CHAPTER V

COMMODITIES OF TRADE

The exchange of commodities for money or other commodities known in general parlance as barter, can broadly speaking, be called trade.¹ The trade and commerce as it existed during the nineteenth century in the hill states, has been discussed in this chapter.

During this period, it appears at first sight that very little trade and commerce existed in the hill states of Bilaspur, Nalagarh, Keonthal, Baghal, Bhagat, Chamba and Jubbal.² The town of Rampur in Bashahr state seems to have had a flourishing trade. This was, perhaps, due to the fact that this town was located on the trade route to Tibet. The region of Kinnaur in Bashahr state bordering Tibet, also had a flourishing trade. "In Kunawar the people chiefly subsist by trade ...... The prosperity of Bushahr mainly depends upon this trade".³ In the past Kinnaura traders used to

trade not only with nearby Tibet and Ladakh, but they used to visit far off places like central Tibet, Yarkand, Kashmir, Lahore, Delhi, Calcutta, Bhutan, Sikkim and Nepal. James Baillie Fraser remarked about them in 1814 that, "Indeed they are almost exclusively the commercial couriers between Hindustan and Tartary as also been Tartary and Kashmir, frequenting the route from Leh in Ladakh to Lahasa and Dagrucha and Nepal on trading speculations". The prosperity of the people was mainly due to trade.

The town of Rampur and Bashahr had flourishing trade due to the fact that this town was located on the trade route to Tibet. The region of Kinnaur, in Bashahr state, bordering Tibet also had a flourishing trade. Rampur also served as an entrepot. Not only within India and the neighbouring countries did it have trade relations but with China, Russia and Yarkand also. As it is mentioned in the report of 1824.

"A few articles of Russian manufacture find their way to our frontier. The chief are felts, beads, corals, amber, clothes and leather.


Tea from China and bars of silver stamped by authority, from Yarkand, toys from Russia, may occasionally be had at the Rampoor fair, mandarin chopsticks, cups and saucers very costly, silks, satins of very beautiful patterns and texture come also to the same fair.

Gold coins of Belgium and Russia are occasionally seen in the subathoo bazar and the purity of the gold is highly esteemed."°

Woollen cloth, shawls and Pashmina shawls were manufactured in homes and cottage industries. According to Thomas Thomson -

"The Rampur town has a good deal of trade with Tibet, principally in Shawlwool; and is the seat of a small manufacture of white soft shawl cloth." 7

Mandi town in Mandi state was a busy centre for trade with the other hill states. This trade was apparently based upon the considerable surplus produce of the state itself. The immigration from Hoshiarpur was also due to the opening of Una-Mandi Road.°


Secondly Mandi lay upon the trade route between central Asia and the plains. This trade route passed through Sultanpur in Kulu and consequently the town of Sultanpur, too had a brisk trade.9

"Through Kulu and Lahaul all Indian markets have always demanded salt, wool, borax, to say nothing of the more precious merchandise of central Asia. The hungry Tibetians would still risk much to get the wheat of the plains and the incomparable barley of Lahaul."10

Weaving of woollen cloths was also done in Kulu, Lahaul and Spiti and the best Kulu blankets were produced in Seoraj and wazeerirupe. Spiti cloth was superior and was exported. Spiti also had trade with Tibet.11

Kangra had sufficient export trade in tea and rice. The Kangra tea was sold at Amritsar from where it was sent to Kashmir, Afghanistan, and central Asia.12 A considerable trans-frontier trade was carried on between Kangra and Ladakh and Yarkand and a registration station was established at Sultanpur in the Kulu valley. Much business

was also done at the annual religious fairs at Kangra and Jwalamukhi. To encourage trade in 1868 the Government started Palampur fair with a view to fostering trade with Central Asia, but it did not prove favourable and was discontinued in 1879, when it had dwindled merely local gathering.\(^1\)\(^3\) Palampur in Kangra served as a trading centre with central Asia for some time. Palampur also served as an entrepot.\(^1\)\(^4\)

Shimla attracted a stream of trade almost from every part of India as well as outside India. It was an important entrepot.\(^1\)\(^5\) A considerable foreign trade was registered through Shimla According to a report -

"A clerk for the registration of foreign trade with India is posted at Wangtu on the Sutlej, not far from Kotguru. The bulk of the traffic registered is carried on with Chinese Tibet and consist of imports of borax, salt and wool. In 1882-83 the value of imports from Chinese Tibet was Rs.1,77,102; the export trade has always been


\(^1\)\(^5\) Simla District Gazetteer, 1904, P. 83-84.
insignificant; in 1882-83 it was valued at Rs.15,296; the most important articles of export is cotton piece goods. Trade with Yarkand and Ladakh is also registered at this post, but this trade is of insignificant proportions; in 1882-83 it was valued at imports Rs.14,020, exports Rs.9,343.  

The trade and commerce depends upon the availability of surplus commodities after the local needs had been met. Deficit commodities had to be imported in order to meet the needs of the local people. All these factors during our period of study was related to agriculture and the exportation of produce including byproducts, mining and minerals and the industrial output of local cottage.

The living standard of the hill people was not high during the nineteenth century. The inhabitants strived to earn a tolerable livelihood. The agriculture was not very developed and irrigation was possible only in the valleys and in the low lying areas near the khads and streams. Poppy cultivation was carried out in the hills and this yielded considerable quantities of opium, ginger,  

spices etc. were also produced. Medicinal herbs were found in plenty in the higher reaches of the hills. The hill tracts produced enough to meet the local requirements of grain. Submountaneous area exported the little surplus produce. The supply of grain to the hill stations, higher hills and military stations had to be imported from plains. Whatever forest produce was extracted in the form of timber was exported by flowing down the rivers.

The Nahan foundry was in existence during that period and the sugarcane pressing machines and appliance which it made were exported.

Some interesting observations regarding trade and commerce in the region have been made by European travellers and it might be worthwhile to quote them at length. In the words of Fraser:

"The direct commerce of Bischur with other hill states and with the plains is very limited, chiefly consisting of imports of sugar, clothes, small quantities of iron work, brass utensils, little tobacco, musk, bhang, turmeric, which is much esteemed, and the articles which pass through the hills from Bootan. The exports of Bootan and Garha, are, corn to the nearer and barren parts, ghee from Kunawur, iron, opium, tobacco and wooden cups for tea;
and from the plains it becomes a thoroughfare for all the common articles of produce and manufacture as sugar, sugarcandy, clothes both coarse and fine, indigo, etc. The returns are almost entirely wool, both shawl and common, of a fine quality. Salt as much tea as they can afford, with a little fine chinese cloth, some musk borax etc., are brought to exchange for low country commodities at Rampur, Kunawur sends little to Ludhak besides ghee."

Equally interesting are the observations of another traveller, Gerard who passed through the area during 1841

"Almost all the trade is conducted by barter The Koonawurees take to Ludak, Kharwa or strong red cotton clothes., white cotton cloth and chinees of various sorts both coarse and fine, a little broad cloth, a few silks, gongs or large circular metallic instruments struck with a hammer and used by Lamas in their devotions, iron both wrought and unwrought from Nawur and Koot Laha or Bushehur, Tutenang or spelter and lead from Sirmour and Junsan, Copper and brass pots, Matchlocks, Straight swords, Sabres,

Shields, bows and arrows, knives, scissors, spectacles, looking glasses, Sunkhs or sacred shells used by the Hindoos and Lamas in their religious ceremonies, crystals, precious stones, sandal-wood, Porwa or vessels of Juniper-wood made at Soongnum and Ropa, in Koonawur, and much resembling scotch cogs, other skins, called "Oetur", indigo, oil, ghee, or boiled butter, opium, tobacco, rice, wheat, barley, walnuts, apples, raisins almonds, shungtee, or Neoa, the seed of a pine, peculiar to Koonawur and other mountainous districts, where there is no periodical rainy season, and in taste similar to the pistachio nut, cloves, cinnamon, nutmegs, cardammums, Misree, Goorh, Cheenee and Shukur, four different kinds of Sugar, Sheep and goats and Rakh, a spiritous liquor, distilled from the grape in koonawur.

