

Annual Administration report for the year 1923-24

Judicial Department

Kumar W. Palden, continued in the office of the Judicial Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim, during the whole year. The following branches of administration of the State are dealt with in the Judicial Department:-

1. Law & Justice.
2. Ecclesiastical.
3. Education
4. Police
5. Jail
6. Gun License
7. Revenue and Judicial stamp
8. Medical, Sanitation, Vaccination and Veterinary
9. Census.

Sikkim Chief Court. Civil and Criminal Justice, General

The Sikkim Chief Court comprising of 12 members, continued to sit as usual, in benches of members, for two months at a time. They try all the important cases arising in the State, and all cases that come from the Station area of Gangtok. The Chief court hears appeals made against the decision of the various Land lord's court. The three benches consists of the following members:-

- First Bench. 1. Tasang Lama.
2. R.S. Lobzang Chhode
3. Ba. Ratna Bahadur Pradhan
4. Enchay Lama Kazi

- Second Bench. 1. Malling Kazi
2. Norzong Kazi
3 Rhenock Kazi
4. BA. Narayan Das Pradhan

June- July and December January.

Third Bench. 1. Yangthang Kazi
2. Ba. Balkrishna Pradhan
3. Song Kazi.
4. Babu Mathura Prasad.

August- September & February March

With a view to further improve the judicial administration in the State. The Durbar has acquired the Service of a competent legal man in the person of Mr. Rup Narayan B.A. from Punjab and has been appointed as Chief Judge of the S. Court with effect from the 1942, on a pay of Rs. 300/- 20-400

A vacancy has been caused by the death of Mahavir Kazi in the first bench of the Sikkim chief court-the substitutes were appointed.

Civil Suit

The total number of suits instituted during the year the year, was 156 valuing Rs. 40405-1-7, against 70 which valued Rs. 13, 179-2-6, in the previous year, out of Rs 152 cases were disposed of. For further details see appendix X. These figures do not include Civil cases tried by the various Landlords in their own court.

Criminal Cases

Appendices VII and VIII contains statistics about all the cases tried in the Sikkim Chief Court. The total number of direct petition cases, and Police cases. Dealt with during the year, was 170 with 255 persons concerned, as against 117 with 195 respectively, for the last year. 26 cases remained unsettled during the year. The criminal cases tried by the various landlords in their own courts are not shown in these appendices.

Extradition.

The following cases of extraction between British India and Sikkim occur during the year:-

(1) Accused Chimi Bhutia of Singtam, absconded committing theft in Sikkim. His extradition was applied for and was handed over to the Sikkim Darbar for trial. The accused was sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment.

(2) Kabey Damai an accused of theft, committed at Namchi, absconded towards Jalpaiguri. He was extradited to Sikkim from Jalpaiguri, and was sentenced to 3 year's rigorous imprisonment.

(3) Wongdi Chinia and Cheduma Bhutiani, who were accused of theft, which they committed at Padamchen, Sikkim, absconded towards Kalimpong. Their extradition was

applied for and were handed over to the Sikkim Darbar for trial. Accused Wongdi chinia sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and accused Chingdoma Bhutiani was acquitted.

(4) Manbir Newar, accused of theft, committed at Rangpo, Sikkim absconded towards Kalimpong. He was extradited to Sikkim from Lakimpong, and was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

(5) Kapu Serpa, accused of robbery at Nepal and Sikkim was sentenced to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment. After serving the sentence at the Gangtok Jail, he was handed over to the Darjeeling authorities at their instance.

There was no case of extradition between Bhutan and Sikkim during the year.

Appellate Jurisdiction

Civil Appeal.

From appendix XII, it will be seen that 19 civil money appeals to the value of Rs. 629/9/6 were preferred and all were disposed of during the year. 10 cases were confirmed 3 cases were modified & in 6 cases a retrial was ordered.

Criminal Appeal

The detail given in appendix IX shows that 5 criminal appeals were filed, against the decision of the chief court, of which 2 modified 2 cases were discussed and in 1 case a retrial was ordered.

