the MENGALS. The fact that the proprietorship of the land is chiefly in the hands of the RAKSHANI affords sufficient evidence that the MENGAL yoke pressed but lightly on the RAKHSHANI. Beyond being stripped of a few lands and the right to levy a tax on passing merchandise, they were left pretty much to themselves. The explanation of this appears to be in the fact that the MENGALS, by inclination, were essentially a pastoral race and, as large numbers do to the present day, preferred bartering their surplus stock for grain to engaging in the uncongenial toils of cultivation. To come down to more modern times, the MENGALS are divided into two great branches—the BADINI and NOZAI, each of these branches in turn being sub-divided as follows, *viz.*, the BADINI into the BAJARZAI, TARASIZAI and AMIRZAI; and the NOZAI into the MAHMUDZAI, MANDAI, AHMEDZAI, BARANZAI; and each of these subdivisions is again still further divided into from six to eight Tomans. All the NOZAI branch, and the TARASITI sub-division of the BADINI branch of the Mengals, are migratory; that is to say, that, while owning extensive lands in the DAK, on the southern side of the frontier, they past the major portion of the year—and in years of drought, the entire year—pasturing their flocks in AFGHAN REGISTAN. While none dispute the Sardarship of MUHAMADA ALI KHAN, BAJARZAI MENGAL, yet, since the Baluch-Afghan Boundary Commission finished their labours last year and many of the leading migratory MENGALS visited Kabul, they have not shown themselves so ready to acknowledge the Sardar's sway as of old.

2. The order of precedence of the branches into which the RAKSHANI are divided is as follows: the BADINI, JAMALDINI, and MANDAI. The latter branch is of little account, as the BADINI and JAMALDINI, long years ago, combined to crush them and strip them of their possessions, and thus it came about that the MANDAI Chief, BALOCH KHAN, was reduced to his present impoverished condition.

3. The BADINI and JAMALDINI, having overthrown the common enemy, straightway turned their attention to one another. For over thirty years have these two clans been struggling for the supremacy, fortune sometimes favouring one side, sometimes the other. By hereditary right, ALAM KHAN,

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the head of the BADINI, is undoubtedly the true RAKHSHANI Sardar; but owing to his weak and vacillating nature, his opponents, under the leadership of the JAMALDINI Chiefs, JAM BEG and his brother KAIM KHAN, have not been slow to avail themselves of the opening thus offered to increase their influence at his expense.

4. As to NUSHKI and its quarrels, I learned much last year, but it was not until I spent several weeks investigating the origin of the disputes that I realized how very bitter the feelings between the various MENGAL and RAKHSHANI factions had grown, and what very little hope of friendly adjustment offered.

5. NUSHKI forms part of KALAT territory, and hitherto, in common with other sub-divisions of KALAT, has been administered, or, as I will shortly have cause to show, mal-administered, in the Khan's name, by a Naib appointed for the purpose. The country is traly in a most deplorable condition. Administration, in the proper significance of the term, there is none. While all BALUCHISTAN has slowly but surely been progressing, and, as in the case of KALAT, benefiting by its proximity to British administration, NUSHKI has stood still, if, indeed, it has not gone backwards. Almost the only occasions on which, so far as I have been able to ascertain, we have made any attempt to interpose our authority in the district have been when some internal feud has come to a head and involved the country in desultory fighting. On such occasions, we appear to have satisfied ourselves by summoning the bears of the factions concerned to Quotta, and placing their cases before *jirgas*, but the defect in this procedure was that the losing party simply treated the *jirgas*' decisions with contempt as soon as it got to, a safe distance from Quetta. Of late years, ever since a small punitive thana has been posted at NUSHKI, the force available has been too weak to give effect to judicial findings. Intermittent attempts have been made by the Thanadar to act up to his orders, but a rifle shot,' or the threat of a loaded pistol, has warned him of the folly of attempting impossibilities.

6. The only other occasions of our intervention I can trace have been when the ZAGAR MENGAL Sardar, in whom the right to levy a tax on passing merchandise has been vested for many successive generations, has seen fit to heap such burdensome dues on merchandise bound for the Quetta market as to threaten to extirpate all trade. This action has occasioned on our side the entry of protests, to be forgotten almost as soon as received. The cause of our apathetic policy towards the district is probably to be assigned to the fact that NUMERIA and its Dak form a continuation of SHORAWAK, and that, as nothing exists that can possibly be construed into a well-defined natural boundary, we should be continually embroiled with the KANDAHAR authorities in disputes regarding the limits of the Baluch-Afghan boundary in the vicinity.

7. As to the Khan, he appears to have taken but scant interest in NUSHKI. It must be remembered that the portion of NUSHKI acknowledging his direct sway is only the few hundred a reswatered by the KAISAR STREAM, with its ramifications, and the DAK lands immediately in the vicinity.

As regards the MENGALS who lived outside these limits, they have been subjects of either KHAN or AMIR, as suited their purposes best; but it is worthy of note that their leanings, as shown by the reference of their disputes, is most markedly towards Afghan rule. A recent exemplification of the same leaning was given us at the conclusion of last year's Boundary Commission, when all the leading Tomandars, though in many cases owning lands well within the KALAT sphere of influence, were induced to journey to KABUL and offer their allegian e to the AMIR, to be rewarded with *khilats* and apportioned various scales of pay.

8. The Khan's Naib appears to have absented himself from NUSHKI frequently. He has never attempted to consolidate his master's rule, but has been satisfied to view it year by year gradually slipping from his grasp, and has contented himself by collecting an ever dwindling revenue. The Khan's authority in NUSHKI has thus daily become more

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shadowy; revenue has been collected only at the point of the sword; water, the private property of the Khan, has been seized upon and divided; the allowances which the ZAGAR MENGAL Sardar has hitherto received from the Khan have been discontinued. The various factions, MENGAL and RAKHSHANI, have quarrelled and fought, and quarrelled again, just as pleased themselves. And as to whether the MENGAL and RAKHSHANI cultivated their fields in perce, or put their numerous feuds to the issue of the sword, appears to have interested the Khan but little. This is a matter for comment. It is evident that in proportion as these inter-tribal feuds became more acute, so more lands were thrown out of cultivation and revenue diminished. The key to the problem is to be found in the policy of the Khan's Naib, who, fully recognising the precarious nature of his master's tenure in NUSHKI, has been the foremost in fostering these same inter-tribal feuds and quarrels, with the deliberate object of keeping the various factions apart and preventing any combined action, which would first be directed towards his own overthrow. Had not last year's Boundary Commission taken place, the Khan' would have been compelled in the immediate future either to take decisive action to re-establish his fast waning authority on a solid basis or be satisfied to see NUSHKI slip from his rule for ever.

- 9. The revenue the Khan enjoys is derived from two sources, viz.-
 - (a) Land revenue at the rate of r_1^0 th on all produce, excluding that of Sardar MUHAMMAD ALL KHAN ZAGAR MENGAL, and his "following."
 - (b) Two sheep annually from each Toman in the name of "Mehmani."

As to the actual amount of revenue so raised, it is difficult for me to offer an opinion, as there are no records to which I have access. On arrival at NUSHERI, I was told by the Naib's Assistant that it amounted to merely "thora tukra mithi," or nothing, whereas the Naib, on my return a few months later, placed it as high as Rs. 5,000. According to my latest researches, I believe that the amount realized last year, and paid to the Khan, was Rs. 4,700, and this figure may be taken as fairly accurate.

10. We are now confronted with the problem as to what is to be our future policy towards NUSHKI. With the conclusion of last year's Boundary Commission, under which no less than 80 miles of NUSHKI bordering on AFGHANISTAN have been carefully demarcated, the only excuse we ever possessed for holding aloof has been swept aside. To maintain our policy of indifference longer is impracticable. As Capt. McMahon, when Boundary Commissioner, very truly pointed out, the presence of a number of irresponsible Chiefs on the frontier, answerable to no one, is calculated to keep us continually embroiled with the AMIR, and to be a source of continual weakness, if not of actual danger.

11. From what I have just said, I think no one will question that the district must be administered in future under the supervision of a British officer. Shadowy and precarious as I have shown the Khan's authority to be, and likely at no distant date, had the old *regime* continued, to have been summarily extinguished, still Government is averse, and rightly so, to permitting the cession of any integral portion of a Native State to British administration. Thus, only two courses appear open—

- (a) Either to take over, under an amicable arrangement with the Khan the administration of NUSHKI, judicial and fiscal, giving the Khan in exchange a fixed amount of, say, Rs. 15,000, or close on four times' the value of the revenue which he has of late years enjoyed.
- (b) Or to call on the Khan to administer the country on lines that promise some hope of success. And an essential feature of such an administration—as on it would hinge the entire success of the plan would be the appointment of a capable, trustworthy official, with some small experience of British methods of collecting revenue and administration, and answerable in all matters relative to revenue

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direct to the Khan. To give this appointment to a KALAT official of the ordinary type would, I feel assured, inevitably entail failure, rudely shake new-born confidence, and be inadvisable to the last degree. If, however, either of the schemes be adopted, funds will be required to provide accommodation for district officials, the necessary administrative buildings, and above all for the construction on the DAK of few simple irrigation works. These, owing to the conformation of the country, need not be of an expensive nature, and they would operate to catch the overflow water of the PISHIN LORA, which now flows aimlessly on the LORA HAMUN, there to perish instead of discharging its proper functions in watering the rich and fertile alluvial lands known as the DAK. No better scheme could be derived for winning the people over to pacific pursuits than to supply them with a sufficiency of irrigated land for agricultural purposes.

land for agricultural purposes. 12. Up to the present, I have refrained from touching on a most impor-fant question. I refer to the protection of the lately demarcated frontier, sepecially that portion bordering on SHORAWAK. On my arrival at NUSHKI, this matter engaged my early attention. In a darbar to which I summoned the most influential men in the district, I warned all that attempts to infringe the integrity of the frontier by perseverance in such practices as they were ad-words have had a far deeper effect than I anticipated. Not a single case has owned have had a far deeper effect than I anticipated. Not a single case has to my knowledge where the frontier has been violated from outside. I would I could say that the state of things had been reciprocated, but as a matter of fact frequent cases have occurred in which raids have been committed in Kalat territory by offenders who have crossed the SHORAWAK borders. The boundary between pillars CXLVI and CLVII is, as far as AFGHAMISTAN is soncerned, a dead letter. To the Deputy Governor of SHORAWAK, MUHAMMAD SADIK KHAN ACHABEAT, a despicably feeble creature, addicted to the use of charas and bhang, and corrupt to the last degree, this state of affairs is mainly to be attributed. He wields little or no authority, and, to repeat a rumour that has the stamp of universal credence, is disinclined to enter on a crusade against arise in grown personally interested motives. To look to him for assistance in the pressing such trans-frontier crime as originates in SHORAWAK is, I fear, quite

18. To meet the difficulty, the method that best commends itself to me is to place one of the Dak MENGAL Tomandars—by preference, I would select CHANDAN KHAN, a man highly respected by the whole tribe—in charge of that portion of the frontier just alluded to, allot him a small Levy service, say, of Rs. 200 monthly, and hold him responsible for the repression of all raids and crimes of violence. This proposal has the further recommendation that, while enrolling as the Khan's faithful servant a large section of the MENGALS, whose leaning has hitherto been rather towards KABUL than KALAT, it would greatly tend to consolidate MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN'S Surdarship, and thus the creation of a thana on the DAK, be adopted, it is to be feared that the old system of mutual reprisals will continue.

14. In concluding this heading, I desire to emphasize one point—that, be our future policy in NUSHKI what it may, it is essential to station a sufficient force in NUSHKI to deter raiding, arrest offenders, and give force to judicial decisions. To attempt the administration of the country in the absence of some such force, experience has proved must lead to failure.