The Koonawurees bring back, Kesur or Saffron, produced chiefly in the hill state of Kooshtwar, N.W. of the river sutlej, coarse shawls manufactured in Ludak, Numdas, or felts, Dochuks, or ingots of silver, soom, a kind of blanket dyed red and blue Theramas, Goodmas, Punkhees and Pushmeenas, four sorts of woollen stuffs, the latter of shawl wool, Bulghar, or Bulkhal or skins of red Russian Leather, Tincal and borax.\textsuperscript{18}

\textsuperscript{18} Alexander Garard, \textit{An Account of Koonawur in the Himalayas}. 1841, pp. 181-82.
"The Koonawurees take to Garoo the same things as Leh, with the exception of goats and sheep, which are abundant in that country."

"In exchange they bring back, much rock salt which is dug out of the lakes, Beangee and shawl wool, the produce of the Tartar sheep and goats, gold dust, tea and borax, Nirbissi or Zedoary, a few shawl goats and Beangee sheep, and large Tartar dogs of a very ferocious breed, which guard their flocks from panthers, leopards and other wild beasts, and are excellent watch dogs for preventing bears from committing ravages amongst the Vineyards." 19

In brief borax, wool, pasham and charas were imported from Tibet and Ladakh and yarkand. Woollen cloth and shawls were exported to British India. The export and import to the plains was through the adjoining sub-mountain towns located in the British territories of Bilaspur, Jagadhri, Ambala and Ropar in Ambala district, Dehraha in Ludhiana district Rahon and Jullundhar in Jullundhar district, Hoshiarpur, Jarjoan in Hoshiarpur district and Shahpur and Pathankot in Gurdaspur district. Grains were exported to Chuharpur in Dehradun district of U.P. from

Sirmuř. The imports of foreign goods, vessels of brass and other metals, silver, gold, etc. was done from or through these places in British territory.

Pathankot as the rail head, was the depot for all trade to and from the hills, including the Kangra District Jammu and the Chamba state, and a very considerable volume of both out-ward and inward traffic passed through here, supplies of all kinds were imported from the troops and civil population of Dalhousie, Balun, Bakloh and Dharmsala, and in the summer especially the road traffic to and from plains was very heavy.  

The main items of trade during the period are discussed under the different heads of imports and exports.

**IMPORTS**

Imports fell under four categories. The first category was commodities imported from outside the region to meet the local requirements. Second were the commodities that were surplus in one part of our area of study which

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were imported by another part within the area in order to meet the requirements. The third category was that of articles imported for consumption by troops stationed in the area. Lastly, goods imported from outside i.e., from foreign countries and British territories and re-exported either entirely or in part, after meeting the local requirements. An attempt is made in the following passage to elaborate upon the main commodities imported.

CLOTH:

Cloth was the basic necessity of the people which was imported from different parts of the plains. Cloth was imported to Bilaspur from Ropar and Anandpur\(^{21}\). From Kalka, Ropar and Ludhiana it was imported to Nalagarh\(^{22}\). In Baghat state cloth came from Kalka and Ropar\(^{23}\). Jubbal imported cloth from Ropar and Rahon\(^{24}\). While Sirmur imported it from Jagadhri and Bilaspur (in Ambala)\(^{25}\). In Mandi cloth reached from Hoshiarpur\(^{26}\) and in Chamba it was brought from Shahpur and Pathankot by the traders\(^{27}\). Country cotton

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cloth was mostly imported in Kangra from Jullundhar District\textsuperscript{28}. Khaddar was also imported to Kangra hills from Batala. There were 150 looms at Batala and at one time much Khaddar was exported to Kangra hills\textsuperscript{29}.

**METALS AND METALLIC ARTICLES:**

The requirements of these articles like brass vessels and other, was met from Ropar and Anandpur\textsuperscript{30}. These articles reached Baghel state from Kalka and Ropar\textsuperscript{31}. The chief articles imported from Delhi, Amritsar and Jullundhar to Mandi State were English made piece goods, household vessels of brass, copper and other metals. Gold and Silver were also imported to Mandi from Amritsar and Hoshiarpur market\textsuperscript{32}. Iron articles from the plains were also exchanged at the Rampur fair for woollens, Opium and iron Ore\textsuperscript{33}. The chief local centre of trade in Sirmour was the town of Nahan where metal and other utensils were imported from the plains\textsuperscript{34}. Major Coldstream writes - "there is a good deal

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{Punjab District Gazetteer, Gurdaspur District}, 1914, P. 130.
  \item Simla Hill States Gazetteer, (Bilaspur State), 1910, P. 18.
  \item Ibid (Baghal State), 1910, P. 11.
  \item Maj ARCHER, Tours of Upper India, and in Part of the mountains with account of the courts of the Native Princes, Vol. I, 1833, P. 254.
  \item Report on the administration of the Sirmur State, 1943-44, P. 5.
\end{itemize}
of iron smelting carried in the Parganals of Kotkhai Metal working generally is rude and elementary. Small brass idols, which resemble Polynesion figures, are found in the temple and are said to be of local make, though I have been unable to trace them to their founder. A curious brass pan and ink case, contrived to be thrust in the girdle like a bagger, is occasionally seen, but most of the brass in use is brought up from the plains.*

SALT:

Salt was another important commodity which was imported through the plains. Mandi salt met the requirements of the adjoining areas of British territory to some extent. However, the other parts of the hills imported Kheora salt from the plains through Ropar, Kalka, Jullundhar, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Pathankot, Shahpur, Jagadhri and Bilaspur (Ambala). Even in Mandi territory Kheora salt was imported which amounted to about 5000 mounds annually. It was carried by thousands of mules on their way from Hoshiarpur to Yarkand and Ladakh which passed through

the town of Mandi\textsuperscript{38}. The salt from the plains was also imported to Sirmur State\textsuperscript{39}. The salt usually consumed in Kullu was that of the Mandi mines. Mostly the people preferred to carry it on their backs from the mines because it was the cheapest way of obtaining it. Sometimes it was purchased by Labanas who used to carry it to Ėuli laden on pack bullocks.

**TOBACCO**:  
The commodity was grown in the Kulu area as a Kharif crop. It was mainly grown for home consumption but in some places for the market as well. Being a lucrative crop; the Sarajis were not able to grow enough for themselves, and had to import from upper Kulu\textsuperscript{40}. The main Purchases were from Kulu Seoraj and Mandi Zamindars. Tobacco was also liked by the Europeans, but was not a first class article, through this may probably arise from imperfect curing, as the dry leaf has a very mild and pleasant perfume\textsuperscript{41}. Due to insufficiency of the quantity

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{38.} Punjab State Gazetteer, Mandi Suket, 1904, Vol. XII-A, P. 55.
  \item \textbf{39.} Report on the administratın of Sirmur State, 1943-45, P. 5.
  \item \textbf{40.} Gazetteer of the Kşngra District, Kullu, Lahaul and Spiti, Part II to IV, 1879, reprint 1994, p. 99.
  \item \textbf{41.} A.F.P. Harcourt, The Himalayan Districts of, 1870 P. 53.
\end{itemize}
Tobacco was imported from Kalka and Ropar to Baghal State\textsuperscript{42}. In Kangra it was imported from Jullundhar, Amritsar and Pathankot\textsuperscript{43}. Tobacco was also carried by traders from Hoshiarpur to Mandi while going to Yarkand\textsuperscript{44}. In the fair at Rampur it was sold by the traders from the plains\textsuperscript{45}. Tobacco was also imported from the plains at the local trade centre Nahan of Sirmur State\textsuperscript{46}.

