CHAPTER VII
The valley of Kashmir is landlocked and its mountains have proved barriers to many would-be conquerors, but at the same time they had a baneful effect on the economic development of the valley. The mountainous character of the country proved a stumbling block in the progress of its trade and commerce. However it does not mean that Kashmir had absolutely no commercial relations with the rest of the world.

Kashmir had developed commercial relations with distant and different parts of the world since the remote past. The establishment of Muslim rule in 1339 accelerated the development of commercial relations with Central Asia, which boosted both internal and external trade of Kashmir.¹ The Mughal occupation of Kashmir in 1586, not only strengthened the already established Central Asia trade relations but also revived Indo-Kashmir trade.² But the Afghans who held dominion over Kashmir from 1753 to 1819,

¹ Mullah Ali Raina, Tazkiratul-Arifin, f.385b.
² Kashmir had right from ancient times trade relations with India, but the quantum of the trading commodities would have been very limited (Ray, S.C. op.cit., p.129).
weakened the commercial ties with India for political reasons. They realized that if the relations remained in contact with India, it would endanger their security and expose their political weaknesses.3

However, the establishment of the Sikh rule in 1819, created brighter prospects for the trade of Kashmir. The direct contact with the Punjab enhanced the demand of Kashmiri commodities not only in the Punjab but also in the British India. Secondly, Kashmir achieved the importance of entrepot of trade between Ladakh, Tibet, Iskardu and some other regions of Central Asia on the one hand and the Punjab and British India on the other.4 It was because of this that a regular movement of trade caravans with trading articles to and from Kashmir became a pronounced feature of the commercial activities of Kashmir. Moorcroft wrote from the capital city of Srinagar in 1822-23. "I find merchants from Gela and from other cities of Chinese Turkestan, from Uzbek, Tartary, from Kabul, from Persia, from Turkey, and from the provinces of British India engaged in purchasing and in waiting for the getting up of Shawl goods differing as to quality and pattern in conformity to the taste of the markets for which they are intended in a degree probably not suspected in Europe."5

Likewise Kashmiri merchants went to far-flung areas of the world for trading purposes. Victor Jacquemont who visited Kashmir in 1831, observed that the Kashmiri merchants "go almost every-where from Cashmere to Teheran and even to Mashed, they go through Lahore, Delhi, Bombay, Bushire, Sheraz etc., etc., without passing through Gabulistan, and for a very good reason."^6

Principal Commercial routes and means of communication

According to Abul Fazl twenty six routes alone connected Kashmir with the Punjab.7 But Vigne, who visited the valley during our period of study, lists only twenty passes with their detailed commentary.8 However, he informs us that an active mountainer could enter the valley in many places besides the regular passes. Banihal,10 Tosamaidan,11 Khulnarva,12 Pir Panjal,13 Baramulla14 and Zojila15 were the principal trade routes, through

12. Ibid.
which ingress and egress could be effected.

The Banihal pass, which is situated six miles south-west of Verinag in the parganah of Shahabad, is fifty miles away from Srinagar. It is nine thousand feet above the sea level and remained a convenient link of communication between Kashmir and upper Chenab and hilly states of Eastern Punjab. The traffic on this route was always considerable as it remained open throughout the year. It was passable all the year round for laden ponies and horses except when it was choked with extraordinary snowfall.

Tosamidhan pass is located on the easter side of Pirpanjal range at an elevation of ten thousand and five hundred feet. On the Kashmir side, it was somewhat of steep ascent of about three miles, but on reaching the plain the path was a gradual slope. It was a convenient link of communication between Kashmir and west Punjab. It lies on high elevation so it remained close from the second half of December and was not practicable upto the fifteenth of May for horses. It was opened earlier for the foot passengers in fair weather and was frequently used during summer months.

18. Ibid., p.254.

It had great political and strategical importance as in 1015 and 1027 A.D. Mahmud of Ghazni made an unsuccessful attempt to penetrate the valley of Kashmir by this pass. In 1614 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's army used this very pass to enter Kashmir but was defeated by Mohammad Azim Khan, the then Afghan governor of Kashmir. (Vigne, op.cit.,I,p.148).
The other recognized pass which connected Kashmir with Punjab was Khul Narva. It was the best horse-path and was opened for horses a little earlier than Pirpanjal route which was important line of communication between Kashmir and Central Punjab. It was called by the name of highway of Mughal emperors because Akbar, Jehangir, Shahjahan and Aurangzeb used this route during their visits to Kashmir.\textsuperscript{19}

It is thirty five miles\textsuperscript{20} away from Srinagar in the south of Kashmir at an elevation of eleven thousand and four hundred feet. Most of the Indo-Kashmir traffic was carried through this route as its ascent was smooth and wide.\textsuperscript{21} But the road remained closed between December and May owing to snow fall.\textsuperscript{22}

One of the best commercial routes which connected Kashmir with Hazara, Peshawar, Kabul, Kandhar and Iran as well as with Rajouri and Punch when Pirpanjal-Bhimber-Rajouri route remained closed was Baramulla-Muzaffarabd-Mansera route.\textsuperscript{23} It remained open all the year round for horses and foot passangers. During the Afghan regime of Kashmir almost all traffic was carried by this route as it was a direct line of communication between Kashmir and Kabul.