TRADE.

15. NUSHKI, from its position, even from the earliest times, has enjoyed a reputation as a trade mart of considerable importance, laying claim to a commerce which has increased and diminished in proportion as the surrounding districts from which trade is drawn either enjoyed a brief repose or were torn with inter-tribal feuds. My enquiries clearly show that trade between NUSHKI and Quetta has of late years been steadily decreasing. The cause is

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not far to seek. Some sixteen years back, the Khan found means to compel the ZAGAR MENGAL Chief to cede a half portion of the net revenue realized from "Sung" collections to KALAT. Till then, the dues levied were in accordance with a scale in vogue generations, and fairly reasonable. The result of this was, as one might anticipate, that the ZAGAR MENGAL SARDAR, to recoup himself for the heavy loss sustained, forthwith enhanced the dues, in some cases so heavily as to amount to an increase of 100%, with such disastrous results to trans-frontier trade as quickly made themselves felt in Quetta. The Octroi Darogha called attention to the serious diminution in such imports as ghi and wool; SEISTAN merchants and NUSHKI traders complained bitterly of the extortion they were subjected to; and on certainly one occasion a British officer was deputed to halt at NUSHKI to report on the matter. The only result of his visit was that further protests were addressed to both Khan and ZAGAR MENGAL Sardar, to which neither paid the slightest attention. Very soon, the consequences made themselves felt further afield. SEISTANI merchants, in despair, sought other markets for their goods, and many NUSHKI Baniahs emigrated in search of fields offering more profitable investments. The few SEISTANI *kafilas* which continued to find their way to Quetta either made a detour through SHORAWAK to avoid NUSHKI —having once paid toll to the AFGHAN authorities at CHAGAI, they had nothing further to fear—, or, when their numbers warranted a chance of success, fought their way through *viá* NUSHKI.

16. Trade converges on NUSHKI from five different sources :---

- (a) From JALK, via GALACHAH and DALBANDIN, chiefly dates.
- (b) From SEISTAN, viá AMIRCHAMP and DALBANDIN, sheep, goats; local SEISTANI products, including ghi, wool, namdahs, carpets.
- (c) From GARMSEL, viá KHAWAJA ALI, ROBAT (MALIK DOKAND), ghi, wool, grain.
- (d) From EASTERN HELMAND, viá the PURDIL KHAN Road, wool, ghi, grain, dried fruits.
- (e) From SHORAWAK, by numerous routes across the frontier, ghi, wool, grain.

17. Government, by allotting to Sardar MUHAMMAD ALIKMAN a fixed annity in lieu of his hereditary right to levy "Sung," and thus freeing the district from the dues trade had struggled against so long, has given a sorely needed impulse to trade, and the good effects of this arrangement have already and themselves widely felt. The fruits of this liberal policy, I unhesitatingly of traders, have been a stream, though possibly an intermittent one, of camel-borne trade between Quetta and PERSIA. Closing SEISTAN to trade has exercised –it is to be hoped but temporarily—a most disheartening the frontier. The trade that has thus benefited by the abolition of "Sung" has the is trade has been fited by the abolition of "Sung" that this trade has been fited by the abolition of "Sung" that this trade has been fited by the general revival evineed by Nushar months of February, March and April 1897, Ks. 95,247-14-0. These figures, is the take as merely approximate, for although most trade use to trade the way to Quetta by the revisal evine and the state and the trade the take as merely approximate, for although most trade use to be the the take as merely approximate and though most trade use to be the set of the state and the portion where and the state and the trade the set of the state and the state and the state and the state and the set of the trade that has the show transactions aggregating, for the powerer must be taken as merely approximate, for although most trade use to be taken as merely approximate, for although most trade use to be the set of the state and the state and the state at the state at the state and the state at the state a

18. The system in vogue under which NUSHER Banishs conduct their trade is somewhat as follows :- They advance large sums to trusted BALUCE agents.

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These travel as far afield as GARMSEL, CHAGAI, and SHORAWAK, purchasing on the spot such local products as they can obtain, and in due course despatch them through NUSHKI to Quetta. When accounts are made up, the profits realized are equally divided between Baniah and agent. It is probably this system that has given rise to a misapprehension that the general indebted-ness of traders, SEISTAN and others, to NUSHKI Baniahs is so serious as to heavily handicap trade.

CHAGAI.

19. At the conclusion of last year's Boundary Commission and the conse-quent withdrawal of the Amir's posts to the Helmand, SARDAR ALI KHAN SINJERANI was re-instated in CHAGAI.

SINJERANI was re-instated in CHAGAI. 20. He appears to have signalized his restoration by arrogating to himself such Sardari rights as he enjoyed of old, relating to the levying of "Sung" and to the raising of revenue, and by a violent quarrel with his Naib, Dosr MUHAMMAD, whose services during the late Boundary Commission had been the subject of special commendation from Capt. McMahon, C.S.I., C.I.E. The upshot of all this was the retirement of Naib Dosr MUHAMMAD to his JALK property in disgust, and a strongly worded protest from the Political Agent, Kalat, as to the matter of levying "Sung," to which the Sardar does not appear to have paid the slightest attention. In accordance with the direc-tions I had issued prior to leaving Quetta, I found Dosr MUHAMMAD, who had but lately returned to CHAGAI, awaiting my arrival, and he was joined at a shortly subsequent date by Sardar ALI KHAN. I commented strongly on practice. To this, he acquieseed with ill-concealed resentment. On handing him the Government resolution confirming his pay as a service allowance, and announcing its increase by a sum of Rs. 50, as a reward for Naib Dosr MUHAMMAD's good services, Sardar ALI KHAN's jealousy and resentment again showed themselves. He positively refused to entertain the idea of paying his Naib the sum appointed, and withdrew in high dudgeon to his tent, where he sulked the next two days. Eventually, he acceded to the provisions of the sulked the next two days. Eventually, he acceded to the provisions of the appor creature, weak and vacillating, without any moral force of character, and entirely in the hands of his numerous relatives, who play upon him in the manner which best suit their individual interests.

21. On reaching DALBANDIN, I found that the revenue which Sardar ALL KHAN was levying, by way of inaugurating his restoration, was derived from three different sources :

- 1.	ransit dues"— Per camel load ghi Per camel load wool			***	Rs.	5
dai 3	Per camel load dates					
100 4.		•••			33	2
¥ 5.	On each camel load dye				. 35	2
L IIPol	tax on travellers four an		···· 1	•••	Ans.	4
TII "S	rdari dues "-	nas per	head.			
111 Da	$\frac{1}{6}$ th gross produce on lan					

In case of Death ... One sheep. In case of Marriage ... One sheep from bridegroom. 3.

From each family yearly. One milch goat. 4.

22. The Sardar's methods of collecting revenue are rude in the ex-treme, and result in continual collisions with the surrounding Tomandars, who view a visit from him or his sowars much in the same light as we would that of a flight of locusts. These proceedings have given rise to a continued state of unrest, which cannot longer be tolerated : for, to assess the country to revenue and administer it with any chance of ultimate success under present conditions, it is impracticable.

* Since writing the above, all these "Sardari dues" have been abolished by order of the Agent, Governor-General in Baluchistan,

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23. The CHAGAI district may be said to consist of two fertile portions, eiz., the alluvial plain surrounding CHAGAI fort and DALBANDIN. The former is watered by one single and two double *karezes*, but the supply of water from them could be considerably augmented by a little judicious excavation. At present, it is unequal to local requirements. From the contour of the surrounding hills and from the depth at which water lies, I agree with Capt. McMAHON in believing that the present number of *karezes* could be largely increased. Unfortunately, pressing business compelled my immediate return to NUSHKI, and so I cannot speak with the assurance of a recent personal inspection.

24. Owing to the very limited attention I was able to devote to the subject, I am somewhat diffident of committing myself as to the amount of revenue that could be raised; but, after careful consideration of the question, I think that, while the amount raised by a land tax under present circumstances would be very inconsiderable, the expenses of a small tahsil and sowar establishment, with a branch thana at BARAMCHAH, could be met from the Trini collections on the very large number of flocks— sheep, goat, and camel—the district promises, under British administration, to increase to an astonishing degree. In illustration, I may say that, whereas at the time of my outward journey through DALBANDIN I collected with difficulty 20 men, at the time of my return upwards of 2,000 were reported by the Thanadar to be pasturing their flocks on the broad expanse the plain offered. This was no doubt partially due to failure in the rains around, but the view taken on both northern and southern frontiers is clearly proved by the presence of AFGHAN and KHARAN officials charged with the duty of preventing further egress.

25. As I have just said, I consider that the cost of maintaining a small tahsil and requisite establishment at CHAGAI could be met from a Tirni collection. That the collection will at first be unpopular, I foresee; but when the BAIUCH realize that, in exchange, personal security for themselves, to leave alone that of their flocks, will be secured to an extent hitherto not dreamed of, I think that the slight uneasiness it may give rise to will quickly wear off, never to re-appear.

26. DALBANDIN may be best described as an extensive plain, of an average breadth of 8—10 miles, confined on the north and south by the CHAPAR and RASKOH hills, and extending east and west 20 miles, until it is lost in heavy sand hills. Cultivation by means of *karezes* is only attempted in the vicinity of the DALBANDIN river, where a small irrigation channel, 18 inches wide by 4 deep, is utilized to cultivate some 20 acres of ground. With a little care and expenditure, the yield of water could be materially improved in the upper reaches of the river, but lower down the presence of extensive salt beds renders the water unfit for irrigation purposes, and precludes all hopes of the water-supply being very extensively enhanced. Examination revealed the existence of numerous patches recently under cultivation a few miles up stream. On my enquiring of the owners as to why these lands were neglected, the universal reply given was that the inducements to undertake cultivation under Sardar ALI KHAN's sway were not sufficiently attractive.

27. Outside CHAGAI and the direct vicinity of DALBANDIN, there is but little cultivation. A few miles north-west of CHAGAI, a small karez supplies sufficient water to irrigate a few acres, while at MARUI and in several places in the CHAGAI SARLAT are old karezes which only require repairing to be brought into use again. I saw during my tour, on many occasions, places where light bands thrown across the mouths of nalabs would afford sufficient water to irrigate considerable tracts in the vicinity, and many other places, notably CHAHSIR, where the proximity of water to the surface gave promise of fine heads of water.

28. A matter of considerable urgency, as regards the welfare of the district, and with it the caravan route, is the approximate demarcation 336-3

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of a boundary between KHARAN and CHAGAI. Parties of KHARAN sowars frequently penetrate through the RASKOH KAMERAN range into what is asserted to be, and generally known as, CHAGAI territory, and there, adopting the procedure of the CHAGAI Sardar tax collectors, they carry off all they can lay hands on, and then beat a hasty retreat across the hills. The plea advanced by the KHARAN people that, under an old Afghan Sanad, the WASHKI NALAH fell to them will not bear close scrutiny. The Amir's post at CHAGAI never recognised any right of theirs, but regularly collected all the revenue they could from the vicinity. These incursions have given rise to a feeling of continued in-security, and if the matter is not taken in hand, it promises shortly to develop into a serious difference, even if it does not lead to actual bloodshed.

29. The protection of the district's northern frontier is also a matter that demands some consideration. During my late tour, I was repeatedly ap-proached by trans-frontier BALUCHIS who desired to settle within our frontier. On obtaining my permission to do so on condition that the rights of present occupants should be respected, all, almost without exception, earnestly begged me to station a small post in some place on that frontier, such as BAAMCHAH, for their protection and security, and as a tangible proof that they were living under British protection. I am strongly of opinion that their request should be granted. Between KANI and JILJIL, the frontier runs through a mean istrict, affording excellent pasturage for its numerous flocks, and recent events in NUSHKI go to show that the Aighans will not be deterred by a mere line of boundary pillars from crossing the frontier to levy revenue on tribes they have long regarded as under their direct authority.

