

3. The commissariat arrangements not being quite complete at Demagiri, the forward movement of the force had to be delayed for a short time, and the troops not required for immediate use in the front were halted at Chittagong and Rangamatti, where quarters were available and the men easily fed.

4. Objects of the Expedition.—The object of the expedition was—

Firstly, to punitively visit certain tribes that have raided and committed depredations in British territory, and have declined to make amends or come to terms.

Secondly, to subjugate tribes as yet neutral, but now by force of circumstances brought within the sphere of British dominion.

Thirdly, to explore and open out, as much as can be done in the time, the as yet only partly known country lying between Chittagong and Burma.

Lastly, to establish posts in the regions visited, so as to ensure complete pacification and recognition of British power.

5. Distribution of the Force.—To enable me to carry out the above, I determined on the following distribution of the force under my command :—

Rangamatti and Demagiri garrisons and line of communications up to Fort Lungleh, 3rd Bengal Infantry.

Northern Column (with which the Cachar Column under Mr. W. W. Daly would co-operate) :— $\frac{1}{2}$ Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners; 250 men, 3rd Bengal Infantry; 300 men, 2-2nd Gurkha Regiment; 100 men, 28th Bombay Pioneers; 50 men, Frontier Police.

Haka Column, and line of communications beyond Fort Lungleh :— $\frac{1}{2}$ Company, Bengal Sappers and Miners; Detachment 9th Bengal Infantry; Half Battalion, 2-2nd Gurkha Regiment; Half Battalion, 2-4th Gurkha Regiment; 28th Bombay Pioneers; 100 men, Frontier Police.

The Northern Column I placed under the command of Colonel G. J. Skinner, 3rd Bengal Infantry, with Lieutenant H. W. G. Cole, 2-2nd Gurkha Regiment, as Staff Officer.

6. When a sufficient quantity of rations had been sent forward to Lower Lungleh, the troops were gradually moved up to hold the line of communication and commence the construction of the road towards Haka.

7. Despatch of the Northern Column.—While the six weeks' rations for the use of the Northern Column were being collected, the route to be followed to Lienpunga's village had been reconnoitred for a considerable distance, and the neighbouring chiefs, all of whom proved friendly, were called upon to clear the path of jungle, which they did. The route followed the Klong River, and as rafts could be used on portions of it, the difficulty of carrying the stores forward was much decreased. By the 28th January, 1890, all troops, transport and provisions of the Northern Column had left Fort Lungleh. Considering the work to be undertaken by the Northern Column as most important, and being aware that its success depended entirely upon its being able to move about freely in the hills when once Lienpunga had been reached, I made over the whole of my available Punjabi coolies, 1,611 in number, for its use, keeping but 50 men for the Haka Column and 80 to work the tram-line at Burkal.

8. The following troops were employed with the column :

250 men, 3rd Bengal Infantry.

300 men, 2-2nd (P. W. O.) Gurkha Regiment.

100 men, 28th Bombay Pioneers.

Half company (80 men), Bengal Sappers and Miners.

50 men Chittagong Frontier Police.

400 men of the Surma Valley Military Police.

9. The work of the column was—

(1.) To punish Lienpunga for the raid on the Chengri Valley.

(2.) To punish the sons of Vutai for their raid on the Pakuna Rani's village.

(3.) To establish a permanent post in the vicinity of Lienpunga's village, to be garrisoned during the summer.

10. These objects were satisfactorily attained by the column; captives were also as far as possible recovered, and two stockades, named Fort Aijol from the name of the locality, were constructed on an excellent and healthy site, which is also politically advantageous. The post was provisioned for about six months, and an excellent road had been nearly completed connecting it with Changsil. This work was done by Mr. Daly's police detachment.

11. Road Construction.—Major Leach, R.E., Commanding Royal Engineer, in company with Captain Mullaly, R.E., Field Engineer, arrived at Fort Lungleh on the 29th November, and after consultation with Mr. Murray and Captain Shakespear, who had during the past season been making all necessary inquiries as to the direction the new road should take, and having themselves reconnoitred the country, started the trace on the southern slope of Teriot on the 6th December, 1889. From this date the construction of the road was steadily carried on, and the 44 miles to Fort Tregear completed on the 28th February. I would here point out the difficulties which attend road-making in the Lushai country. In the first place, there is the dense jungle, which prevents one seeing a dozen yards ahead; rocks extending over large portions of the hill-sides are constantly met with, and when it was found impossible to avoid them, much time was taken up in blasting operations. Range upon range of precipitous hills, running at right angles to the line of advance, had to be crossed, and the question of a sufficient supply of water at the different camps had also to be considered in determining the trace of the road. Two large rivers, the Matt and Kolodyne, had to be bridged. These bridges, the former 206 feet and the latter 304 feet long, had to be very substantially built, and were of the crate and trestle type.

12. Establishment of Advanced Post.—It had been my intention to fix upon a site on the Molum Pui for the advanced post, but, on crossing the Kolodyne, the ascent to it was found so precipitous that the road had to be taken up the Darjow Klang instead. Within a short distance of the top of this hill, and at an elevation of 5,100 feet, an old village site was reached, and as the position was good and well-suited for a post in every way, with a plentiful supply of good water close at hand, I determined to build a stockade on it. The work of construction was commenced on the 1st March, and all the barracks, godowns, &c., built, and defensive works completed, by the end of April. At the request of the members of the expedition, I named the post "Fort Tregear." There is accommodation for four officers, 200 troops, and 100 coolies.

13. Garrison for Fort Tregear.—Instructions having been received that the Bengal Government was anxious that the advanced post should be held by troops, the following garrison was detailed for the purpose :—two British officers,