\textsuperscript{19} Vigne, op.cit., I, p.147. \\
\textsuperscript{20} Hasan, op.cit., I, p.76. \\
\textsuperscript{21} This was mainly because when emperor Akbar visited Kashmir for the first time, it was dressed and broadened. \\
\textsuperscript{22} Vigne, op.cit., I, p.147. \\
\textsuperscript{23} Ibid. This route had tremendous influence on the religious history of Kashmir. Sayyid Ali Hamadani and his son Sayyid Mohammad Hamadani entered Kashmir by this particular route and spread and popularised Islam here.
Zojila\textsuperscript{24} (11,300 feet) has from ancient times to the present day been the most important thoroughfare connecting Kashmir with Ladakh and thence to Samarkand, Khutan, Kashghar, etc. The trade between Kashmir and Central Asian countries was carried through this route.

The condition of these routes was usually very bad as there was no arrangement for their proper maintenance.\textsuperscript{25} Most of these trade routes were mere footpaths meant for pack animals and porters.

The import and export of trading commodities to and from Kashmir was carried by different means of transportation such as men, horses, ponies and mules.\textsuperscript{26} But it depended upon the climatic conditions to what means owner of the goods chose. Goods were sometimes carried on the backs of baggage porters to various directions.\textsuperscript{27} Shawl wool was often carried on the backs of coolies.\textsuperscript{28} But usually transportation was effected by means of horses, mules, ponies and asses, each carrying load from twenty to twenty-five pounds.\textsuperscript{29} Hugel writes "I meet a man with eight horses well laden, and a servant, and having asked him whence he came, I learn that he was a wool merchant, and had travelled

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{24} Buddhist Kinchana, who became the first Muslim ruler of Kashmir entered the valley by this route. Similarly Mirza \textsuperscript{25} Moorcroft, MS. EUR. 263, f.9. \\
\item \textsuperscript{25} Moorcroft, MS. EUR. 263, f.9. \\
\item \textsuperscript{26} Hugel, Kashmir, p.36. \\
\item \textsuperscript{27} Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.123. \\
\item \textsuperscript{28} In 1835, they were paid at the rate of one rupee per truk for the whole distance from Ladakh to Kashmir.(Vigne,op.cit.,I, p.127). \\
\item \textsuperscript{29} Hugel, Kashmir, p.36.
\end{itemize}
with much labour from Ladakh, through deep snow, for eighteen days. The merchants carrying goods to and from the valley had two to three labourers with them not only to look after the animals carrying loads but also to serve them food and provide water.

From Kashmir side, trading articles were carried on by professional muleteers (markabans), a class which always existed in Kashmir. But the breed of Kashmiri horses was neither large nor attractive, so a few hundreds of them were imported annually from Tibet for transporting purposes.

**External Trade of Kashmir**

The import and export trade of Kashmir between Punjab, British India and Central Asia depended upon the law of supply and demand. The Chief article in which the external trade was carried, remained mostly unchanged for centuries together.

The following table shows the list of trading commodities, imported from and exported to Punjab and British India during

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the period under study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imports 34</th>
<th>Exports 35</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. English calicoes</td>
<td>1. Shawls 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Dacca muslins</td>
<td>2. Silk 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Kamkhab (Benarsi cloth, interwoven with gold and silver threads)</td>
<td>3. Paper 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. European chintzes</td>
<td>4. Manuscripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Blankets</td>
<td>5. Pen boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Bengali window panes</td>
<td>7. Swords</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Barbers razors</td>
<td>8. Shoe *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Wheat 39</td>
<td>10. Edible oil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


36. There was a craze for Kashmiri shawls not only in Europe but also and to a greater extent in India. "A European Lady would be glad to possess one of these shawls, but persons of high rank in Kashmir and India vie with one another in striving to purchase a great number of these articles." Observed Schonberg. (Schonberg, op.cit.,II,p.134). So a large number of Pashmina shawls and other wool processed articles were exported to India, especially Amritsar, the great mart in the Punjab for the trade of Kashmir. But a good portion of the worn shawls were sold to the Punjab and there they were washed and re-exported to Wilayat (Europe). (Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir,f.116).