TRADE.

30. On this subject, I have little to say, for there is no trade indigenous to the district. Among the CHAGAI SARLAT hills, out-crops of salt and alabaster have been met with, and, judging by my experience further west, an organized search is likely to reveal the presence of mineral deposits. Indeed, the sand hills throughout the district contain a high percentage of very finely divided iron, —an interesting fact I have never previously seen alluded to.

31. The wool yielded by the large numbers of flocks in the district finds a ready sale in NUSHKI.

32. Such grain as, under the present unfavourable circumstances, is grown does not suffice for local requirements. The SINJERANI, TAOKI, MAMASANI, SASOLI, and the few scattered MENGAL and NARUI Tomans, all make a practice of importing such extra grain as they require from GARMSEL. Should the Amir forbid the export of grain-by no means an improbable contingency,then very great hardship will ensue.

WESTERN SINJERANI COUNTRY.

33. I have separated the tract which I have designated the WESTERN country from CHAGAI proper for the reason that the authority enjoyed by the CNAGAI Sardar never extended beyond the line I lay down as the eastern boundary of the Chagai district, and that the present Sardar frankly admits, thus acknowledging that his interest in the country lying beyond is nothing.

34. The KOH-I-SULTAN and KACHA ranges appear for generations to have owned no master; they are a no-man's land of ill repute, and the favoured retreat of bands of *badmashes*, whose crimes and ill deeds have driven them from the society of their fellows. Though but sparsely inhabited, the district is subjected to continual raids. The chief, but by no means the only, offenders are the DAMANI of the KOH-I-SUFAID, whose name is feared like that of Hari Singh'on the Peshawar frontier. The assurance of these raiders is truly astonish-ing. Bands of from five to twenty raid with impunity, coming from hevond the Singh on the Pesnawar Houster. The assurance of these rathers is truly astonish-ing. Bands of from five to twenty raid with impunity, coming from beyond the Persian frontier over an area bounded by MERUI on the north, GALACHAH on the south, and DALBADIN on the east, carrying off all they can lay hands on : if overpowered, such is the terror their name inspires, their captors dare but

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chastise them and let them go free. They are the pests of the district, and some method should be devised to rid the country of a nuisance which threatens to destroy the prospects of the lately opened caravan route.

55. The DAMANS are divided into four sections—the YAR MUHAMMADIA, the SUREZAT and the GUNGOZAT, and own allegiance to for JUHN, who resides, with his fellow clansmen, secure in the rocky fast, with this fellow clansmen, secure in the rocky fast, or additional of July, the DAMAN venture down to MUKSOTAG, where the indicate harvest, but for additional of the Gundon venture down to MUKSOTAG. The tribe in all numbers but 800 men. For the Persians with the present through they have latterly shown themselves on this forntier, to plead billy to correce this petty tribe appears to me absurd. The present situation is intolerable: either the Persians must reduce to order the unruly tribes on their border, who raid with impunity from the security their forther affords, or we must safeguard the district. To do so in our case, to solve the holding of the GALACHAH PANHAM road at the stabilishment of another than between Romar and AMINCHAH, with the brobability of a second strong than being requisite in some suitable possition, but as they are essentially a predatory tribe, relying on raiding so the doubted whether any steps at means of subsistence, it is greatly to be doubted whether any steps at means of physical force will avail to compet them to desist from a practice the prove the board between and probability to make the and the present levy to be an endaged in for generations, and probability the task would prove the possition, but as they are essentially a predatory tribe, relying on raiding bay may held with British officers, have hither to even a practice the the present levy to be an endaged or physical force will avail to compet them to desist from a practice the present being endaged in for generations, and probability the task would prove the present devent of the reserve to the reserve to the text of them to endaged the text of the

36. At SAINDAK, a strong thana is, in my opinion, requisite in any case. The distance between AMIRCHAH and ROBAT, 155 miles, is too long a stretch of country to be unprotected. The SAINDAK chauki, manned by local Levies, is quite inadequate, and scarcely reliable. Should raids continue, the desirability of posting a thana somewhere in the vicinity of the MIRJAWA RIVER must, as I have said, be seriously considered. Should Government be disinclined to face the expense involved by the establishment of so many thanas. a possible alternative would be to post a strong thana at SAINDAK—a step which cannot well be avoided—, and to place the charge of the road west of AMIRCHAH in the care of some influential Baluch Sardar, allot him, say, Rs. 150 for pay and such service as he requires, and hold him personally responsible for the repression of raids. Such an appointment is necessary, for the presence of thanadars being essential at the various posts, they can, in case of a raid, only follow the track up for a day or so and then return to their duty. A Baluch Sardar, on the other hand, with no imperative duties to bind him to the close vicinity of the carvan route, could with the assistance of his followers pursue raiders with vigour and persistency, and, being thoroughly versed in their modes of procedure, it is to be hoped, compel them to turn their attention elsewhere.

37. To me, it is a cause of considerable regret that the demarcation of the northen portion of the PERSO-BALUCH BOUNDARY was permitted to follow so exceedingly weak an alignment as that selected. A far more natural and infinitely stronger frontier would have been that offered by following the MIRJAWA RIVER up to its source, thence running direct to KOH-I-MALIK STAH by the BUNDI and SHAMIDAR Passes. To such a line, the PERSIANS, whose interest in this remote corner appears infinitesimal, would have offered little or no opposition, and it would, while securing to us a frontier naturally strong, and well to the south of the KACHA HILLS, have placed us in possession of a well watered strip, quite different from what it is usually supposed to be, and containing what, at present, is the only practicable road, viz., that by SAID LANGAR and BOGAR. Added to the natural weakness of the present boundary, it offers raiders such exceptional facilities for plying their trade as will quickly attract their attention. Badmashes have but to lie up in the

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hills above, secure within PERSIAN limits, fall upon any unwary caravan passing along the daman below, retreat once again to the hills, and within half an hour be secure from all chance of successful pursuit. On the map, the line followed by the PERSO-BALUCH BOUNDARY, after leaving the MIRJAWA RIVER for KOH-I-MALIK STAH, is clear; on the ground, I have been unable to trace it—a difficulty in which the BALUCH of the district, judging from questions they put me, evidently participated. That the pillars exist, I do not question; but most certainly they differ considerably in the modesty of their dimensions from the massive stone pillars I found marking the northern boundary. Even while in SEISTAN, I was questioned by PERSIAN officials as to the configuration of the frontier to the south-east of KOH-I-MALIK SIAH. Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that the question of re-aligning this portion of the frontier, if not yet too late, should be very seriously reconsidered. I say with assurance that, if the error that has clearly been committed be not rectified, we will repeatedly have cause to regret it in the immediate future.

37. To assess this wild country to revenue, unless a tax on minerals and assafactida were contemplated, would be useless. The amount raised would necessarily be infinitesimal, the expense of collection considerable, and the means of evasion simple. Added to this, nothing would tend more to discourage those BALUCH from settling in the District whose presence I count on to effect its ultimate pacification.

TRADE.

38. From time immemorial, the assafaetida clothed slopes of the KOH-I-SULTAN yearly induced large numbers of Pathans from Kandahar and Kakars, from places even so distant as Zhob, to quit their homes to gather it. But beyond assafaetida, the same barren range has large deposits of sulphur, alum, two kinds of ochre (much sought after for dycing), copper and antimony. To the west of KOH-I-SULTAN, the hills are scamed with out-crops and veins of ore, some exceedingly rich. The presence of ancient copper and lead smelting furnaces testify to these deposits having been known, and having been in use, for ages; while excavations of quite recent date show that the workings are not disused. An exhaustive geological survey of the district is much needed, and would yield most valuable results.

39. SARHAD as a market for the purchase of stock is already attracting attention. Two droves, one of 400 sheep the other of 800 goats and sheep, have already marched down the new trade route, and arrived safely in Quetta. Given a continued demand, it is not improbable that this may prove the initiation of an extensive industry.

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APPENDIX II. Quetta-Seistan Trade Route.

1. By no means the least important result that followed the conclusion of last year's Boundary Commission was that the opening up of a direct caravan route between QUETTA and SEISTAN, lying wholly within the British sphere of influence, and nowhere infringing Afghan territory, fell within the limits of possibility.

2. Afghan import and export trade has, for many years past, struggled in vain against the crushing dues which His Highness the Amir has imposed. The protests of merchants have been met only by the imposition of still heavier dues, and matters have come to such a pass that many well known merchants, whose connection with AFGHAN and CENTRAL ASIAN trade dates from generations back, of late years have been compelled to withdraw from commerce. Such Central Asian trade as of old drew its goods from British sources has slowly drifted into the hands of RUSSIA, which on its part has not been backward in putting in motion every engine that ing-nuity could devise, and its paramount position in Central Asia afforded to popularize its Asian and PERSIAN trade at the expense of ours.

3 With the final demarcation of the western Baluch-Afghan frontier, Government has not been slew to realize the possibility of opening up a direct caravan route between our north-west rail head and PERSIAN SEISTAN, and, at the close of last year, devoted a sum of Rs. 28,200, and later on a further grant of Rs. 6,500 for the purpose of putting to a practical test the possibility of the scheme. It is now my purpose to describe, in as brief a compass as possible, the steps that have already been taken towards the consummation of a project having for its objective the re-habilitation of trans-frontier trade.

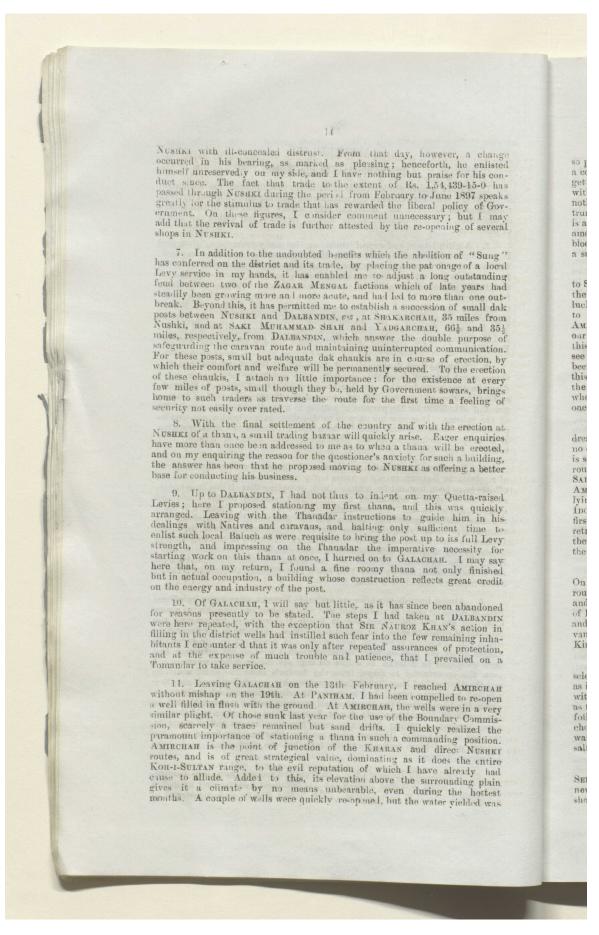
4. NUSHKI is but 93 miles south-west of QUETTA, yet to the majority of residents in BALUCHISTAN it conveys but a name. Somehow, the visits of officers have been few and far between, and, excepting that it has long enjoyed a trade of its own, and owned an unenviable notoriety for its feuds and quarrels, interested few. In developing the caravan route, Nushki will form the base whence goods and *kafilas* will be despatched and received, and thus, as a preliminary step, it was essential that arrangements should be made to open up direct communication with QUETTA. In view of the very slender funds at my disposal, this promised to prove an insurmountable difficulty; happily, the assistance afforded by the Agent to the Governor-General solved the problem, and January 1897 saw a Post Office established in NUSHKE and a regular bi-weekly dak running.