Police Department

General

The total strength of the Police force is 69, including two sub-Inspectors. The State is divided into two ranges, viz, Eastern and Western ranges, with Head Quarters at Gangtok and Damthang respectively.

The Eastern range officer controls the following out-posts, viz., Rangpo and Rhenock, including the Patrol Post at Gnatong and Chungthang.

The Western Range Officer at Damthang, controls the following out-posts and patrol posts,:-

Soryong.
Dentam
Melli
Majhitar

The work performed by the police is of a miscellaneous nature and on the whole their work was satisfactorily performed.

Discipline

(Reward and punishment). During the year under review 1 constable was dismissed. 3 constables were fined departmentally for negligence of duty.

Working

52 cases were investigated by the State Police and 61 persons were sent up for trial, out of which 49 were convicted. Many petty cases during the trial were at the request to the parties concerned allowed to be compromised by the Chief court.

Establishment

The total strength of the police is 68 consisting 2 sub-Inspectors, 8 Havildars, 14, Naiks and Lance Naik and 44 constables. The Police expenditure totaled Rs. 24711/10/3 against Rs. 18249/14/4 in the previous year.

Jail Establishment

The health and conduct of the jail prisoners was generally good throughout the year. The total strength of the establishment at the Jail is 9 consisting of 1 Jailor, 1 senior Havildar and 5 warders, one female warder and one cook.

Number of prisoners

99 Prisoners (including under trial prisoners) were admitted during the year, against and of these, 44 remained at the end of the year, against 28 for the proceeding year.

The total cost for the maintenance of the Jail was 5431/15.4 against 4943/1/11 of the year before. The average admission of prisoner in the Jail was 746 against 837 in the former year. For detail, see appendix XIII.

Stamp Department

During the year under review, the Judicial stamp to the value of Rs. 3226/-/-were issued to the various courts in Sikkim, for sale against Rs. 3363-i-0, issued in the previous year. (for details, see appendix XXX).

During the year, the following new improvements were use in the monasteries in Sikkim:-

- (a) Pemiongchi- One big prayer wheel was made and a new road was opened from Geyzing to Pemiengchi
- (b) Dubdi- One new book-shelf (kunga Rawa was made for keeping the books.
- (c) Rumtek- the Monastery was re-roofed with corrugated iron sheets
- (d) Phodong- the hall and the walls were repainted.
- (e) Phensang- One new store room and one new kitchen was constructed
- (f) Lingthen- the monastery was reconstructed.
- (g) Labrang- Painting works were finished. One image of “cherezi’ and the other of ‘ yobpamy’ were moulded and placed in the monastery.
- (h) Lingdok Monastery- the floor of the hall was repaired.
- (i) Lachen Monastery- It was re-roofed with corrugated iron sheets and additions and alterations were also made at a cost of Rs. 2, 500/-
- (j) Thumon Monastery. A new ‘Chosom’ was constructed at the Monastery hall.
- (k) Rolong monastery, monastery requisites to the value of Rs. 740/- were purchased during the year.

The Education and Ecclesiastical Departments are under the direct control of the Judicial Secretary, assisted by a Board of Education Sikkim State’ consisting of :-

- (1) Bermiok Kusho (Chief Lama) sikkim State.
- (2) Maharaj Kumari cheoni Wangmo La, President.
- (3) Rhenock Kaxi, Vice-President
- (4) Bermiok Dewan
- (5) Yangthang Kazi
- (6) Gellong Kazi
- (7) Tassang Nakoo Lama
- (8) Phodong Chatimpa,
- (9) R.S Lambodar Pradhan
- (10) Babu Naryan Dass PRadhan



Members

The Board with the exception of Maharaj Kumari, cheoni Wangmo, are expected to visit the State Schools occasionally and briefly examine the boys in such subjects as are laid down in the School curriculum. Bermiok Kusho, (Chief Lama) Sikkim State could not visit the State School throughout the year, owing to his ill-health. The board are expected to not down and bring to the notice of His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim chiefly on the general intelligence of the boys, their training, their capabilities, their defects, if any also comment on such methods that they consider have been satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily adopted by those responsible in the schools for imparting knowledge, maintaining discipline, encouraging self-reliance and ambition, developing the love for manly sports.