\textbf{FOOD GRAIN :}

The food grain was imported by some parts of hill states from the plains. Food grains were imported to Shimla from Karnal, Ambala, Hoshiarpur and Jullundhar\textsuperscript{47}. Kangra imported grain from Jullundhar, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur and Pathankot\textsuperscript{48}. Grain was also imported to Nahan from Bilaspur and Jagadhri in Ambala District\textsuperscript{49}.

\begin{itemize}
  \item[42.] Simla Hill State Gazetteer, (Baghal State), 1910, P.11.
  \item[43.] Kangra District Gazetteer, 1924-25, p. 333.
  \item[44.] Punjab State Gazetteer, Mandi Suket, 1904, Vol. XII-A, P. 55.
  \item[45.] Maj Archer, Tours in Upper India, 1833, Vol. I, P. 229.
  \item[46.] Report on the administration of Sirmur State, 1943-44, P.5.
  \item[47.] Simla District Gazetteer, 1904. P. 83.
  \item[48.] Kangra District Gazetteer, 1924-25, P.333.
  \item[49.] Sirmur State Gazetteer, 1904, P.80.
\end{itemize}
CATTLE:

The requirement of cattle and sheep (meat) in Simla were met from Ambala and also from Meerut and Bulandshahr of the United Provinces. From Simla it was supplied to the adjoining area

Camels from Lahore and Montgomery were imported to the hills. Cattle from Sutlej & Lahore were imported to the hill states.

JEWELLERY:

The precious metals like gold and silver for the manufacture of ornaments and jewellery articles were imported from the plains, mostly from Amritsar to Chamba.

The goldsmiths of Mandi also imported these metals for making jewellery.

50. Simla District Gazetteer, 1904, P. 84.
There were goods that were exchanged by different parts of the region internally. Kumarsain Procured sheep and goats from Kulu and wool from Beshahr. Kulu supplied rice, wheat, barley and Pattu cloth to Beshahr. Spiti supplied salt, Pattu and ponies to Beshahr. Tea, tobacco and iron were imported from Kulu to Beshahr. In exchange Kulu imported from Beshahr items such as wooden pots, vessels and iron⁵⁴. Kangra and Rihlu procured black salt from Mandi⁵⁵. The requirements of a large population of Simla town in respect of deodar, pine, walnuts, boxwood, fine wood and charcoal were met from the surrounding hills and of other articles from almost every part of British India⁵⁶. Indian piece-goods, cloth, cotton manufactured articles of common use, oil, sugar, leather, spices, kerosene oil were imported from the British territories of India through plains for local consumption of the hill states⁵⁷.

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The articles exported from the region under study fall under different categories. The first category includes commodities exported from the region to the plains. Secondly, there were commodities that were exported within the region. Lastly there were articles which were imported but re-exported once again after meeting the local requirements. The exports of these articles during the eighteenth and nineteenth century in Himachal Pradesh is sought to be dealt with in this section.

TEA :

Tea was exported from Kulu, Mandi and Kangra. The Kangra tea captured foreign markets and it to ousted China tea entirely from the United Kingdom\textsuperscript{58}. A note showing the changes that affected the tea industry since 1892 was prepared by Mr.F. Ballard, Chairman of the Kangra valley planters Association. He noted –

\textit{Kangra District Gazetteer, 1904, pp. 124-25.}
During the period under review three or four European gardens have been sold to natives. The cause to which this is attributable have affected the industry generally and are due to the output in India having risen from 124 to 175 million pounds and in Ceylon from 72 to 150 million with the result that inspite of increased consumption the stocks of both kinds in all the markets of the world have increased by thirty percent. Well known causes have led to this state of affairs, suitable land was obtainable at a moderate price, labour was plentiful in other districts and the depreciation of silver with its concomitant drop in the exchange value of the rupee to about 50 percent of its nominal value so reduced the cost of production that the margin of profit was sufficiently great to attract almost universal attention, without a thought, the future extensions were pushed forward to a degree unwarranted by the situation 107,000 acres in India and 80,000 in Ceylon were planted in the five years preceding 1900; land was rushed up in price and much of doubtful value brought into cultivation; all available leaf was plucked and stimulents used to force the natural yield, already bounteous owing to favourable season gardens in private hands were turned over to companies at inflated price and the stability and prosperity of the industry were never called into question. Hailed at the time as a blessing events have proved that the large profits made were well
high disastrous. The usual results of excess in supply followed; price steadily fell and to add to the difficulty of profitable cultivation the rupee gradually depreciated in value until in 1899 it was artificially raised to a fixity of 1s. 4d. To meet all this expenses at to be curtailed, the poorer lands no longer paid for cultivation and profits were reduced, and in many cases heavy losses were sustained. More than this, and most important of all, the price of tea to the consumer was lowered to a range without precedent. This low range of price has not been without its advantages and may be said to have served its days, it has checked expansion, it has helped to oust China tea almost entirely from the United Kingdom, and to a great and increasing extent from the other markets of the world.\footnote{Kangra District Gazetteer, 1904, pp. 124-125.}"

"Reasonable facilities exist for the transport of tea's exported from the district cancels and carts, though rather scarce, are procurable at most seasons, and on these teas for export and for the European markets are conveyed to the plains, the nearest railway station being Jullundhar, a distance of about 110 miles from the centre of the plantations. Native traders, who generally purchase the
coarser teas, black and green, make their purchases at the factories, and bring their own carriage—usually mules, ponies and coolies; and these teas, as a rule, not being packed in lead and wooden cases, but in coarse bags, those description of carriage are found suitable.

Four markets were available for the sale of Kangra tea. The home or London Market, the local European market, the local native market, and the central Asian Market. There was also the prospect of another Market for Indian teas in Russia. At the time this report was written the Kangra teas were but little known in the London market, they were received in small quantities. Maj. Paske writes about the large scale supply of Kangra tea to Amritsar and from there to Central Asia and other parts of world. He writes—

"Amritsar is the great mark for the supply of teas, alike for the native markets throughout upper India and for the Central Asian market. Native merchants from Amritsar and one or two from Nurpur also are very regular in visiting all the plantations in the valley at certain seasons of the year, and in purchasing very large supplies of the coarser black teas an the green teas, the latter for central Asian Market."

He further writes—"It is as a rule, the Amritsar merchants who secure all the teas that go from Kangra valley to the countries of Central Asia. Amritsar is most favourably situated in regard to its export trade with countries to the North. It commands every route alike, that via Jammu and Kashmir to Ladakh and the Eastern Provinces of Central Asia as well as the route via Peshawar through Kabul to the great mart of Herat, Khiva, Bokhara, Samarkand. It also commands the Indus valley route. Its exports supply the Sindh merchants, who trade via the Bolan pass with Kohat and Herat; and Indian teas are carried from Amritsar to Karachi to meet the vast trade of Biluchistan and of ports in the Persian Gulf. The universal custom of tea-drinking that prevails among all classes of inhabitants in countries north of British India and in the provinces of Central Asia, creates an increasing demand for Indian teas, and the valley planters are in the best position to meet this demand. Black tea from Palampur was exported to Amritsar."

