PREFACE

Till the opening of the nineteenth century the East India Company hardly had any contact with the petty states and the tribes of North-East Frontier of India. After the treaty of Yandabo (1826), the Company not only annexed valley of the Brahmaputra but also came in contact with the frontier tribes of the North-East frontier. The occupation of Cachar in 1832 brought them to the fringes of Lushai Hills and thereby contact with the Lushai-Kuki tribes. Although some monographs have been written on Political and Military transactions of these tribes, no comprehensive and objective study has been done so far on the administrative developments of the Lushai Hills.

The pioneering work of Alexander Mackenzie "A History of the relations of the Government with the Hill tribes of the North-East of Bengal" (1780-1882) and its continuation by Robert Read in his 'History of the Frontier Areas Bordering on Assam (1883-1941)' which after all compilation of a number of significant official documents indispensable as source materials, are at best official handbooks than objective and comprehensive studies on the subject. J. Shakespear's "Lushai-Kuki Clans", Bartram S. Carey and H. N. Tuck's "The Chin Hills" and McCall's "Lushai Chrysalis" deal sociological aspects of the Chin-Lushai tribes. B. C. Chakravarty's "British Relations with the Hill Tribes of Assam since 1856" and S. Chattapodhy's in his unpublished Thesis "The Lushais and the English 1844-1904" have narrated at length British relation with the Lushai tribes. H. K. Sarojani in his "Problem of the Hill Tribes North-East Frontier" Volume II (1843-72) and Volume III (1873-1962) has discussed to some extent administrative development in Lushai hills apart from the establishment of British paramountcy in these hills; but he, too, covers the administrative aspects upto 1900 only.
An attempt has been made in the present study to describe critically and objectively administrative developments in the Lushai Hills from 1890 to 1947. The introduction provides the physical, ethnological and sociological background on the subject. Chapter I deals with the mainstages in the establishment of British paramountcy over these hills and the amalgamation of the two units - North and South Lushai Hills Districts under the Superintendent. Administrative beginnings and developments have been discussed at length in Chapters III and V. The Inner Line and particularly the boundary question which continues even now controversial and plague the relations between Mios and the Government of India have been analysed and examined in Chapter IV. Administrative development both in district and regional levels under chieftainship are being described in Chapter VI. The emergence of the Mizo elite and the growing unrest in the hills has introduced a new element in Mizo politics and administrative developments. This forms the subject matter in Chapter VII. In the epilogue an attempt is being made to bring the narrative up-to-date.

The Thesis is based mainly on official documents, both published and unpublished. In addition contemporary and semi-contemporary literature, journals, periodicals and gazetteers have been consulted and utilised to supplement the primary sources. A selected bibliography is appended on the end of this study. The sketch maps in this thesis are based mainly on those available in official records which are kept in the Census office, Government of Mizoram.

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