37. From 1835 onwards two-thirds of the raw silk was exported to Punjab (Vigne,op.cit.,I,p.356). It played a major role in the economic prosperity of Kashmir as in 1846 government earned one lakh rupees as transit duty on silk trade alone. This speaks itself about the high volume of silk trade(Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit.,p.36).

38. The Kashmiri paper which had silky texture and glossy appearance was in great demand in India from quite earlier times. During the period under review Kashmir manufactured the best kind of paper known as "farmayishi" and most of it was exported to Punjab (Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit., p.34).

39. The famine of 1832-33 caused such havoc in the valley that not to talk of food grains, but even eggs and fowls were imported from Punjab and other hill states, as all the domestic fowls were eaten by famine striken populations. (Vigne,op.cit.,II,p.76).
12. Salt 12. Dry fish
14. Raw Sugar (Khandsari) 14. Honey
15. Snuff 15. Fruits
17. Peppers 17. Opium
18. Cardamom 18. Charas (narcotic preparation from hemp and bhang)
22. Myrobalan 22. Seeds

40. It was the most important article of export to Punjab. (Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.122). It was prepared by the pastoral Gujars and nomad goatherds, who found the mountains of Kashmir a convenient and cheap resot. (Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.122).

41. Salt was the chief article of import as far as the necessities of life were concerned. It was formerly imported from Ladakh but the Sikhs discouraged its importation from there and started importing rock-salt from Punjab. (Davies, R.H. Report on the Trade and Resources of the countries on the Northwestern Boundary of British India, appendix, xvii, p. cvi, Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff.121, 122.

42. Kashmiris were very fond of sweet tea as it was their pure and simple luxury. So sugar remained and will remain always an important item in the import trade of Kashmir.

43. Kashmiris were inveterate snuff smokers, so good quantity of it was exported from Peshawar. (Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit., p.35). Lawrence writes that every shop in the valley was having rows of bottles containing snuff, which was sold to native in small packets of birch-bark. (Lawrence, op.cit., p.395).

44. Fresh fruits such as apples, grapes, walnuts, almonds and quinee were exported in large quantity to Punjab (Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff.121, 123). The quinee were very fine and a very cooling beverage was prepared from their seeds and later on exported to Punjab, where it was sold as febrifuge. (Vigne, op.cit., II, p.87). Sometimes caravans from hundred to two hundred carriers were carrying birch-bark baskets packed with these fruits, which found a ready market in Punjab. (Hugel, Kashmir, p.34).

45. Saffron, for which Kashmir has been famous through the ages was an important and profitable item of export to Punjab and British India. It was used there for religious rituals such as imparting colour to paste with which Hindus made their forehead mark (Moorcroft, op.cit., II, p.152., Vigne, op.cit., II, p.32).

46. Quinee seed, cummin seed, caraway seed, turnip seed and lotus seed.
23. Belleric myrobalan 23. Costus
25. Lemon beverage
26. Dry pomegranate seeds
27. Tamarind
28. Bullion
29. Iron
30. Copper
31. Brass
32. Tin
33. Zinc
34. Sulphur
35. Lac
36. Treacle
37. Salammoniac
38. Arsenic
39. Vermillion
40. Gul-i-Kysu (used for yellow colour)
41. Indigo
42. Myrtle
43. Sheep
44. Sandal wood.

47. Costus (Saussurea lappa) which grows even at present on the hills of Kashmir and is full of aromatic perfume, was a valuable as a commercial article under the Sikhs (Vigne, op.cit., II, p.345). In 1822-23, one thousand ass-loads were annually exported to Amritsar and from here to Calcutta for re-exportation to China. (Moorcroft, op.cit., II, p.155). The Chinese used it as incense in their places of worship. (Ibid) But in India, in addition to above mentioned purpose, it was used as a vermifuge medicine, being administered to children in an infusion of the powdered root. It was used as a topical in chronic rheumatism (Moorcroft, op.cit., II, p.155).

48. The timber especially Cedar (deodar) was exported to Punjab. The average annual supply was in the range of one thousand logs and was used in roofing houses and building boats. (C.M. Wade to T.H. Maddock, offg. Secretary of Government of India, April 1839). For. Sec. Cons. 21 August 1839) No.116).
Trade between Kashmir and Central Asia

Before enumerating the articles of import and export with Central Asia, it is pertinent to throw some light on the commercial importance of Ladakh, as, it was the principal rendezvous for merchants travelling from India and Kashmir on one hand and Tibet, Yarkand, China, Khatan, Badakhshan and Russia on the other. 49

The commerce of Ladakh was not of any value as far as her local production was concerned. The foreign trade of the area was confined to five natural productions such as wool, salt, dry fruits, borax and sulphur. 50 But its importance consisted in being the entrepot of international trade. The Central Asian merchandise were housed in Ladakh and then supplied to Indian and Kashmiri merchants. Likewise most of the Central Asian traders received Indian and Kashmiri trading commodities through the merchants of these countries stationed in Ladakh. No doubt Ladakh produced Shawl wool but it did not cater to the demand of the shawl industry of Kashmir. Other than this trading article, borax, sulphur, salt 51 and dry fruits like apricots, their kernal, currants (seedless raisins) and dried plums were traded.