There was very little land in the Kulu valley which was well suited for the cultivation of tea. The tea was grown at Bajoura, Shumshee, Rusum, Gourdour and Naggur.

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in Kulu. In 1863 the Kulū tea secured the first prize for the best black tea in India in the Lahore exhibition. None of the Kulu tea was disposed off to shopkeepers or dealers, but the major portion was consumed in other parts of India. Some quantity of tea from Mandi was exported to the plains of British India. This shows that tea was an important article of export from hill states.

OPIUM:

Poppy cultivation was prevalent in Kulū and some of the other hill states. Besides seeds and oil from the poppy crop, opium was extracted. The purchasers of Kulu opium were mostly the shopkeepers from Sultanpur or Mandi. The traders from Hoshiarpur and Jullundhar purchased opium from Kulu on a large scale for sale in the plains. Though trade was important in keonthal state, a few things were exported from there in which some quantity of opium was also included, which was send to the plains. Baghal state was also involved in exporting opium to the plains. Opium from there was exported to Kalka and Ropar. The Muhammadan

68. *Ibid, (Baghal State)*, p. 11.
merchants from Ropar and Rohan in Jullundhar District and traders of Pehowa in Ambala District took the opium produce from Jubbal to the plains especially in large quantity to Phul Maharaj in Nabha state. It was also mentioned in the excise Drug Supply report that a major portion of the raw opium produce from Jubbal state was exported to Bilaspur state. Around one maund and 10 seers of raw opium for Rs.168/- per seer was exported to Bushahr state. Almost all the opium produce from Sirmur state was exported to Patiala. Nabha, the neighbouring hill states and surrounding British Districts very little was consumed locally. The Pajhota ilaqa of tahsil Pachhad of Sirmour was famous for the fine quality of opium. Opium trade was also popular in Bushahr state. The best opium was obtained in that portion of the mountains situated to the north and east of the Simla range. Demand for this articles from the Sikh states was very extensive. The opium was of so pure a quality that the Sanyasee merchants came every year from the Western districts in the Punjab to make their purchases of opium in Bushahr. Regarding the opium

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exports from the hill states C. Elliott, agent, Governor General to Swinton, Secretary to the Government in the political Department, Fort William, dated Delhi 16 July, 1824 mentions that - "As the collectors in the Western provinces are furnished with opium for sale from Behar and Banaras and as it appears to be the wish of the Government to obtain an increased quantity of this drug, perhaps no objection would arise to our receiving the tribute from the hill states in opium, which might be delivered to Murray at Ambala and by him forwarded to the collector of Saharanpoor for circulation to other collectors as required by them; but on this point, Government will no doubt wish to consult the Board of Customs."
and rice was chiefly taken over by foreign traders. From Nalagarh the surplus grain was exported to Ropar and Kalka.

Kangra, Kulu, Dun in Sirmur, and Bhattiyat in Chamba produced rice in excess of local requirements. Rice was the staple produce of the upper Kangra valley. Begami, Basmati, Jhinwa and Nakanda etc. were the different kinds which were exported on a large scale from Kangra. A rough estimate of the export was framed from the Famine Report of 1879, and it was stated that a lakh of maunds of rice was exported annually. Rice from Kangra was largely exported to Jullundhar, Amritsar, Lahour, Sialkot, Multan, Rawalpindi and other towns. The usual mode of conveyance was by camels, mules or bullocks, which used to bring up loads from the plains to exchange with rice. The rice produce of Kulu was either disposed off to the shopkeepers or consumed by the Kulu people. Harcourt observed that, "The Lahoulees are the great purchasers of and perhaps half of the entire quantity was taken over by them during their winter stay in Kulu. Only Bhatiyat in Chamba exported rice to the

plains\textsuperscript{80}. Sirmur also exported some quantity of rice to the plains. Dun in Sirmur state exported \textit{basmati} rice to some of the other hill states and to the plains\textsuperscript{81}. In Mandi \textit{rora} was a coarse red rice used for making \textit{chathi} and \textit{Sur}, the local beers, and grown only on \textit{barani} land. After meeting the local needs it was exported to Kangra, Kulu and Hoshiarpur\textsuperscript{82}. Some grain from here was also exported to Shimla Hill States, especially Bashahr. As a whole Mandi was a large exporter of agricultural produce, and found a ready market at remunerative prices\textsuperscript{83}. About 1/5th of grain produce was exported from Hamirpur to the plains\textsuperscript{84}.

\textbf{GINGER}:

The excess quantity of ginger was exported from the hill states to the plains. Ginger was exported from Sirmour. It was the chief agricultural produce of Sirmur. The farmers carried their dried ginger down to Dadahu. From

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{Chamba State Gazetteer}, 1904, P. 243. The \textit{Imperial Gazetteer of India}, W.W. Hunter, Vol. III, 1885, P. 329.\textsuperscript{80}
\item \textit{Sirmur State Gazetteer}, 1904, P. 80. Report on Administration of the Sirmur for 1943-44, p. 5.\textsuperscript{81}
\item \textit{Punjab State Gazetteer, Mandi State}, 1920, Lahour, Vil. XII-A, P. 137.\textsuperscript{82}
\item \textit{Punjab Gazetteer, (Mandi State)}, 1920, Lahour, Vol. XII-A, P. 146.\textsuperscript{83}
\item \textit{The Imperial Gazetteer of India}, Vol. III, 1881, p. 552.\textsuperscript{84}
\end{itemize}
here it was sold at Nahan, Ambala, Amritsar, Bilaspur in
Ambala District and Delhi. The finest ginger obtained
from Bushahr was exported to the Sikh States. From
Bilaspur state ginger was exported to Adampur and Ropar. The
ginger produce of Keonthal was taken over by the Sud
traders of Kangra and was exported to the plains. Beghal
exported its surplus produce of ginger to Kalka and Ropar.

POTATOES:

Chamba produced potatoes on a large scale. From
Chamba it was exported to the plains through the town of
Shahpur in Gurdaspur district. The staple articles of the
export trade of Kangra included potatoes. From Kangra it
was largely exported to Jullundhar, Amritsar, Lahore,
Hoshiarpur, Rawalpindi and some other towns. Lyall
remarks: "The cultivation of the potatoes in the villages on

86. Report on Lapsed and Reserved territory in the
protected Sikh and hill States and on the Later
87. Simla Hill State Gazetteer, (Bilaspur State),
1910, p. 18.
88. Ibid (Keonthal State), p. 10.
89. Simla Hill State Gazetteer, 1910, p. 10.
the slopes of the Dhola Dhar has much increased since Mr. Barnes wrote, and it can no longer be said that the potatoes they rear are very small and poor. I have nowhere found larger or better ones than grown in the small level places where the flocks are penned for the night (goths), in the hanging forests or grassy slopes of the Dhola Dhar, at elevations of from 7,000 to 11,000 feet. The introduction of the potato has, in fact, given a greatly increased value, not only to these goths, but also to all culturable land above 5,000 feet elevation. The fields round the Gaddi peasants houses, which formerly produced at the best only maize, wheat or barley. The Gaddis express this by saying 'The potato has become our sugarcane. It is becoming more appreciated by the natives as an article of food, but the consumption is restricted by the high price which it fetches in the European cantonements. A large part of the crop is exported every year to the plains.