5. Almost immediately after my arrival in NUSHKI, an opportunity offered itself of bringing home to all the fact that Government had inaugarated a new departure and was determined that in future the person of traders and the property of caravans should be regarded as sacred. It came to my knowledge that a small SEISTANI kafila had been seized and plundered by the Jamaldini Sardar under the plea—a mere subterfuge—that one of his entourage had been subjected in SEISTANI to a like outrage several months previously. I took the opportunity to dispel from the Sardar's mind the belief which he and the district had long shared that every weakly guarded caravan was their fair and legitimate prey. And to ensure the discontinuance of similar outrages, I publicly placed the charge of all caravans passing through Nushki in the hands of MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN, ZAGAR MENGAL,—now a paid Government servant—, telling him that any loss they might suffer would be required at his hands. That not a caravan has since been subjected to either outrage or loss bears testimony to the fact that the Sardar has acted up to his responsibilities.

6. On the 16th January 1897, I received the welcome news that Government had allotted to Sardar MUHAMMAD ALI KHAN Rs. 7,000 yearly in lieu of his hereditary right to levy "SUNG." The Sardar had greeted my arrival in

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so putrid and offensive as to compel me to sink another well, 35 feet in depth, a couple of hundred yards up stream. I was considerably puzzled at first to get material for the construction of the thana. The ground is so impregnated with sand that as a building material it is quite useless; and yet there was nothing else. Finally, I was driven to erecting a square stockade of "Tagaz" trunks, against which a five-feet wall of b ulde s has been piled, while inside is a roomy "Tagaz"-thatched shed, which owing to its coolness is very popular among the sowars. If only mortar were available, thunks to the numerous blocks of stone that strew the vicinity of the well, no difficulty in constructing a suitable building need be anticipated.

12. Leaving my third thana posted at AMIRCHAH, I directed my march to SAINDAK, a distance of 67 miles, which, owing to lack of water, was quite the most trying portion of the journey. List year, Capit. McMahon was lucky in finding at DEANAH KOH a pool of dirty water. No such luck fell to my lot. From AMIRCHAH to SAINDAK, and again from SAINDAK to AMIRCHAH, three and two days' marches, respectively, as I made them, our camels had to go waterless. For the development of the road across this stretch, two wells are urgently required. I trust the end of the year will see both completed. One well—which I hear is over 40 feet deep—has already been sunk, but work, owing to the heat, has been temporarily suspended, and this has also been the case in respect to a well now in course of construction to the north of the KOH-I-SULTAN, midway between AMIRCHAH and MANZIL, where there is another long waterless stretch of 42 miles, and the only other one between QUETTA and NASIEABAD.

13. While I was halted at SAINDAK, a local Tomandar, named IDO, much dreaded of caravans, came in. Such terror has this individual inspired that no caravan or party, unless well armed, dared of old to pass his lair. SAINDAK is so situated that, should he be so inclined, this personage could block the route and cause great trouble. In old days, SEISTAN caravans avoided SAINDAK, and after leaving BURJ, in PERSIA, they used to march direct for AMIRCHAH, skirting the northern shores of the GOD-I-ZIREH. This track, lying as it does within AFGHAN limits, is clearly no longer practicable. To IDO I gave the choice of Government service or ejection. He accepted the first alternative—I confess to my relief—, as to root him out of these rocky retreats would have proved a far from simple task. Of his conduct since then, I have no cause to complain : he has discharged his duties in carrying the dak surely, although at times somewhat slowly.

14. Of my further journey to KOH-I-MALIK SIAH, I have little to relate. On the outward journey I followed the "daman" north of the hills,—a very rough, circuitous track, cut up every few yards with boulder-strewn nslaks, and passing north of the line of boundary pillars at a point within a few miles of Robat. On my return, I tried the southern road via BOGAE, SAID LANGAE and KIETAKA, a preferable route on every account; indeed, its only disadvantage lies in the fact that, according to the map, it passes between Robat and Kietaka outside British limits.

15. At ROBAT, my fourth and last thana was posted. The position selected is in close vicinity to the head waters of the ROBAT spring. The thana, as it stands completed, is a rectangular, stone-and-mud built, walled enclosure, with one side devoted to living rooms. The walls are raised to such a height as to afford ample security to the occupants. Had the PERSO-BALUCH frontier followed an alignment more southerly than that selected, I would, I think, have chosen another position for the thana, as common report declares that ROBAT water towards the close of the hot season becomes charged with deleterious salts and is unhealthy.

16. Leaving the main camp pitched at ROBAT, my first march into SEISTAN took me to HURMUK, 20 miles distant. Here, I learned the unwelcome news that it was commonly rumoured that the post which the AMIR had intended should guard his interests at KOH-I-MALIK SIAH was to take up its quarters

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here. This is a matter that cannot be ignored. HURMUK* is situated on * Vide map attached. the main SEISTAN-MAKRAN and SEISTAN-NUSHKI

* Vide map attached. Would effectually block all traffic. From the enquiries I made, I believe that it is impossible to devise another route which would outflank Hurmuk, nor do I think any such exists. And here I should like to point out how imperatively necessary it is that the southern SEISTAN-AKGHAN frontier should be clearly demarcated. To do this would be an easy matter, for, between KOH-I-MALIKSIAH SEISTAN. MART KHAN, the PERSO-BALUCH boundary runs in a straight line across sand hills and barren desert, containing not a single point I am aware of to which either PERSIAN or AFGHAN can possibly attach any importance. The demarcation of this frontier is a matter intimately connected with the

and BUND-I-KAMAL KHAN, the PERSO-BALUCH boundary runs in a straight line across sand hills and barren desert, containing not a single point I am aware of to which either PERSIAN or AFGHAN can possibly attach any importance. The demarcation of this frontier is a matter intimately connected with the welfare of the new route, and I trust that it will not be lost sight of. Up to the present, the long expected PATHAN post has not arrived at KOH-I-MALIK SIAH; but that orders have long been issued for the institution of such a post is a matter of public knowledge.

17. In SEISTAN, although the officials I met were outwardly the personification of politeness and hospitality, it needed little insight to perceive that they viewed my visit to SEISTAN with uncasiness, not to say suspicion. This appears to have been due to an absurd rumour which was current that Government intended annexation, aimed at absorbing all southern SEISTAN, and, by diverting a portion of the water of the HELMAND, proposed to reclaim the broad alluvial tracts north of une SHELA river. My visit was, so it was rumoured, only the prelude to a vigorous development of this programme. To combat this distrust was my first aim. I declined to permit SEISTAN sardars to have audience of me, excepting in the presence of PERSIAN officials, a policy on which I had cause to congratulate myself subsequently before leaving the country, when I learned that many questions asked by BALUCH Sardars were put at the instigation of the leading Persian officials.

18. I was disagreeably astonished to find what ascendency RUSSIA had gained throughout SEISTAN. Their policy towards the country appears to have been a most progressive one, while ours has been just the reverse. I was greatly surprised to learn that a RUSSIAN news-writer had been stationed in the capital, Nasirabad, for upwards of three years, and the influence he exercises, or the fear he engenders,—in SEISTAN, synonymous terms—is truly astonishing. I trust Government will answer the move by at once installing a British Agent in NASIRABAD. PERSIA can offer, under the circumstances adverted to, but feeble opposition to such a step. If Government does not do so, the development of a direct trade route between BALUCHISTAN and PERSIA is, under the present hostile conditio.s, hopeless. In the institution of the late Plague in mind—of the adverse influence which RUSSIA exerts in SEISTAN. Those so-called precautions, while I was in SEISTAN, were only employed as an engine to strangle direct trade communication between SEISTAN and Quetta, while between MAKRAN and SEISTAN travellers and traders were free to come and go unquestioned.

19. While I was in SEISTAN, a slight incident occurred which is important, owing to the li ht it throws on the view in which SEISTANIS regard the new trade route and the steps taken to safeguard it. One PASAND KHAN, Mamasani, came to me and claimed compensation for losses which he alleged that I had caused him by guarding the route. He stated that, but a few days prior to his interview with me, several leading members of the SEISTAN trading fraternity sent for him and told him that, as the new route was efficiently guarded, they proposed in future to dispense with his and his men's services. Pasand Khan is, it appears, on the friendliest of terms with every border ruffian between SEISTAN and NUSHKI, and it was his custom to guarantee safe conducts through only to such caravans as met his demands in a fittingly liberal spirit. Or here is an ther similar incident. One of the two caravans which followed me up was compeled to leave a couple of loads of indigo at SAINDAK; these loads were carefully taken charge of by the local post, and in due course surrendered to their owners on their arrival with fresh camels.

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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [12r] (23/72)

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20. SEISTAN'S staple products are grain, ghi and wool. Of the former, no inconsiderable quantity is exported to MAKRAN, viá KOH-I-MALIK SIAH, and is there bartered for dates, for which throughout SEISTAN there exists a large demand. If facilities for carriage were to be improved, it is by no means impossible that the future may see an extensive Perso-Baluch grain trade called into existence. Last year, all agreed that prices ranged exceptionally high, yet I purchased grain for from 25 to 32 sers the rupee. Before quitting this subject, it is, however, my duty to point out that both RUSSIA and PERSIA will regard such a trade very jealously.

21. The system under which the export of such ghi and wool as find their way to Quetta is conducted is somewhat as follows:—Towards the close of the hot weather, several villages combine to form a kafila. They then load their surplus stock and carry it to Quetta, where they obtain a load, generally, of indigo and English piece-goods. On arrival at Nasirabad, their goods are disposed of in open market, and the caravan is broken up, not to re-unite till the following autumn.

22. Of my return journey, I have very little to say. I found that at Drana Koh, Ido and his men had not been idle. To give practical proof of their good intentions, they showed me a well they had driven 32 feet through sandstone and solid rock.

23. News received from Quetta at Dalbandin, relating to certain dak arangements, made me decide on abandoning Galachah and re-stationing dak arangements, made me decide on abandoning Galachah and re-stationing the thana further north, either at MERUI or at GAT1-BAROT, in a more direct line between Amirchah and Dalbandin. I had long foreseen some such change was inevitable, and indeed, in view of such a contingency, I had, when at AMIRCHAH ceased a site for a well midway between MANZIL and AMIRCHAH to be selected, and had given orders for the work to be put in hand as soon as possible. I have since learned that these orders have not been neglected. I must confess to having been, for two reasons, somewhat loth to abandon AsaDCHAH: firstly, because my Thanadar, emulating the efforts of other Thanadars, had constructed a very presentable, wall-engirdled building at the expense of much time and labour; and, secondly, because holding the GALACHAH-ISA TAHIR roads acts as a very effectual check on raiding Between AMIRCHAH and MERUI, the distance is somewhat great, and, to obviate this, orders have been issued that a chauki should now be posted at MANZIL, a spot which has the advantage over Isa TAHIR in being resorted to by many nomad BALUCH.

24. I have provided ROBAT, AMIRCHAH, MERUI and DALBANDIN with Munshis. These, in addition to their ordinary Levy work, have orders to keep me fully acquainted with what goes on in their neighbourhood, the movements of caravans, raids, etc.

25. Every than is complete with a staff of guides, whose duties are to escort passing caravans safely to the next post. At thanas where the soil gave hope of success, seeds for gardens have been left, while all of them, without exception, have been stocked with a modest supply of fowls and pigeons.

