

mule track and the visits of the small exploring parties to different remote places in these hills will tend to improve our future relations with many sections of the Abor tribe. Further, the absence of any untoward incident and the display of force must have increased the knowledge and respect of this tribe of the paramount power which should bear good fruit in years to come.

3. The conduct of the expedition by Major-General H. Bower, C.B., has been marked by ability and carefulness, while the energy and good feeling displayed by all ranks and the lack of disease due to good sanitary arrangements merit great praise.

4. His Excellency endorses the recommendation made by General Bower as regards the officers, non-commissioned officers and men mentioned in the despatch and brings their good service strongly to the notice of Government.

No. 1199-A., dated Kobo, the 11th April, 1912.

From Major-General H. Bower, C.B., Commanding, Abor Expeditionary Force, To the Chief of the General Staff, Army Headquarters, Simla.

Orders for the demobilisation of the Abor Expeditionary Force having been received, I have the honour to report as follows for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:—

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Probability of Abor Coalition (summary).

32. Previous to the advance of the force information pointed to the great probability that we would not only be opposed by the Minyong but that several other tribes would coalesce with those responsible for the massacre in opposing our advance and from information obtained afterwards it appears that very many villages assisted in the preparation of stockades and stone shoots. It was soon, however, apparent that the tribes who promised their support to the Minyong had done so under the belief that the punitive force would be on the small and insufficient scale that has been such a marked feature of former expeditions against the Abors. As soon as our strength became manifest the coalition fell to pieces and the guilty villages were left to fight out their own quarrel with us alone. This materially reduced the active opposition.

Physical Difficulties (summary).

33. On the other hand, the physical difficulties of the country presented even a greater obstacle to rapid advance than had been anticipated. The Abor paths were quite unfit for use by laden carriers, and as an example of the difficulties encountered I may mention that a small exploration party leaving camp soon after daylight only completed a march of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles by 4 p.m. Many other cases showing the difficulty of rapid movement could be quoted, and the necessity for searching out and destroying stone shoots, of which an incredible number had been prepared, also involved delay.

Results (summary).

34. As the result of the operations the culpable villages have been punished, six men who took part in the massacre of Mr. Williamson's party have been captured, tried, five found guilty and sentenced. The rifles taken

have been restored, and our capability to punish evildoers, which hitherto has not been credited, has been brought home to the tribesmen. Practically the whole Abor country has been visited and excellent relations established. The domination exercised by the Kebang-Rotung group of villages has been broken, the villages in the interior can now trade with India which they express a great desire to do. The part of the north Lakhimpur Districts lying to the north of the Brahmaputra can be recolonised, there being now nothing to fear from Abor raids.

Mule Roads (summary).

35. A good road fit for mules has been constructed from Kobo to Yambung, and Abor paths improved as far as Shimong and Riga and between Mishing and Kalek.

Survey (summary).

36. The absence of maps, native information being often misleading, was a difficulty. In spite of the fact that the weather could hardly have been less favourable than it was for surveying, the following results were obtained:—

(a) An accurate series of triangulation, emanating from the Assam Longitudinal series of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, has been carried over the outlying ranges to the latitude of Kebang, terminating in the base Sadup h. s. Namkam h. s. This will prove of the greatest assistance to future surveyors or explorers.

(b) From this series and an extension of reconnaissance triangulation to the latitude of Simong several large snowy peaks have been fixed on what appears to be the main Himalayan divide, including one very fine peak over 25,000 ft. high. Many more snow peaks have also been fixed on the watershed between the Dihang and Subansiri rivers, which seems to be a very prominent spur of the main divide. It has only been possible to obtain a mere approximation of the topography of these snowy ranges, but the geodetic results are in themselves of great value.

(c) About 3,500 square miles have been more or less rigorously mapped on scale 4 miles=1 inch, including the whole of the Yamne and Shimang Valleys, a portion of the Siyom River, and the whole of the Dihang Valley as far north as Singging. Although I venture to think it is now possible for very small parties to travel about the country, it was found necessary, in the first instance, that exploring parties showed strength. In addition to reasons of safety a considerable number of men were required to clear hill tops.

Conduct of Troops (summary).

37. Campaigning in a country where the difficulties of transport are so great necessarily involved considerable hardships on the men, and great extremes were experienced from tropical heat to bivouacking in snow. In one place this was lying 9 feet deep. The continuous bad weather experienced during part of the operations was a greater hardship than it would be in a campaign on which tents could be carried. The work was hard, unremitting, and continued watchfulness was required against an enemy ever ready to take advantage of an opportunity. Difficulties of exploration were accentuated by the impossibility of columns living on the country. The Abors grow only