There are 20 schools in Sikkim, buha new village school at Rumtek was opened. This makes a total of 21 Schools in Sikkim out of which 8 are maintained by the state. The number of pupils on the rolls on 31st March, 1924, was 474 against 496 in the previous year.

State Schools- there are two principal schools at Gangtok namely Bhutia Boarding School and the Nepali Boarding School. The following subjects are taught in both the Schools:-

English

Tibetan classics and vernacular in the Bhutia school

Hindi and Sanskrit in the Nepali School

History

Geography

Gymnastics and physical drill

There are 18 boarders in the Bhutia Boarding School and 11 boarders in the Nepali School. One State free boarder studying in the Matriculation 3rd class of the Government high School, Darjeeling, died at the Gangtok hospital, in his place, one Chaturising Rai, a State boarder was sent to government high School, Darjeeling for further studies. During the year, eight boys (2 State boarders and 6 dayscholars) having completed the course of the institution, took their admission in the government high School Darjeeling

Moral character:- The moral character and general demeanour of the school children were quite satisfactory.

Sanitation:- No serious epidemic broke out during the year under review. The general health of the school inmates had been on the whole, good.

Girls School:- the girls are taught Tibetan, Hindi, Lacemaking, spinning and knitting. Most of the students are the daughters of Kazis.

Enchey Monastery School:- the pupils of this school are the young monks of the monasteries in Sikkim. They are taught the Tibetan grammar reading and writing. The students after completing their course in the school are sent back to the monasteries concerned whether they taking up this position of clerk to the monasteries.

Village School:- This school has been combined with the Jail Department. The two Lepcha teachers are now teaching the convicts in wicker work. All sale proceeds realized from these works are credited to the Jail account.

The total cost, on education, was Rs. 11320/0/0 against Rs. 9430/9/6 for the previous year.

There are 13 missionary Schools, of which 11 belong to the Scotch mission. They are located at Temi, Soryong, Pakyong, rhenock, Kamlet, Chidam, Chakung , Wok

Phambong, and Dentam, including also a lace school at Wok. The remaining 2 belong to the Scendairam Mission, and are situated at Ringin and Sang.

There are 12 teachers in the State schools. One Head Master and three assistant teachers in the Bhutia Boarding School. One Head Master and three assistant teachers in the Nepali boarding School. There are two teachers in the girls School:- One Tibetan teacher and one Hindi, and a lace-limiting mistress. There is one teacher in the Enchay Monastery School, and a teacher each in the village schools at Lachen, Lachung and Rumtek.

Physical training of the students of the two principal schools:- Particular attention is also paid towards the training of the physical exercise to the pupils. A Naik of the Sikkim Police Force is visiting the schools twice a week to train the boys in physical exercise.

Visitors of the two State principal schools were visited by the Political Officer in Sikkim, the personal assistant to His highness the Maharaja of Sikkim, Judicial Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Sikkim the Civil surgeon and several other State officials and tourists. The Political Officer in Sikkim visited the Bhutia boarding and Nepali boarding Schools in connection with the empire day of May, He had brought with him a gramophone and a few records especially the one containing the King Emperor and Queen Empress's message to the children of the Empire. The purpose of their Majesties message was explained to the students in vernacular (Nepali & Tibetan). He was also pleased to give a handsome amount of money to the students of both the schools to enjoy themselves with sweets. The school recorded its grateful thanks for the kindness which he showed on his occasion.

Two Sikkimese lads, name Tsering Tondup Kazi and Lobzang Mingyur, were sent to the Campbell Medical School, Calcutta, at the cost of the Sikkim Durbar. The former to be trained as a Sub-Assistant Surgeon and the latter as a compounder. Both the boys are showing good progress.

JAIL

Three well behaved convicts were appointed convict warders.

No prisoners have had the opportunity to escape from the Jail, out of the proper vision of the Jailor. Personal Assistant and the Judicial Secretary his highness the Maharaja of Sikkim takes their interest.

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