26. To sum up, from Quetta to DALBANDIN, the road is safe and secure, and the dak travels regularly. Between DALBANDIN and AMIRCHAH, while neither so secure nor in so advanced a stage, still I consider my arrangements will suffice for the present. From AMIRCHAH to KOH-I-MALIK SIAH, the distance unguarded is excessive, and anoth r thana and chauki are much required. My arrangements are now such that I trust in future always to be able to maintain an uninterrupted through weekly dak.

27. No one who has traversed this route can fail to be struck with the marvellous facilities which the country between NUSHKI and SEISTAN offers for the construction of a railway. Scarcely a single natural obstacle exists to bar the road; throughout, the gradient is exceedingly gentle; bands of sand 8.35-5

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Sum

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can as a rule be avoided; of fuel, there is an abundance; while not a bridge of more than one span, or engineering work of any magnitude, is requisite. Added to this, the mineral wealth of the KOHL-SULTAN and the hills to the west, at present lying untouched, is so considerable as in itself to offer very great indocements to railway enterprise. Such a railway would place the trade of eastern PERSTA and SEISTAN at our feet, unlock such Central Asian markets as are now closed, give us a preponderating influence in eastern PERSTA, and open to INDIA the rich grain fields of SEISTAN; while it would be impossible to estimate the strategical value.

IMPROVEMENTS.

28. As to the steps that might with advantage be taken to develop and safeguard the road, after the establishment of a British Agent in the capital of SEISTAN—in my opinion, a matter that in importance takes precedence of all,-I would suggest—

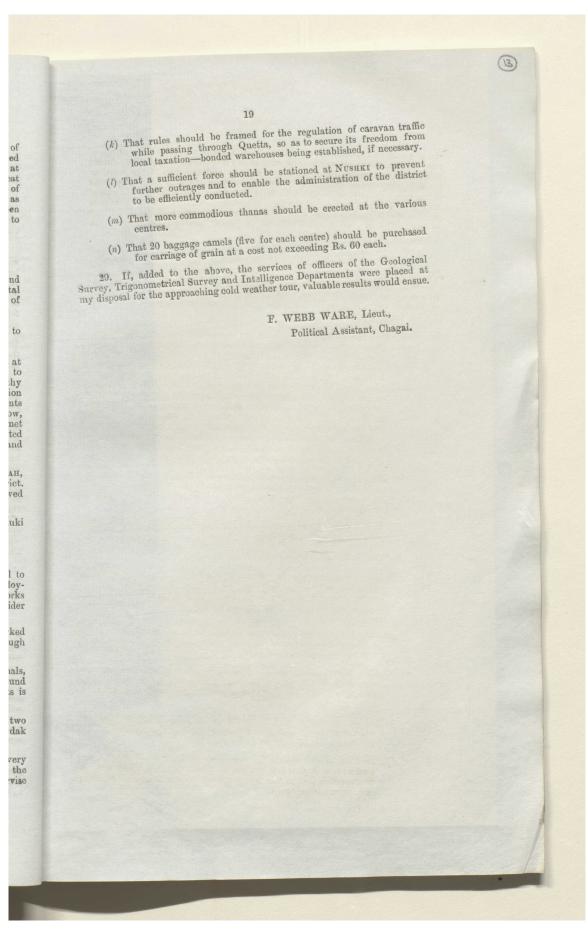
- (a) That the various thanas be armed so efficiently as to enable them to vigorously assume the offensive when occasion demands.
- (b) That depôts should be constructed at convenient centres (such as at ROBAT, AMIRCHAH, MERUI, and DALBANDIN) for the supply to caravans of the necessaries of life. This is a scheme that is worthy of careful consideration. Its adoption would involve the erection of expensive godowns at each centre, the appointment of Agents at NASIRABAD and NUSHKI to replenish stocks as they ran low, and the appointment of a small staff, whose pay might well be met from the profits on sales. Some such scheme as is here suggested would be quite feasible, would confer great benefit on traders, and go further than anything else to popularize the route.
- (c) That the AMIRCHAH than should be strengthened. AMIRCHAH, as I have shown, dominates the entire western SINJATANI district. I consider that the strength of the than should never be allowed to fall below 20 sowars.
- (d) That a thana should be established at SAINDAK, with a branch chauki midway between that place and ROBAT.
- (e) That a chauki should be erected at MANZIL.
- (f) That a sufficient sum of money should be placed at my disposal to meet the wages of a small gang of Pathan labourers for employment, next cold weather, in well-sinking and on such other works connected with the development of the route as I may consider most pressing.
- (g) That the caravan route from NUSHKI to ROBAT should be marked throughout by means of piles of stones, posts, lines cut through "Tagaz" jungle, or otherwise.
- (\hbar) That existing facilities for drawing water and watering animals, especially horses, should be increased. As grass is to be found throughout, the possibility of a considerable trade in remounts is to be anticipated.
- (i) That a substantial chauki should be built at KISHINGI, and two additional Levy sowars entertained for the Quetta-Nushki dak service with head-quarters at KARDAGAP.
- (j) That an official should be appointed in Quetta to afford every assistance to kafilas and traders, to place them in touch with the best markets for the sale and purchase of goods, and to supervise their interests generally.

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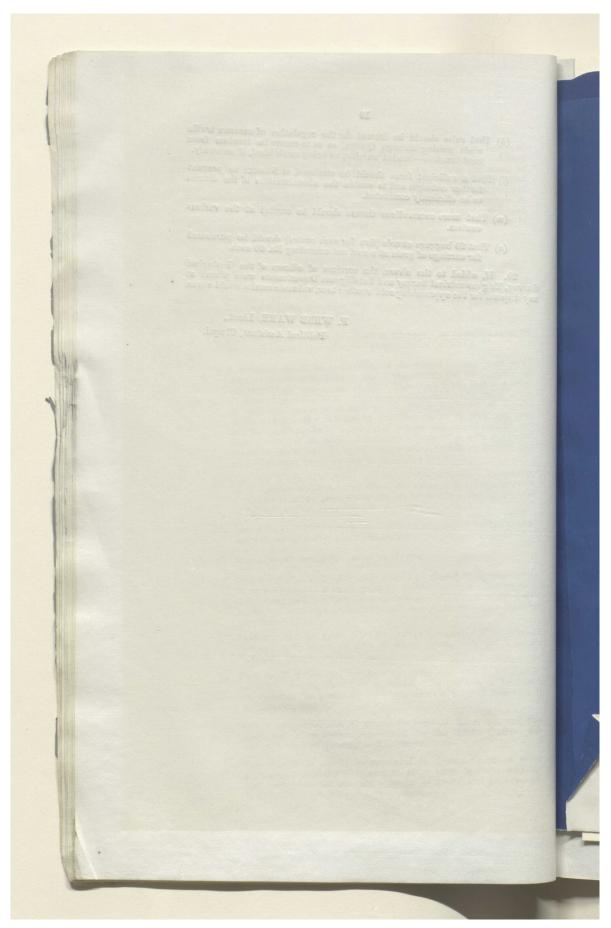


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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [13v] (26/72)





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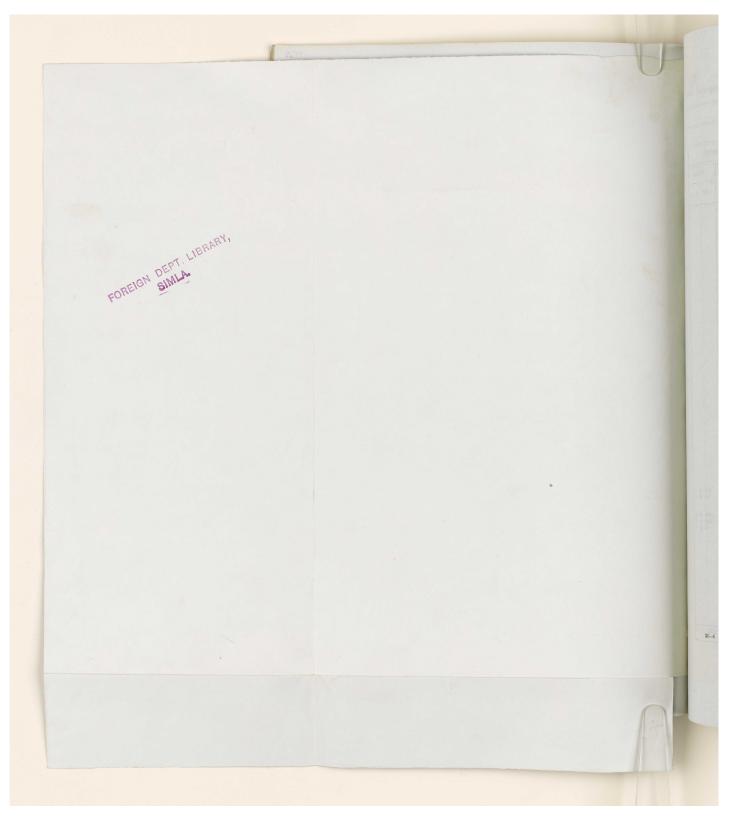


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Map of Persian-Afghan-Baluch border region [14v] (2/2)



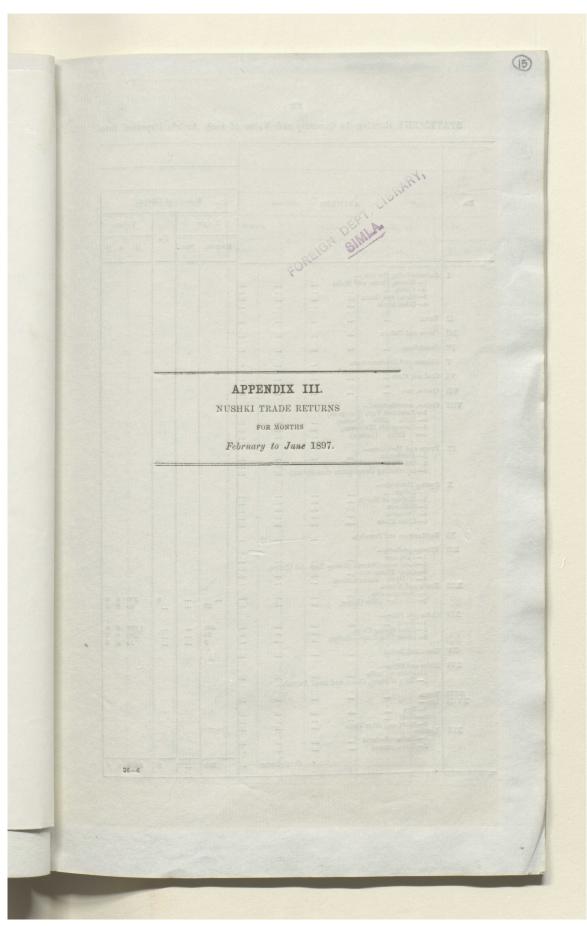


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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [15v] (30/72)



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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [16r] (31/72)