The Keonthal and Mandi states produced a large quantity of potatoes and a considerable part of this was sent down to the plains. In Mandi, too, potato was an important article. They were grown on the high lands of the Ghoghar-Ki-Dhar near Jhatingri but were rather small though they were excellent for eating. Practically the whole out

92. *Gazetteer of Kangra District*, Part I (Kangra), 1883-84, P. 159.
turn was sold to the traders from Kangra, Hoshiarpur and Pathankot, who came every year with their mules and ponies and bought as much as they could get. Keonthal exported some quantity of potatoes to some parts of the plains. Baghal exported its surplus produce of potatoes to Kalka and Ropar.

**GHI:**

The produce of Ghi was exported from Bilaspur. It seems that Ghi was produced in abundance in Bilaspur. From Bilaspur it was exported to Anandpur and Ropar. Baghal state appears to be another area of sufficient Ghi production and it is known to have exported it to Kalka and Ropar. Among the other areas producing surplus Ghi were Kulu, Kangra, Bashahr, Chamba and Mandi states. From Kulu Ghi was exported in considerable quantity towards the plains and also to the Shimla hill states. At Rampur Bashahr it was exchanged for its own weight of Tibetan wool.

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96. *Shimla Hill States, (Bilaspur State)*, 1910, p. 11.
97. *Simla Hill State Gazetteer - (Baghal State)*, 1910, p. 11.
wilder parts of Kangra it was exported to Jullundhar and Hoshiarpur. Ghi was an export article from Mandi; though of a small bulk. Buffaloes were kept principally by Gujars and their milk was used to make ghi which was exported to Simla and the Kangra District. In rough hot weather, Gujars carried on ghi trade in Chamba. Some villagers of Chamba carried ghi to Shahpur in Gurdaspur district. It was also exported from Brahmaur in Chamba State. From the Bashahr state the surplus quantity of ghi was exported to the plains.

HONEY:

Agriculture in these days was very imperfectly understood. Most zamindar had a hive or two of bees, from which they took honey. The zamindar of Mandi carried their honey to the plains. Kulu honey which was extremely palatable, was exported to some extent to the plains, almost every house having its hives, the out turn from which was generally considerable. Honey was also taken from hives

100. Punjab State Gazetteer, Mandi Suket, 1904, p. 47.
in June but was then dark coloured and bitter and generally was consumed by the peasants themselves. For honey the merchants from the plains usually came to the peasants doors\textsuperscript{105}. Chamba exported its honey produce to Shahpur in Gurdaspur District. Brahmapur in Chamba state exported some quantity of honey to the plains\textsuperscript{106}. From Kangra honey was also exported in large quantities, however the export trade of honey in Kangra was insignificant\textsuperscript{107}. Bashahr\textsuperscript{108} and Sirmur\textsuperscript{109} also exported a considerable quantity of honey.

**TIMBER:**

Extensive range of richly wooded forest existed throughout Kulu. The produce of deodar was floated down the Beas river to the depots in the plains\textsuperscript{110}. The note by Colonel Stenhouse gives a clear picture of timber export from Kulu -

\textsuperscript{105} Gazetteer of Kangra District, Kulu, Lahaul and Spiti, Part II to IV, 1897, P. 97.
\textsuperscript{106} Chamba State Gazetteer, 1904, P. 243.
\textsuperscript{107} Kangra District Gazetteer, 1924-25, P. 333.
\textsuperscript{108} Simla Hill State Gazetteer, 1910, P. 61.
\textsuperscript{109} Sirmur State Gazetteer, 1904, P. 80.
\textsuperscript{110} Gazetteer of the Kamgra District Kulu, Lahaul, and Spiti, Part II to IV, 1897, P. 90.
"Deodar timber is the chief article of export from the Kulu forests. It is brought out of the more accessible forests in the form of logs and from those more remote in the shape of sawn timber such as broad or narrow gange sleepers or other scantlings. The logs are conveyed by slides and launched at the commencement of the rains in the Beas or its tributaries. The sawn pieces are carried by coolies to the nearest floating stream and launched at the end of the rains to avoid loss by floods. Logs and scantlings are collected at Nadaun and other catchling depot, whence they are rafted to the Wazir Bhular sale depot."

The timber produce of the upper Ravi forest of Chamba State extracted in the form of sleepers and sawn scantlings was floated down in the Ravi river to Shahpur in Gurdaspur district. A certain number of sleepers were sent to Pathankot and there handed over to the North-Western Railway and the rest were sent to Lahore in British territory. The timber of Pangi valley of Chamba state in the form of logs, was floated down in Chenab river to Aknur where the logs were caught, tied into rafts and rafted down to Wazerabad in British Punjab.

111. Chamba State Gazetteer, 1904, p. 233-34.
The timber was mostly extracted in the form of swan scantlings and sleepers. Timber was carried to the nearest floating stream and then launched and worked down to the main river. Mandi possessed the most suitable floating streams which considerably reduced the cost of extraction. Timber launched in the Beas from Mandi was collected at Dera Gopipur in Kangra and then rafted to the railway at Wazir Bhullar. On the Sutlej timber was rafted from Nagal, from where it proceeded through Ropar and then by the Sirhind Canal to the sale depot of Doreha\textsuperscript{113}.

The Bashahr produce was floated down the Sutlej to Ropar and from there through the Sirhind Canal to Doraha in British territory. The timber logs which were not caught at Ropar were then caught at Phillour in Jullundhar district\textsuperscript{114}. Jubbal was also exported timber mostly in shape of sleepers which were floated down to Jagadhri\textsuperscript{115}. Sirmur also exported Timber through Yamuna river to Ambala District\textsuperscript{116}. Beside timber surplus chil, Sal and Sain were transported through in neighbouring hill states to Abdullah Pur Depot\textsuperscript{117}.

\textsuperscript{113.} \textit{Punjab State Gazetteer, Mandi State}, 1920, P. 155.
\textsuperscript{114.} \textit{Simla Hill States (Bashahr State)}, 1910, P. 64.
\textsuperscript{115.} \textit{Ibid}, (Jubbal State), 1910, P. 20.
\textsuperscript{116.} \textit{Sirmour State Gazetteer}, 1904, P. 80.
\textsuperscript{117.} \textit{Ibid}, Part-A, 1934, Lahore, P. 81.
CHOWRIES:
Yak tails of a fine silky wool are termed as chowries. These chowries were waved as a custom in viceregal durbars over the representatives of the British Empire in the East. The hill Rajas also used them on occasions of ceremony. These Yak tails were exported from Spiti¹¹⁸ and Bashahr¹¹⁹ to the plains.

HOPS:
It was produced in the Pangi area of Chamba state. The article was used in the production of beer and was exported to Murree Brewery¹²⁰.

BEAR:
In Baghal state there was brewing industry which was not indigenous. Messrs Dyer and Co. had a brewery between Solan and Slogra, and Messrs Meakin and Co. another one close to kasauli in the Baghat territory. From their beer was exported to the plains¹²¹. Simla also exported some quantity of beer and spirit to the plains¹²².

¹¹⁹ Simla Hill State Gazetteer (Bashahr State), 1910, P. 61.
¹²¹ Simla Hill State Gazetteer (Baghat State), 1910, P. 243.
¹²² Chamba State Gazetteer, 1904, P. 243.
MACHINES AND APPLIANCES:

Nahan foundry was established in 1924. It was one of the largest Iron Foundry in Northern India. It had agencies in Punjab and U.P.

