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TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1860.

India Office, July 14, 1860.

THE Secretary of State for India in Council has received the following papers.

No. 1.

GENERAL ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA.

Simla, April 30, 1860.

HIS Excellency the Governor-General is pleased to publish for general information the following despatch from Major-General Sir J. Michel, K.C.B., late Commanding Malwa Division, No. 9, dated 3rd January, 1859, reporting operations against the rebels by a column under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Benson, Her Majesty's 17th Lancers.

These operations were duly reported to the Home Authorities in March 1858, in the Foreign Department, but it having been ascertained that Lieutenant-Colonel Benson's Report was not received in that Department, and was therefore not transmitted at the same time, that deficiency is now supplied by its publication.

No. 2.

Major General Michel, Commanding Malwa Division of the Army, to the Adjutant-General of the Bengal Army.

Chapeira, January 3rd, 1859.

No. 9.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a despatch from Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, detailing the pursuit, and finally the defeat, of the rebel forces under the Rao Sahib and Tantia Topsee.

2. When the small number of Colonel Benson's column is taken into account,—that this column without tents, camp followers, or commissariat, in five days performed the distance of 142 miles; and at its termination defeated a very superior force; taking elephants, camels, &c.,—I trust his Lordship the Commander-in-Chief will consider that Colonel Benson, and the troops under his command, have well done their duty.

I have, &c.

J. MICHEL, Major-General,
Commanding Malwa Division Army.

No. 3.

Lieutenant-Colonel Benson, Commanding 2nd Cavalry Column, to the Assistant-Adjutant-General.

SIR,

Gerapore, December 29, 1858.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, for the information of the Major-General Commanding, that, after a pursuit of 148 miles in one hundred and twenty hours, the column under my command, strength as per margin,* came into action with the rebel force this morning at about three miles distance from Gerapore, their number apparently about 4,000 fighting men, under command of Tantia Topsee and the Rao Sahib, and, after an engagement of two hours, put them to flight, and pursued them for ten miles with heavy loss, capturing six elephants, and between thirty and forty camels, besides treasure and a prisoner, rank unknown, when, in consequence of the rebels dispersing over a hilly and thick jungle country, and the horses, especially the draft horses of the artillery, beat, I did not deem it expedient to follow further, and abandoned the pursuit at about twelve miles distance from Monohur Sharrah at 3 P.M. Further detail I have the honour to state below.

1. On Friday, the 24th, at Ninose, having carefully ascertained that the passes leading out by Reipore had been blocked up by cutting down trees, &c. which duty had been most successfully performed by Lieutenant Coglán 4th Native Infantry, whom I had detached the day previous with 100 men for that purpose to Reipore, I struck my camp and marched to Nowgaum, and, next day, not being able to gain any intelligence of the movements of the rebels, I made a reconnoissance, taking with me a small body of cavalry and Highlanders, and found that the rebels, after an attack on Pertabghur, had marched the previous evening towards Mundesoor.

2. I immediately returned to camp, and made a forced march to protect Mundesoor; arrived there that evening, and heard the rebels were encamped four miles distant.

3. Next morning, taking two days' supplies, and leaving the artillery waggons, infantry, led horses, tents and baggage of every description, also ghorahwallas and grass-cutters, behind, under

* Strength of column,—Royal Horse Artillery, 37 men, 40 horses; 2 guns, no waggons. 17th Lancers,—16 officers, 210 men, 226 horses,—total, 16 officers, 247 men, 266 horses.