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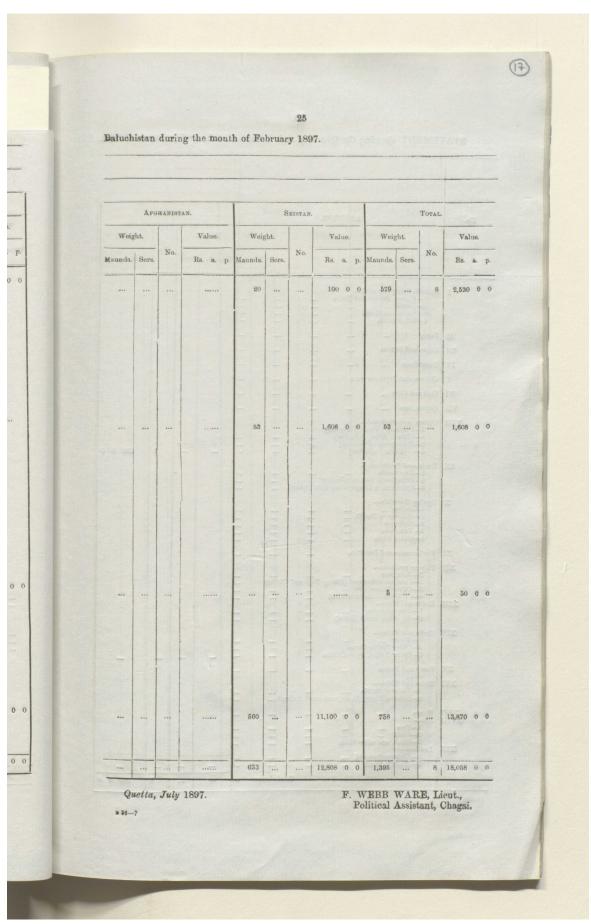
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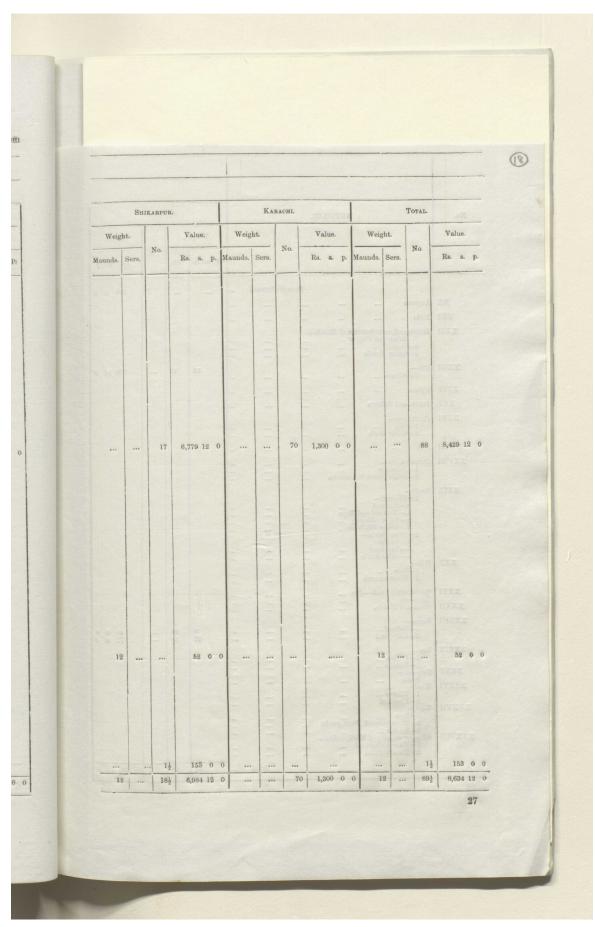


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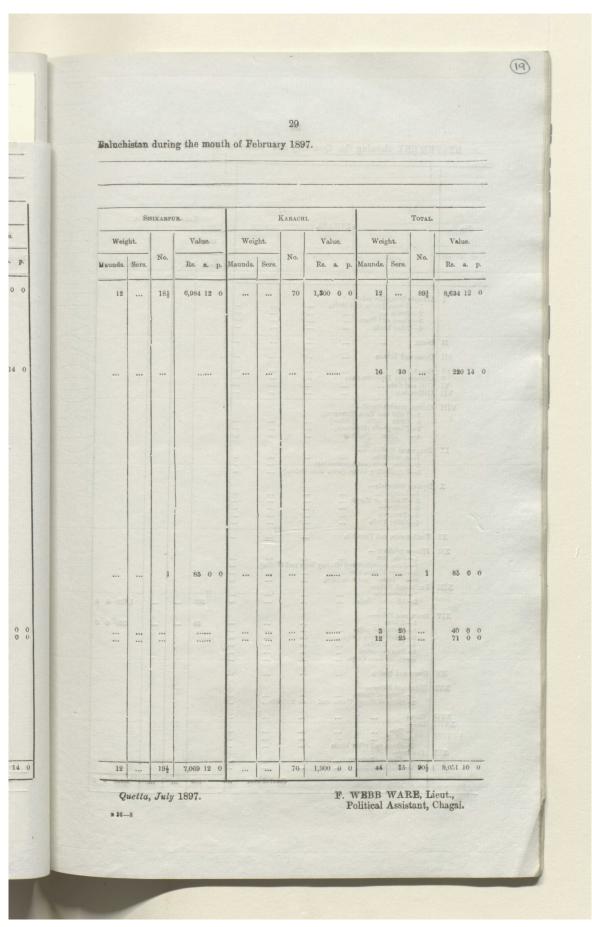
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [19r] (37/72)





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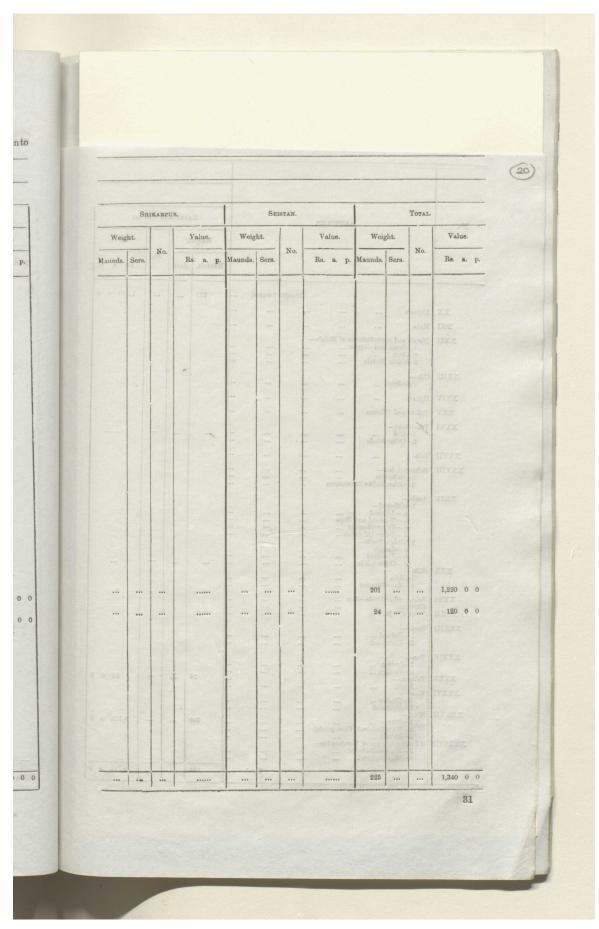


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	XI XII	Fibrous products-	elam			•••						
		1-Jute, raw 2-Jute, manufact 3-Other Fibres, r	aw	7 Bags and	Cloths)							
	XIII	1-Cocoanuts										
	XIV	2—All other kinds Grain and Pulse—	·				. 20			1	,220 0	0
		1-Wheat	 e Jrops					4			120 0	0
		3-Other Spring O 4Rice, Husked 5Rice unhusked 6Other Rain Cr		···· ···						-		
	XV		ops	•••	•••	••						
	XVI	1 Hiden of Clatti	e			•						
	XVI	2-Skins of Sheer I Horns	, Goats, and	l small An	imals	•						
	XVII	I Lac- 1-Dye 2-Shell										
	XD	3-Stick, and oth	er kinds			•						
		2—Manufactured	l	•••				25			1240 0	
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [20r] (39/72)



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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [20v] (40/72)

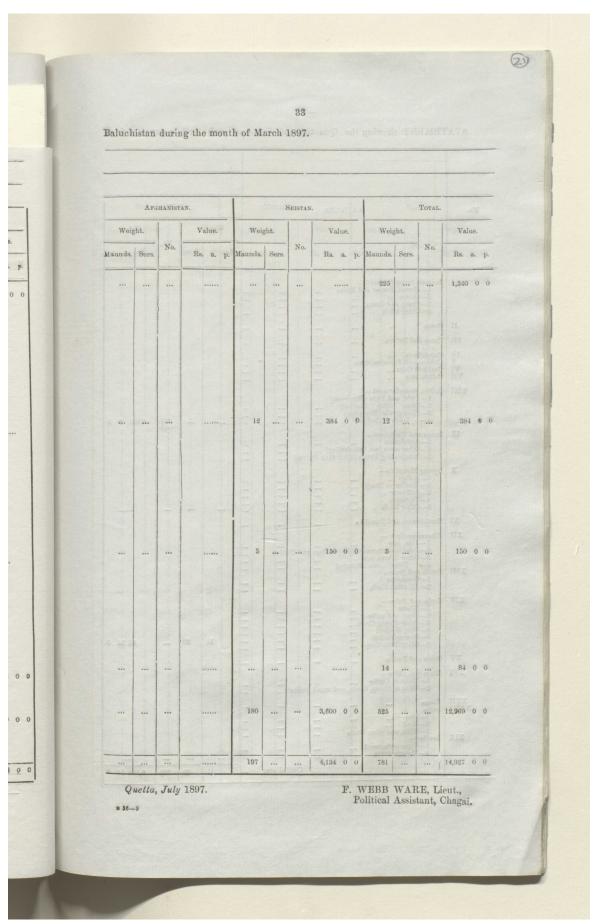
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XXVI	Provisions- 1-Ghi 2-Other kinds	***		•••					
IIVII	Salt								
XXVIII									
	1-Saltpetre 2-Other Saline Sul	bstances	••••		•••			1.2	
XXIX	Seeds- 1-Oil-seed-								
	aLinseed bMustard and cTil or Gingell	Rape	•••	***					
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	2-Other Seeds- aIndigo bTea-Seed								
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [21r] (41/72)





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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [21v] (42/72)



	STA	FEMENT showing	the Qua	Intit	y and Val	ue o	f each	Artic	le exi	ported from	
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		1—Horses, Ponies and 2—Cattle 3—Sheep and Goats	d Mules								
		4-Other kinds									
	II III	Borax Canes and Ratans							-	1 - 1	
WA .:	III IV	Caoutchouc									
NHU B	V VI VII	Chinese and Japanese-wa			•••						
	VIII	Cotton, manufactured-									
11		1—Twist and Yarn (I 2—Ditto ditto (I 3—Piece-goods (Euro 4— Ditto (India	ndian) pean)	•••	•••				991	6,100 0 0	
	IX	Drugs and Medicines-	ц)						22 ¹ / ₂ Bundles.	.0,100 0 0	
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	X	Dyeing Materials— 1—Indigo									
		2-Madder or Manjit 3-Safflower				•••					
		4—Turmeric 5—Other kinds									
	IX	Earthenware and Porcela	in								
	XII	Fibrous products— 1—Jute, raw									
		2—Jute, manufacture 3—Other Fibres, raw 4— Ditto manu									
	IIII	Fruits and Nuts- 1-Cocoanuts		•••							
		2—All other kinds				***					1
	XIV	Grain and Pulse- 1-Wheat 2-Gram and pulse									
		4Rice, Husked	ps	••••							
		5-Rice unhusked 6-Other Rain Crops				***	11	20		64 14 0	
	XV	Gums and Resins						1			
	XVI	Hides and Skins— 1—Hides of Cattle				-				T	
		1—Hides of Cattle 2—Skins of Sheep, G		nall A	nimals						
	XVII	Horns Lac-		•••					754		
		1-Dye 2-Shell 3-Stick, and other 1	 kinds	••••							
	XIX	Leather— 1—Unmanufactured									
		2-Manufactured			 Carried over						
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [22r] (43/72)