The foundry mainly manufactured sugarcane crushing machines of a very high standard which was very popular throughout Northern India. Beside this, it manufactured lathes, planing machines, fans vices, chaffcutters, angithee etc. It carried on an extensive business in sugarcane crushing machines inside as well as outside the state.¹²³

MEDICINAL HERBS:

Violets, musk and medicinal herbs were exported to different parts of the plains from the hill states. Baghal state exported violets to Kalka and Ropar.¹²⁴ Some quantity of these medicinal herbs were also exported from Bashahr. Bashahr state exported violets Mohra and Karru to the plains. These articles were sold in Rampur during the annual fairs.¹²⁵ Mandi also exported to the plains violets,

¹²⁵ Ibid, (Bashahr State), 1910, P. 61.
musk, medicinal herbs of which *rasaunta* concentration of the root of the barberry was the most profitable\(^\text{126}\). Chamba and Sirmur also exported these medicinal herbs. From Chamba thick, Bajar Bhang, Kaur, violets, musk and other such medicinal herbs were exported\(^\text{127}\). Sirmur exported a surplus quantity of *harar*\(^\text{128}\).

**POMEGRANATE SEEDS:**

Pomegranate seeds were exported in large quantity. The produce of it in Sirmour state was in excess of the local demands. After meeting the local requirements, the dry pomegranate seeds were exported to the plains\(^\text{129}\). Bhagal also exported a good quantity of them to the plains\(^\text{130}\).

**TURMERIC:**

Another article which was largely exported from the hills to the plains was turmeric. The *Zamindars* of Sirmour who exported a large quantity of turmeric generally carried it themselves to Bilaspur of Jagadhri in Ambala

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District. In Bilaspur state also the produce of turmeric was quite good and was taken over by the traders from the plains. After meeting the local requirements, Keonthal too exported some quantity of it.

WOOLLEN ARTICLES:

Wool, woollen clothes, blankets, Pasham; its shawls, carpets, gudmas, Pattus and thobi etc. were the different woollen articles which were exported from different parts of the hill states to the plains.

This wool trade was very much popular in hill states like Rampur Bashahr, Kangra, Mandi, Chamba, Kulu, Lahaul and Spiti etc. To encourage this trade in 1820 a government agency was established at Kotguru. Its main purpose was to encourage the export of shawl-wool to the British territories. In exchange small quantities of copper, steel and woollen goods were bartered. This project, however, did not succeed, principally because of the unwillingness of the hill men to bring their goods so far. They preferred to trade with the people of the higher tracts. So after a few years the attempt was abandoned.

133. Ibid, (Keonthal State), 1910, P. 10.
Woollen *pattus* were made in all parts of Chamba state. Pangí produced these *pattus* along with *thobis*, in a small quantity and exported them with other articles like *Zira, Kuth, Thangi, Tilla* etc. to the plains via Shahpur\textsuperscript{135}.

In Kangra wool, *pattus* blankets, *pasham* cloth and shawls were exported to the plains. This trade passed for the most part, through the towns of Palampur, Jwalamukhi, Nurpur and Triloknath. Blankets and *pattus* were hand made, *pashmina* shawls and cloth was exported from Nurpur and Triloknath. Coarse woollen cloth (*Pattus*) and blankets woven by Gaddi herdsmen found ready sale in the town of the plains to which they were exported\textsuperscript{136}.

A considerable variety of woollen articles were also exported from Kulu, Lahaul and Spiti. The Kulu people made large quantities of *pattus* and blankets which they exported later in the year down country. Blankets came for Seoraj and Wazeeri Rupí. Kulu also exported wool and *Pasham*\textsuperscript{137}. Lahaul and Spiti also exported wool, *Pasham* and cloth. The Spiti region obtained wool from the people\textsuperscript{138}.

\begin{itemize}
\item[135.] *Chamba State Gazetteer, 1904*, P. 243.
\item[136.] *Gazetteer of Kangra District*, Part I, 1883-84, P.193.
\item[138.] *Ibid*, P. 74-76.
\end{itemize}
The capital, Rampur, was famous for its wool trade. The well known Rampuri Chadars of commerce have their origin in this town. The inhabitants were very industrious and manufactured coarse shawls and other woollens. It was from this town that considerable part of the shawl-wool (Pasham) was send into British India. Besides Pasham the commoner kind of wool was also brought in large quantity to Rampur for export to British territory. First wool from different hill areas was imported to Rampur and then was exported to different places. A small quantity was also exported from Mandi Articles like Blankets and Pattus were sold at the religious fairs.

FRUITS:

Fruits were found in excess in the Hill states. There was a large export trade of fruits of every kind from Chamba during the various seasons both to the plains and the hills. Chamba exported walnuts, apples, peas, hazelnuts, Chilcoza and Sukri (dried apricot) to the plains. There

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140. Gazetteer of Simla District, 1888-89, P. 72-73.
was an excess production of fruits in Bashahr state. With many other articles Bashahr also exported fruits to plains. *Neoza* apricots and grapes were exported. These articles were brought into Rampur by the local traders of Bashahr and sold there at the annual fairs of the Loi, Dhal and Loi Teth\(^{143}\). Sirmoor state after meeting the local requirements exported its produce of walnuts to the plains\(^{144}\).

**HAWKS:**

In Kulu Hindu traders, called *Papralas*, came from Ambala and Patiala to purchase hawks which they taught and then sold at a profit in the plains. The hawk-catchers were paid highly as much as Rs.60 for a young bird, the older ones were, of course, less valuable\(^{145}\). Hawks were also exported from Mandi state to the plains\(^{146}\).

**SHEEPS AND GOATS:**

Trade in live stocks from Mandi with Shimla was done on a large scale. Most of the transaction was done during the Nalwari cattle fair. Goats were kept for sale to

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143. Simla Hill States Gazetteer, (Bashahr State), 1910, P. 61.
144. Sirmour State Gazetteer, 1904, P. 80.
145. Gazetteer of the Kangra District, Kulu Lahaul and Spiti, Part II, to IV, 1897, P. 99.
146. Punjab State Gazetteer, Mandi Suket, 1904, P. 54.
butchers and also for their hair for weaving blankets\textsuperscript{147}. Sheeps from Kulu were sold by Gaddi and Koti shephards to the butchers from Simla\textsuperscript{148}.

**SALT:**

Salt was another important commodity which was exported from Mandi to British territory. A report was submitted by Lepel. H. Griffin in 1873 which gives detailed information regarding Mandi salt mines - "The salt mines are situated at Gumah and excavation as in Europe would be called mines, the salt being dug out of the face of a cliff, which is about 5400 feet in devotion is difficult and steep but a new road has been lately constructed, which renders it far more approachable. At Gumah the salt is dug out from a gorge some 500 feet below the village, to which it is carried to be weighed and sold. Dirang is at the foot of the same range, about twenty miles nearer Mandi, and only four miles from the Beas. The mines are given to the contractors. This salt is however, almost exclusively used in the higher hills as far so Lahoul, that of Gumah finds


\textsuperscript{148}., *Gazetteer of the Kangra District, Kulu, Lahaul and Spiti*, Part II to IV, 1897, P. 96.
its way west ward into British territory as far as Nurpur and Pathankot, and that of Dirang to Nadawn, Bilaspur and ever Ludhiana.  

Salt from Mandi was exported to Gurdaspur, Dinanagar, Nadaun, Una, Palampur, Hamirpur, Kulu states, Bilaspur and Bashahr. A large quantity was exported to the native states and British territory. Thus, Mandi salt was in great demand.

