

daily, and will probably all be given up very shortly.

At the end of October some night firing into Sheranni took place, and in consequence parties of the 1st Sikhs lay up in Termor and surprised the raiders, killing two men, one of whom turned out to be Sadda Khan's cousin. This was the enemy's last attempt to molest us.

16. On the 28th October Major Kemball, Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General for Intelligence, accompanied by Lieutenant Pirrie, Survey Officer, and an escort of 30 sabres, two guns, and 250 rifles, left Miram Shah to fill in the unsurveyed portion of the country north of that post, and between Thal and the Tochi Valley. This column returned to Idak on the 8th November, having reached within five miles of Thal, and thoroughly surveyed all the intervening country and the Baran Pass. On the 4th November Brigadier-General E. S. Brook assumed command of the 2nd Brigade, *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel the Honourable M. Curzon, invalided home.

17. On the 30th October the 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade, which had been in this valley four months, left Bannu for India. This fine corps had been the victim of an epidemic of dysentery and enteric fever, and had lost three officers and 75 non-commissioned officers and men, besides a very large percentage of officers and men invalided or left behind in the field hospitals. I cannot bear too high testimony to the discipline which cheerfully endured, and the pluck which combated the scourge during a long and trying season, and the battalion carried away with it the regrets of the whole force at the losses they had sustained.

18. With the submission of the tribe, the military operations practically ended. The orders I had received have been carried out. The *kots* of Sheranni, Maizar and all the villages in those valleys have been destroyed. Dreplari (the original village which commenced the attack of the 10th June) has been levelled. The waterways have been rendered temporarily useless, and some 20,000 maunds of *dhusa*, a considerable quantity of grain and many hundred cattle, sheep, &c., have been taken, and lastly, crops sufficient to feed the main portion of the transport of the First Brigade for three months have been cut or eaten up. It will be some years before the Madda Khels can recover from the damage done them.

19. The losses by disease have, I regret to say, been very heavy, 3 British officers and over 100 British soldiers have died from sickness, besides 50 Native soldiers and many followers. Great numbers have been invalided or are still in hospital. The troops notwithstanding these trials have worked cheerfully and done their duty splendidly, and I thoroughly endorse the high opinion formed of them by the General Officers commanding brigades, and would here place on record my high appreciation of their discipline and soldierly qualities.

20. The Medical Department has been exceptionally hard worked throughout the expedition, and my best thanks are due to all ranks of the profession. The Commissariat-Transport has worked smoothly and without a hitch of any kind; the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of this Department, more especially those who have borne the burden and heat of the day along the Line of Communications, are deserving of commendation. The veterinary officers and subordinates have also worked admirably, and to them is, in large measure, due the excellent condition of the animals and the very small amount of sickness among them. The Intelli-

gence Branch has reported on near 200 miles of routes, and gazetteered the whole country over which the force has operated. The Survey Department has completed an accurate survey over 920 square miles of country, and triangulation has been carried over 800 square miles. The other departments with the force, the Ordnance, Pay, &c., have been very satisfactory.

21. By the "Scheme of Operations" the movements of the force were practically limited to the country south-west and west of Datta Khel; the operations have, however, in fact extended over all the country south of Datta Khel to the Mahsud border, which has of necessity been the limit in that direction. To the south, the west and northwards from Datta Khel columns have continuously been on the move searching every valley and village up to the Afghan border. The boundary line has of course been the refuge which all have availed themselves of; being so invitingly close at hand, the tribesmen have time after time after firing on our columns, re-crossed into Afghan territory to wait a fresh opportunity.

I learnt at the very beginning of the expedition (and this has since been confirmed by Sadda Khan) that when our troops advanced into the Tochi Valley, the Gar Madda Khels as a body took refuge in Afghan territory to the north-west of Charkhel, between boundary-pillars Nos. 3 and 8, and here they remained. Only a few raiders at a time came down to fire into our camps, or occasionally water their fields by night. Recently, when the cold became very severe, they broke up and took refuge in Birmal, Jadran, Tanni, and Khost, and this explains the impossibility of inflicting any serious injury on the tribe in the field; nevertheless their existence has been a precarious one, and they have been taught that the demands of Government must, in the end, be acceded to.

22. The list of casualties is attached; also a map showing all the country traversed by the various columns of the force.

23. In conclusion, I have the honour to submit, for the favourable consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, the names of the following Officers:—

Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Nixon, 18th Bengal Lancers, Assistant-Quartermaster-General.—Is a Staff Officer of much ability and energy. He is a quick and accurate worker, and has, as senior officer of the staff, conducted his duties with tact and courtesy to all; he possesses the best qualities of a staff officer, and I trust his services may receive special recognition. He is an officer well worthy of advancement.

Major J. Willcocks, D.S.O., 1st Battalion, Leinster Regiment, Assistant-Adjutant-General.—Is a most capable and efficient officer; reliable and a hard worker; possessing a thorough knowledge of both staff and regimental duties; his services have been of the greatest value to me and the force generally. I bring his name to special notice for advancement in the service.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Wingate, Chief Commissariat Officer.—I am much indebted to this officer for the good work he has performed. His energy and ready resource successfully overcame all difficulties, and to his sound judgment is due the efficient manner in which the department has worked. He is an executive officer of a high standard and specially deserving of recognition. He has been ably assisted by the officers of the department, amongst whom I would specially bring to notice Captain H. James, Captain