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INDIA-OFFICE, June 14, 1859.

THE Secretary of State for India has received the following Papers relating to the Mutiny in the Punjab in 1857 :—

PAPERS relating to the Mutiny in the Punjab in 1857.

No. 75 of 1858.

(No. 322.)

From R. Temple, Esq., Secretary to the Chief Commissioner for the Punjab, to G. F. Edmonstone, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India (with the Governor-General), dated Lahore, 25th May 1859.

SIR,

I AM directed to submit, for the information of the Supreme Government, a report, prepared under direction of Mr R. Montgomery, late Judicial Commissioner, of occurrences in the Punjab territories during the critical period of 1857 ; also a report by Lieutenant-Colonel Edwardes on events in Peshawur ; a report on events in Cis-Sutlej States by Mr G. C. Barnes ; and certain selected district reports, marginally noted.* While forwarding these I am also to submit the following narrative, and comments on the part of the Chief Commissioner.

2. It will not be necessary, after the detailed reports now rendered, to recapitulate all the events of that awful struggle through which the Punjab passed. It will suffice to glance at them generally, and to note the policy which was adopted to confront the crisis in its various phases.

3. When the outbreak of May 1857 burst upon Hindostan, that portion of the Bengal army which was cantoned in the Punjab territories amounted to about 60,000 soldiers, as follows :—

Hindoostanees, chiefly Regulars,	35,900
Punjabee (Irregulars),	13,430
Europeans,	10,326
Total,	59,656

Besides, there were military organised police, amounting to about 9,000. The Hindoostanee troops shown in the above abstract had a few Punjabees in their ranks, numbering perhaps 2,000 ; but of the Punjabee troops full one-fourth were

* Umballah, by T. D. Forsyth, Esq., Deputy Commissioner. Umritsur, by F. H. Cooper, Esq., Deputy Commissioner. Loodianah, by G. H. M. Ricketts, Esq., Deputy Commissioner. Huzara, by Major J. R. Beecher, Deputy Commissioner.

Hindoostanees. Of the European force one corps, viz. Bombay Fusiliers, did not belong to the Punjab complement, and arrived in detachments at different times between the 17th June and the end of July. Out of 12 corps (including one corps of cavalry), seven were massed, as it were, at each extremity of the province, namely, either on the Simla Hills, north of Umballah, or in the Peshawur valley. Thus there were left to hold the country from the Sutlej and the Indus five weak European corps, distributed at the stations of Ferozepore, Lahore, Sealkote, Jullunder, and Rawul Pindee.

4. When the émeute occurred at Meerut, and Delhi fell into the hands of the mutineers, it was evident that the European troops for the suppression of the mutiny must be mainly obtained from Meerut itself, or from the hills near Umballah. To Umballah then were the Europeans ordered immediately from the hills by the Commander-in-Chief, General Anson. Thus the greater part of three infantry corps and one cavalry corps were collected. But there were no artillerymen in sufficient numbers ; there was but little ammunition, and no heavy guns were procurable except from Philore, on the Sutlej, 80 miles distant, with the river intervening. But the Commander-in-Chief, when arranging to move on Delhi, was further beset with difficulties. The hot winds had set in, rendering the season most adverse. The commissariat and medical authorities were averse to an advance ; and the three native corps on the spot were demoralized,—were watching events,—and were ripe for an outbreak.

5. Under these circumstances the Chief Commissioner conceived that the first step was to disarm these regiments, whom it was equally dangerous either to leave at Umballah or take to Delhi. This course the Chief Commissioner lost no time in urging ; but when the Commander-in-Chief took the matter in hand the local military authorities pointed out that they had pledged themselves not to disarm the sepoy. It was in vain urged per contra that the compact had no sooner been made than it was broken by the sepoy themselves. There was not indeed the shadow of a reasonable hope that these men would prove faithful. Indeed the incendiary fires which had been lighted up night after night in the cantonment of Umballah too surely indicated the discontent which pervaded the minds of these men. Ultimately one corps, the 4th Light Cavalry, was sent off in various detachments, but many of them deserted. One corps, the 5th Madras Infantry, was left at Umballah ; but one-fourth of their number deserted at night, shortly after the departure of the Europeans for Delhi, and the rest