IRON:

Iron was another commodity which was exported from Himachal Pradesh. Iron was found at Sunor, Budar, Natchni, Suraj and Chauri. The quality of Mandi Iron was very high and axes, frying pans and griddles had a great reputation for durability and resisting properties, which was exported to the plains. Speaking about the iron mines Vigne has recorded his impressions as follows, "The iron mines of


Mandi are said to be very rich. They are to be reached by ascending, for about twelve miles, the bank of the Beyas (Bias). I did not visit them but the Raja produced specimens of the ore, and presented them to me. The greater portion of there were of the kind of ore known by the name of glarz (sparking) iron, and which is found abundently".  

Iron was also found in the Kangra valley. In Kangra it was exported from the village Bir in Kangra District. It was about 30 miles from Kangra. Indicating the existence of iron ore in Kangra, Moorcroft has recorded that, "The natural products of Kotoch (Kangra) are not many, Iron has been found, but the ore has not been wrought".

**OTHER EXPORT ARTICLES**

Beside the articles of export already mentioned Chamba exported Suil, Phullan, Khashkhas, Dhanya, bee wax, Narian, soapnuts and dhup. Chamba exported these articles


153. *Foreign Department, 1853, 115/116* (Delhi Archives).

through shahpur and Pathankot. Mandi state also exported some quantity of soapnuts, rasaunt, millets, walnut, tree bark and deodar turpentine to the plains.

INTERNAL EXPORTS:

Kumarsain state had a surplus produce of gram which was exported to Shimla and Bashahr. Mandi had many surplus articles which were, after meeting the local requirements, exported to the plains as well as the adjoining hill states. Mandi exported its produce of gram and salt to Kangra and other neighbouring hill states. Sirmur also exported a few things to Baghal, Jubbal, Kulu and Mandi. Its produce of grain found its way to Baghal state, Jubbal and other hill states, which was found there in surplus quantity. Wheat, rice and tobacco which were cultivated in Kulu and were in surplus were exported to Lahaul and Spiti. The opium produce of Kulu found its way to Mandi state. From Spiti grain was exported to Bashahr state. Another important article which was exported from Kulu was wool to Bashahr state.

157. Simla Hill State Gazetteer (Kumarsain), 1914, P. 17.
159. Sirmour State Gazetteer, 1904, P. 80.
FOREIGN TRADE:

Trade could hardly have remained to the Himachal hill states and the other Indian territories. It was also carried on between the hill states and Tibet, Yarkand, China, Russia and Central Asia. According to the following report 161. "A clerk for the registration of foreign trade with India is posted at Wangtu on the Sutlej, not far from Kotgurh. The bulk of the traffic registered is carried on with Chinese Tibet, and consists chiefly of imports of borax, ponies, sheep and goats, salt and wool. In 1902-03 the value of imports from Chinese Tibet was Rs 2,02,276 as compared with Rs 1,77,102 in 1882-83. The exports trade always been insignificant, in 1902-03 it was valued at Rs 39,972 as compared with Rs 15,296 in 1882-83, the most important article of export is cotton piece goods. Trade with Ladakh is also registered at this post, but this trade is of insignificant proportion, in 1902-03 it was valued at imports Rs 1,400, exports Rs-981. The trade with Yarkand also registered at Wangtu, had in 1902-03 altogether disappeared owing to the prohibition by the Kashmir Durbar of the export of Charas into Simla." Many important things were imported and exported from these places to and from the hill states. Even the British took keen interest in

promoting the foreign trade. With this objective in mind the Govt in 1868 stated the fair at Palampur to foster the trade with Central Asia. The fair was held till 1879.\textsuperscript{162}

The Russian traders who were known as ' Oroos' merchants carried on trade with Ladakhies via Yarkand. A few articles like felt, beads, corals, amber, cloth and leather were imported from Russia. Russian toys and other foreign articles were found at Rampur fair. Mandarin Chopsticks cups and saucers were seen in Kinnaur. Gold coins of Belgium and Russia were occasionally seen in the subathu bazar and the purity of the gold was highly esteemed.\textsuperscript{163}

The trade with Tibet almost entirely was carried on by Kinnauries, whose homes were situated between oracher and the Tibetan border. Some of them were men of considerable wealth and whatever money they had in their homes they took into Tibet for trading purpose.\textsuperscript{164} According to S.H. Davies.

\textsuperscript{162.} Gazetteer of the Kangra District, Part I, 1883-84, P. 194.
\textsuperscript{163.} Capt. C.P. Kennedy, Records of Delhi, P. 291-92.
\textsuperscript{164.} Report on the Administration of the Bashahr State, 1911, P.18.
"The people of the north are active traders proceeding to Leh for charas and to Gardok for Shawl wool, giving in exchange money, Clothes and spices. The mountain paths are scarcely practicable for laden mules and merchandize is carried chiefly on the backs of sheep and goats.\textsuperscript{165}

Salt was brought from Tibet to Lahaul where it was bartered measure for measure for barley. After meeting the local requirements of the Lahaulis it was brought to Kulu laden on sheeps. The Tibetan salt was superior than the Mandi salt. and about 72 to 125 maunds was imported annually from Tibet to Lahaul.\textsuperscript{166} Goats, Sheeps and yaks were also imported from Tibet in Kulu, Lahaul and Spiti\textsuperscript{167}. Spiti imported wool, wooden cups, Knives torqueises, saddles and praying wheels from Tibet.\textsuperscript{168} Rampur imported wool and pasham from Tibet. But after 1834 there was a downfall in wool trade due to attack of Jorawar Singh who wanted to divert wool trade to Kashmir.\textsuperscript{169}

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{165} Gazetteer of Simla District, 1888-89, P. 6.
\textsuperscript{166} Gazetteer of the Kangra District, Kulu, Lahaul & Spiti, Part II to IV, 1897 reprint-1992, P. 99.
\textsuperscript{168} Kangra District Gazetteer, 1917, P. 289.
\textsuperscript{169} Foreign Dept. Secret, No. 35-37, by comming hum.
\end{flushleft}
On the other hand tea from Kulu was exported to Tibet. Very important contemporary trade was conducted by the Lahauli people with Tibet in Kuth.\textsuperscript{170} This trade rapidly increased after 1935 which was an important source of cash income. Kuth was also exported to United Kingdom, Canada, France, Switzerland, Japan and Malaya.\textsuperscript{171}

Trade between Yarkand, Ladakh and Kangra was also recorded. A clerk was stationed at Sultanpur in the Kulu valley for the registration of foreign trade with Yarkand. In 1882-83 the value of the registered imports was Rs.4,98,817 and of the exports Rs 3,12,915. The most important imports was Ponies, borax, charas, raw silk, wool, and for the chief exports were cotton piece goods, indigo, Skins, Opium, metals manufactured silk, sugar and tea, Korans too occasionally appeared among the exports.\textsuperscript{172} Kangra tea was an important commodity which was exported to different parts of the world. According to the report of Major Paske.\textsuperscript{173}

\begin{flushleft}
\begin{enumerate}
\item\textsuperscript{170} Himachal District Gazetteer, Lahaul and Spiti, 1975, P. 142.
\item\textsuperscript{171} Ibid, 1975, P. 142.
\item\textsuperscript{172} Gazetteer of the Kangra District, Kangra, Part I, 1883-84, P. 194.
\item\textsuperscript{173} Kangra District Gazetteer, 1883-84, P. 190-91.
\end{enumerate}
\end{flushleft}
"It is not uncommon for these merchants to anticipate the production of the classes of teas they required, and to offer to purchase, at fixed rates, all that may be manufactured in the ensuing season. The Central Asian market, which is of great and increasing importance, is fed by the operations of the native merchants who supply the native markets generally. In my experience I do not recollect having seen any Kabul merchants or traders from the Western Provinces of Central Asia dealing with planters directly. I am told that one Bokhara merchant did visit the valley this year (1872) and one or two merchants came up from Shikarpur in Sindh. The traders from Eastern Turkishtan, that is the Yarkand is, adhere too closely to the custom barter to make it possible for them to deal direct on any extensive scale with the Kangra planters."