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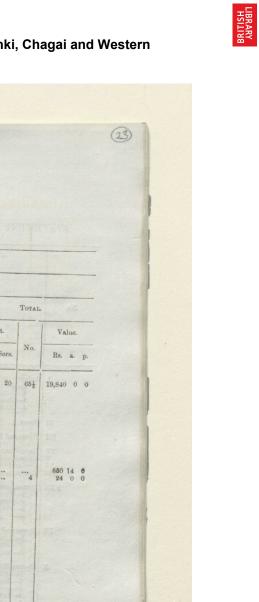
'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [22v] (44/72)

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No. ARTICLES. Weight: No. Mainds Sen. XX Liquors XXI Mainds XXI Maines XXII Mais XXII Mais XXII Mais XXII Mais XXIII Mais XXIII Olis XXIV Points and Colours XXVII Salters XXVII Salters XXVII Salters XXIX Salters XXXVI Salters Salters												
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XXVI Provisions- 1-Ghi </td <td></td> <td>XXIV</td> <td>Kerosine</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>***</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td></td> <td></td>		XXIV	Kerosine			***				4		
1-Ghi										-		
XXVII Salt <t< td=""><td></td><td></td><td>1Ghi</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>13,4.1</td><td>es:</td><td></td><td></td></t<>			1Ghi						13,4.1	es:		
XXVIII Saltpetre, &c </td <td>All</td> <td>XXVII</td> <td></td>	All	XXVII										
XXIX Seeds- a - Linsed a - Mustard and Raps		XXVIII	1-Saltpetre		•••		•••					
Image:		XXIX	Seeds-	cances								
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XXX Silk 1Raw			aIndigo bTea-Seed									
2-Manufactured		xxx	Silk-									
Betelnuts 2.44 8 0 2 Unrefined 2.44 8 0 2 Derosign	11		2- Manufactured		•••		•···					
XXXIII Sugar- 1-Refined 30 341 0 0 2-Unrefined 40 244 8 0 XXXV Tea- 2-Foreign 244 8 0 XXXV Tobacco- Shuff			Betelnuts									
2—Ünrefined 40 244 8 0 XXXIV Tea— 40 244 8 0 XXXV Tea— 244 8 0 XXXV Tea—	-		Sugar— 1— Refined			75		30				
XXXV 1Indian <td></td> <td>0 1797</td> <td>2-Unrefined</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>40</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>		0 1797	2-Unrefined					40				
XXXV Tobacco - 9 58 8 0 XXXVI Wood 1-Timber 58 8 0 XXXVI Wood 1-Timber			1—Indian 2—Foreign									
1-Timber 2-Firewood Wool-			Tobacco- Snuff				•••	9			58	8 0
XXXVII Wool—			1-Timber 2-Firewood									
2Manufactured (Piece-goods)		XXXVII	1-Raw 2Manufactured (Pie	ece-goods)								
XXXVIII All other articles of Merchandise-		XXXVIII	3—Shawls All other articles of Mere	chandise-		•••			-			
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Total 155 20 262 7,683 12 0						Tota	al	155	20	261	7,683	12 0

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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [23r] (45/72)



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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [23v] (46/72)

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	STAT	EMENT showing	the Qua	intity a	nd Valu	ue of	f each	Artic	le imp	ported into	,
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Hab	II	Borax									
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	IV V VI	Caoutchouc Chinese and Japanese-w Coal and Coke	791°6	···· ···					1		
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		3—Intoxicating Dru	ugs (other th	an Opium)							
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [24r] (47/72)

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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [24v] (48/72)

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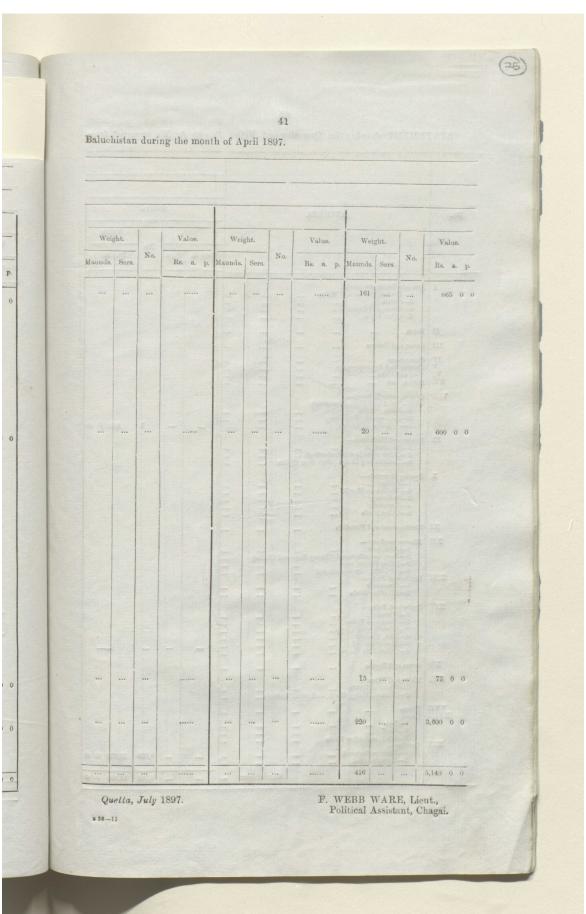
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2-Other Seeds- aIndigo										
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I Spices, other kinds										
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [25v] (50/72)



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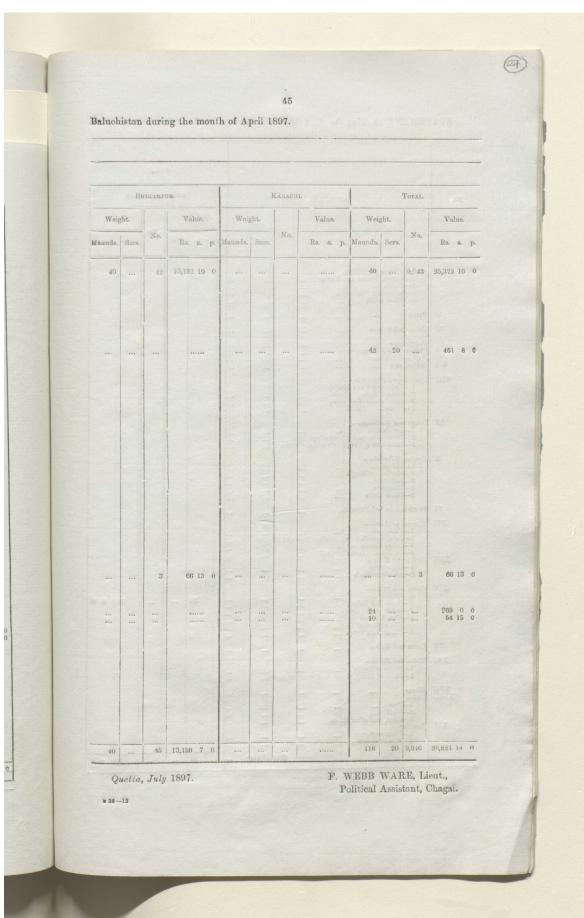
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'Report on the Baluch-Persian Caravan Route and Nushki, Chagai and Western Sinjerani Districts' [27v] (54/72)



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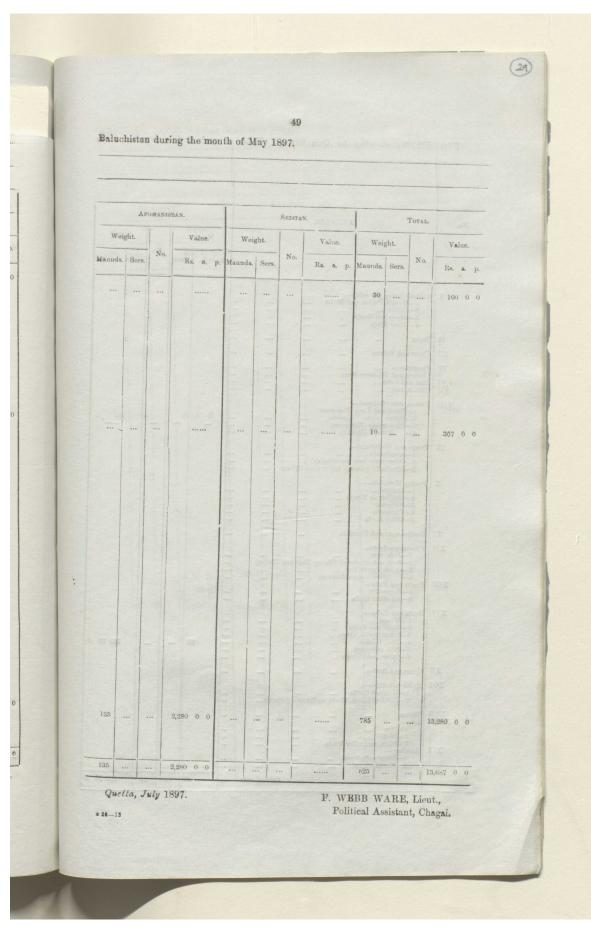
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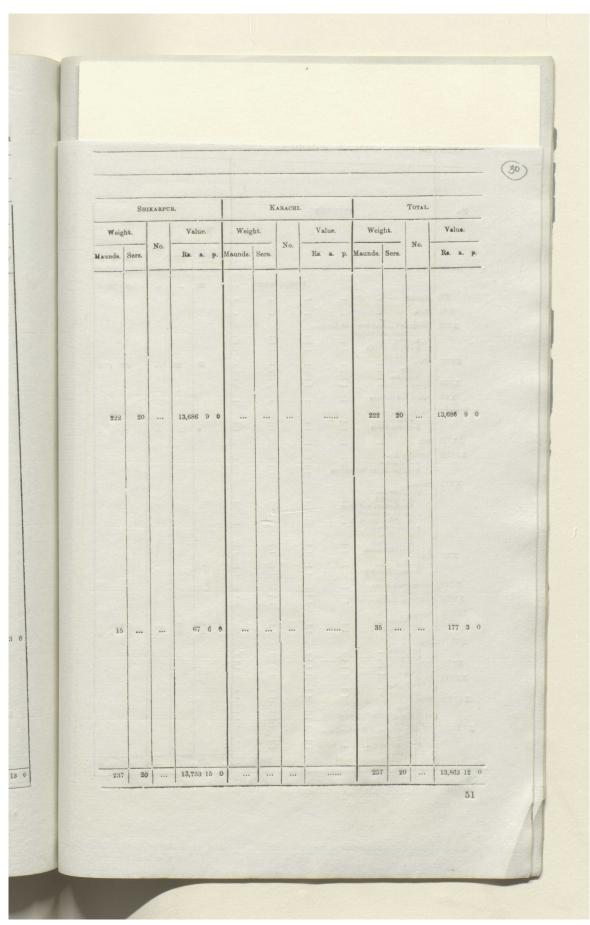
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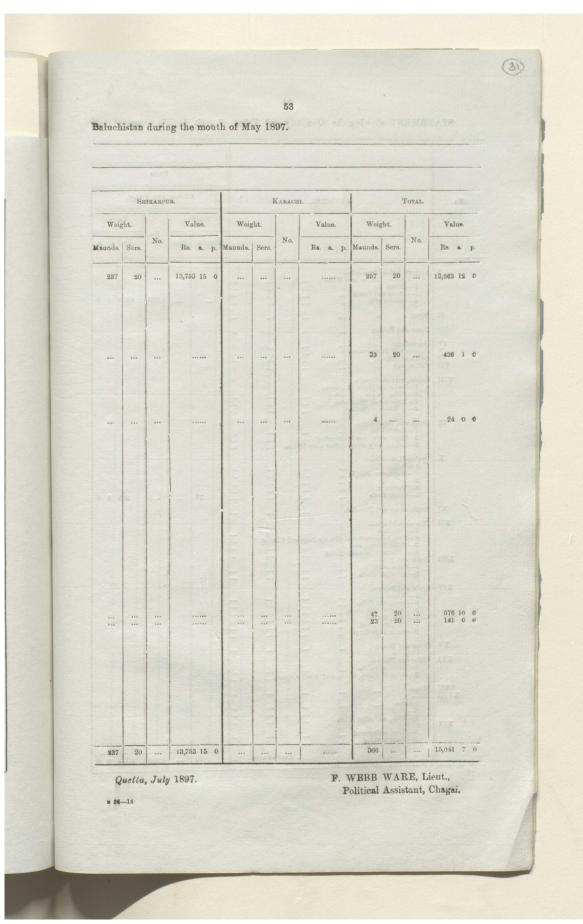
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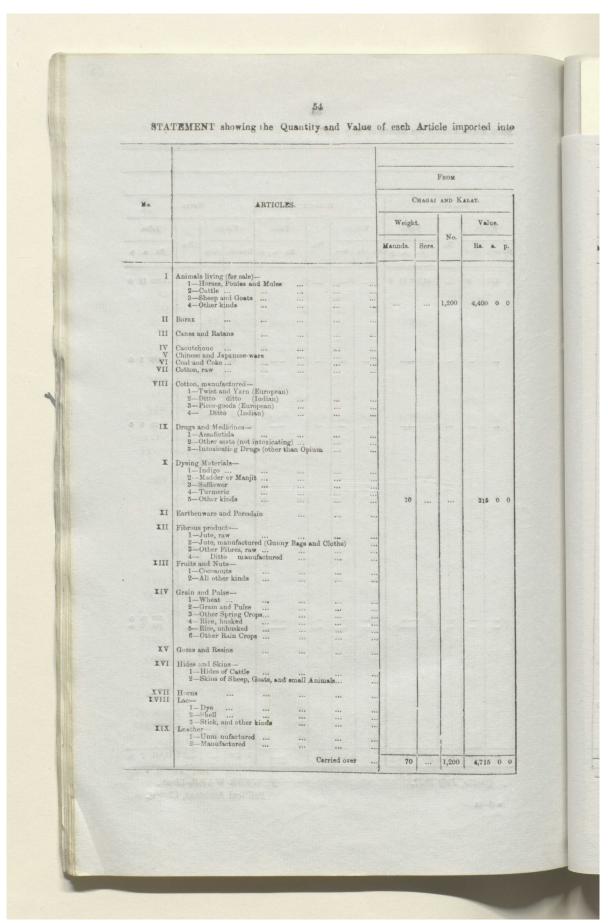


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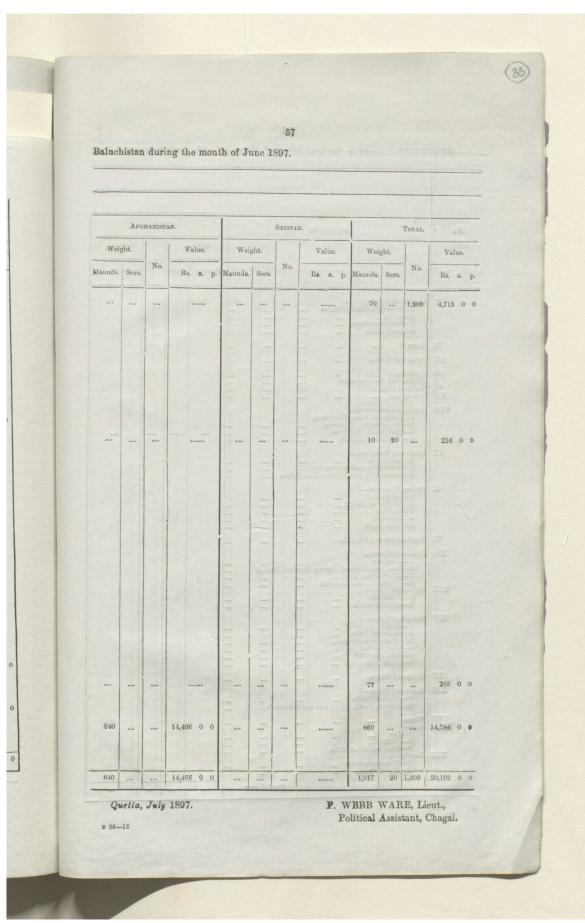
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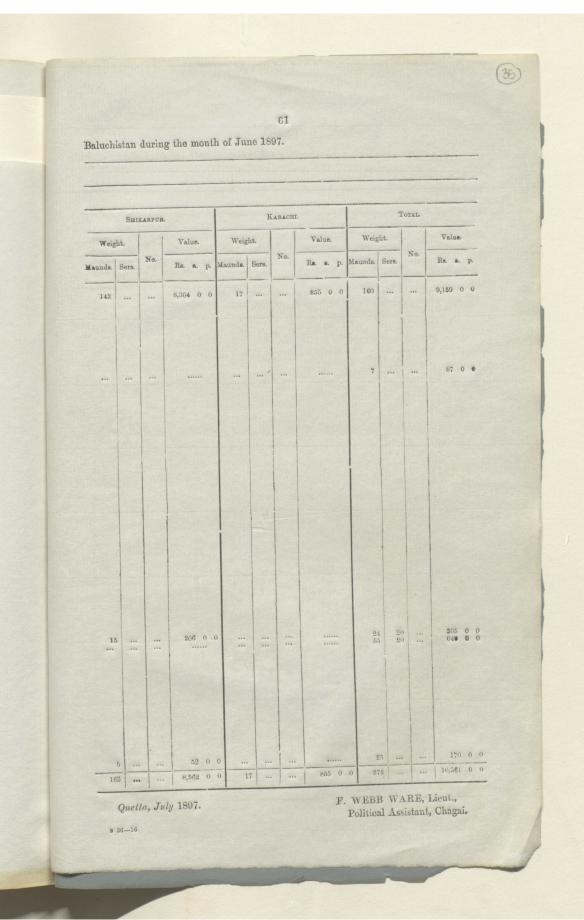
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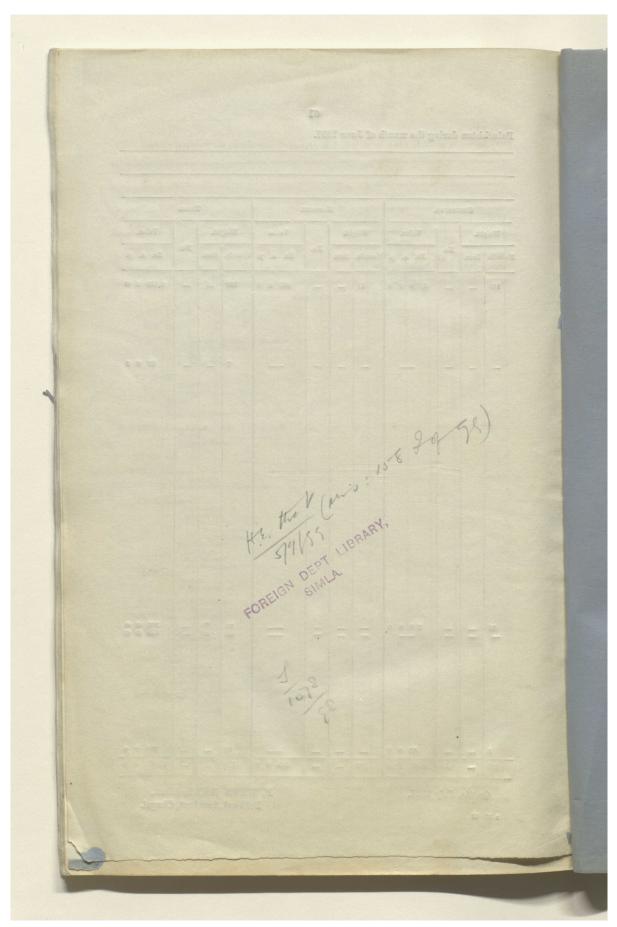


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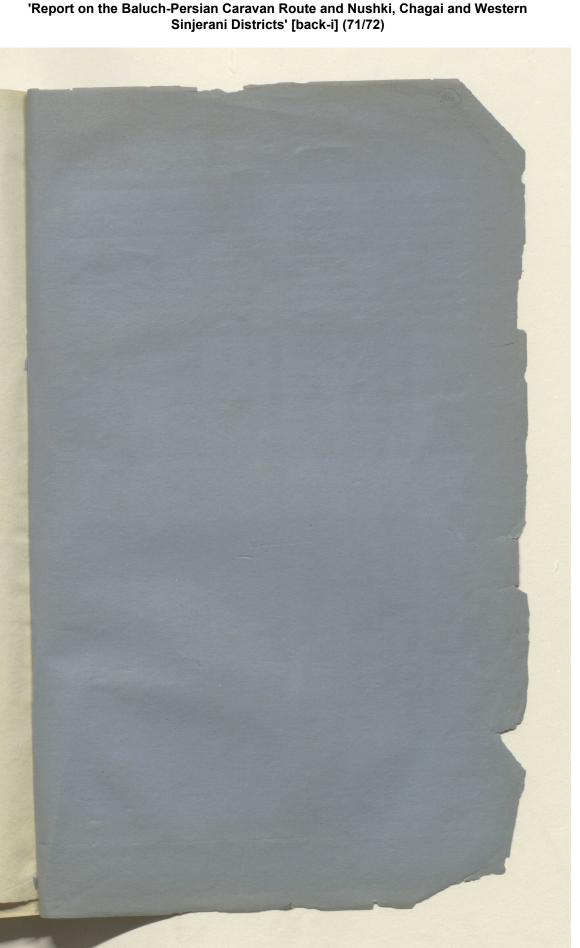
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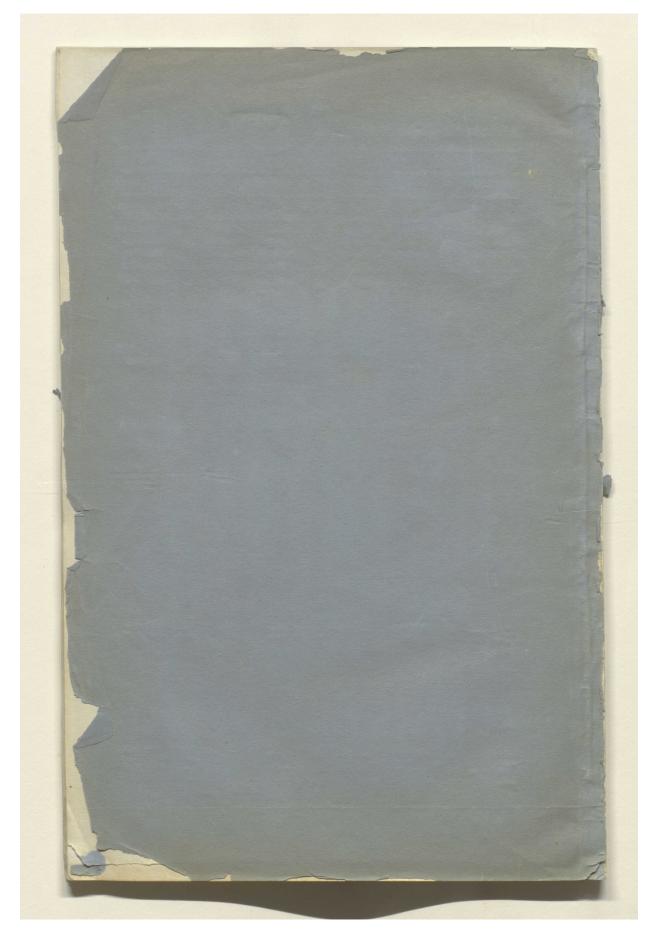




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