The intercourse between the Chinese frontiers and Rampur Bashar was pretty extensive. According to capt. C.P. Kennedy. 174

"The month of May and June is the season when the people of Bussahir repair to Garoo, which is the chief mart of Shawl wool on the Tartar frontiers, and the Chinese resort to Rampoor in October and return in November. No

danger but that of the precipitous nature of the road is known. Formerly the remote portion of Bussahir in Kunawar was possessed by the Chinese and was given upto them. The Tartar pergunnah of Hung-Rung is a portion of Bussahir and for its size is a main sourse of its resources. Blankets, raisins, nuts, tobacco, rice, horse shoes, saddes, agricultural instruments, firearms and other produce of the higher Himalayas form the Chief exports to the Chinese territory; wool and salt the imports. The prosperity of Bussahir mainly depends upon their intercourses."

Chamba had considerable export trade in cloth, cutlery, oil, leather and spices to Yarkand and Turquishtan. The Chief imports were charas, Pashmina, carpets and brick tea.\textsuperscript{175} Kuth was also exported from Chamba.\textsuperscript{176}

Simla was another District where foreign trade was registered.\textsuperscript{177}

\textsuperscript{175} \textit{Himachal District Gazetteer, Lahaul and Spiti,} 1975, P. 142.

\textsuperscript{176} \textit{Punjab State Gazeteer, Chamba,} 1904, P. 243.

\textsuperscript{177} \textit{Gazetteer of Simla District,} Part A, 1904, P. 86.
Prices and the Value of Trade:

There are very few statistics available for the period under study. The information in respect of the Shimla Hill states was included in the Annual Administration Reports of Punjab. The year-wise details of separate information for that period is also not available. Recourse has therefore to be made to the information provided by traveller's accounts, reports, and district gazetteers of the Punjab and Shimla Hill states.

Rice:

The annual report of rice from Kangra to the plains was one lakh mounds. This was approximately worth rupees two lakhs and twenty-five thousand. The Kulu rice was sold at the rate of about Rs.2/- per maund. When Capt. Harcourt was assistant commissioner of Kulu from 1869 to 1871.

Grain:

The annual import of grain from the plains was about nine lakh maunds in Kangra. In Simla, it was 77,800 maunds.

181. Ibid, P. 151.
TEA

Some quantity of Kulu tea was exported to England. Most of the produce was sold to the traders from plains. The rate of the tea at that time was Rs. 1.50/- to Rs. 2/- per pound. The total output of tea in Kangra during 1868 and 1872 was 2,41,332 and 4,28,655 pounds respectively. In 1883 it rose to 8,99,157 pounds. The statistics of trade 1884 to 1888 are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDIAN TEA</th>
<th>VALUE OF IMPORTS</th>
<th>VALUE OF EXPORTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1884 (Kangra tea)</td>
<td>49,147</td>
<td>40,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>67,240</td>
<td>58,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886-87</td>
<td>97,820</td>
<td>92,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887-88</td>
<td>1,04,600</td>
<td>99,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value of Imports</th>
<th>Value of Exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>15,550</td>
<td>13,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>15,280</td>
<td>9,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886-87</td>
<td>31,120</td>
<td>23,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1887-88</td>
<td>NILL</td>
<td>NILL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the year 1892, its sale was as under:
1. London market 41,848 pounds
2. Calcutta market 34,453 pounds

The export of Kangra tea was 5,00,000 pounds in 1892.\(^{185}\)

**OPium**

The annual yield of opium in Kulu was estimated at 100 maunds per year. The estimate was considered below the actual produce. The price of Opium was Rs.6 to Rs.15/- per seer or on the average of Rs 10.50 per seer.\(^{186}\)

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185. *Kangra District Gazetteer*, 1904, P. 120.
TIMBER

The chamba forests were leased to the Punjab Forest Department in 1868. The total revenue from the leased forests upto 1903-04 was Rs- 73,38,000/-.  187

CHOWRIES:

Price of chowries was 2 to 6 shilling per piece around 1869. 188

BLANKETS:

The Blankets of Kulu were sold to visitors at the price ranging from Rs 2.25 to 5/- per piece. 189

SHAWLS AND PASHMINA:

The price of Rampur Pashmina shawls was Rs.6/- to Rs.9/- unbleached and Rs 10 to Rs.16/- for bleached shawls per price. 190 In 1840 the value of Pashmina imported to

190. Simla Hill State Gazetteer, Bashahr State, 1910, P. 60.
Rampur was valued by Capt. Cunningham at about Rs 90,000. Mr Baden said "About 2,000 maunds of wool are annually brought to Rampur, and about half of that quantity of Pasham. The price of wool average about four pound per rupee, and Pasham Rs 2 to 4 for 2 pounds". 191

**TOBACCO**:

Selling price of tobacco was Rs 6 to 8 per seer. 192

**SALT**:

One seer of Tibet salt was exchange for 2/1-2 seers of husked rice at Rampur, making a handsome profile. 193

In 1820, the price of salt at the mines at Mandi was seven annas, in 1846, 8 annas and in 1868, 12 annas per maund. In 1845, the revenue from salt was about Rs 60,000, in 1850 it had risen to Rs.83,000 and in 1862 to Rs.1,00,545. There was a decrease in 1867-68 on account of the great quantity of rain that had fallen during the year which hindered the working. 194

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Giving reference Mandi salt Moorecroft writes, "the salt is the property of the Raja and is sold at two Pakka or six Kacha mounds for a rupee. The average profit is about sixteen thousand rupee a year. The workmen are paid at a rate of two rupees a month, half in cash and half in salt".195

BORAX:

On borax the profit was three times and on wool it was 50 percent.196 The quantity of borax imported from Changthang in Tibet territory to Rampur and Sultanpur in Kulu annually was about 2,500 maunds or 90 tons. In 1853 it was sold in Simla for Rs.9 per maund. The price of commodity imported was Rs.22,500/- per year.197

The following table shows the value of total trade that passed between Leh and India.198

198. Foreign Department, 1887, Secret File, Nos. 167-178.
1876 - 4,24,130
1877 - 2,39,702
1878 - 2,85,836
1879 - 4,84,792
1880 - 4,23,666
1881 - 5,96,421
1882 - 8,63,917
1883 - 5,44,987
1884 - 5,74,342
1885 - 3,54,687
1886 - 4,15,305
1887 - 7,82,30

The information reported in respect of Simla and Kangra of imports and exports from the Chinese Tibet, Ladakh and Yarkand for the year 1895-96 was as under. 199.

### IMPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of Country</th>
<th>Maunds</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Simla</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Tibet</td>
<td>5,702</td>
<td>1,37,575</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakakh</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>708</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yarkand</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Kangra</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Tibet</td>
<td>3,813</td>
<td>85,473</td>
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<td>Lakakh</td>
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<td>Yarkand</td>
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<td>3,12,898</td>
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### EXPORTS

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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Tibet</td>
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<td>Ladakhan</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Kangra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yarkand</td>
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