51. It was known as 'bhutta nun'. (Moorcroft, op. cit., I, p.356) Ladakhis were generally called 'Bhuttas' as they had in general accepted Buddhism and as such the term suggests "salt of Bhuttas".
were exported to Kashmir.\(^{52}\)

Kashmir exported shawls, ornamented shoes, tobacco and saffron\(^{53}\) to Ladakh for its domestic consumption.\(^{54}\) The following were the articles of import and export from and to Central Asia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Pashmina chaddars</td>
<td>1. Shawls(^{57})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pashmina pattu (both simple and coloured)</td>
<td>2. Shawl boarders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pashmina felts</td>
<td>3. Readymade woollen garments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Woollen cowl</td>
<td>4. Cotton cloth (coloured as well as embroidered)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Linen cloth of Khatan</td>
<td>5. Shoes and shoe-slippers (of green leather)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

52. *Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir*, ff.118,127; Alexander Cunningham, *op.cit.*, pp.238-39; Thornton Edward, *op.cit.*, VII, pp.99. To quote Alexander Cunningham about the exportation of dry fruits of Ladakh "I have never found a single trader or shepherd without numerous bags of them, and I have procured them in all the bazars in the hill states from Kashmir to Kangra and Simla" (*Alexander Cunningham, *op.cit.*, p.240).

53. The saffron worth Rs 12,600 was exported to Ladakh annually. (*Ibid.*, p.247).


57. The chief item of export from Kashmir to Central Asia was light warm and elegant article of dress, which from its native application was known as shawl. There was so much craze for Kashmir shawls in Iran and Turkey that the respective governments of these countries were forced to ban their import. (Moorcroft, *MS. EUR. D* 264, pp.79-83). But during the period under review shawl trade was firmly establishe d with Europe. But French merchants purchased "Shawls of inferior quality in Kashmir which in their own country they rip up, and out of the pashm thus procured, the best French shawl as woven." (*Schonberg, *op.cit.*, II, p.136).

58. These readymade garments consisted of caps, girdles, women trousers, jackets, stockings, conopies, coverlets, saddle cloth for horse, elephant housing coverlets, neckerchiefs, waist-belts, legging—pillow tiers, bags and purses, covers of tomb and cupwards, mufflers, curtains for doors and windows, turbans and women veils.
6. Shawl wool (Pashm) 59
7. Pad skins of foxes
8. Tea 60
9. Soda earth
10. Fennel Khattan
11. Rhubarb chins (reward)
12. Nomiran china
13. Gold and gold dust 63

6. Socks
7. Swords
8. Shields
9. Muskets
10. Boxes
11. Paper
12. Rice 62
13. Salt and Sugar 64

59. In 1822-23, the quantity of Shawl wool imported varied between five hundred and one thousand horse loads, each weighing 300 lbs. (Moorcroft, op.cit., II, p.165). In 1835 twenty thousand pounds of it were imported at the rate of sixteen rupees per pound. (Hugel, Kashmir, pp.31-32.)

60. Tea was one of the chief articles of import. It was imported from Lhasa and Yarkand. Generally two varieties of tea were imported from Lhasa. The first kind was usually of black colour with minute leaves in the form of spherical globules. This kind of tea was mostly available in the markets of Kashmir. The other kind was actually tea-extract with black shiny colour and could be easily soluble. (Hugel, Kashmir, pp.31-32). However the best one came from Yarkand. (Vigne, op.cit., II, p.34) Apart from these countries it was also imported from other parts of Central Asia. Thus about thirty different varieties of tea could be found in the markets of Kashmir. (Hugel, Kashmir, p.31).

61. Papier-mache, wicker and wooden boxes were sent to Central Asia and were sold there at high prices (Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff. 116, 117, 127).

62. Rice was among the main articles of export from Kashmir to Ladakh and Iskardu. (Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff.118). Hugel, Kashmir, p.34). But from the income derived by this source, the price of the imported Shawl wool was largely paid for. (Hugel, op.cit., p.34). The average export of rice was about five lakh kharvars and the total income earned by this source was equal to ten lakh rupees. (Hugel, op.cit., p.35).

63. Gold was imported partly in raw shape in the form of gold-sand and partly in the form of Bokhara, Baltistan and Iskardu coins. (Mir Izzatullah, op.cit., p.66; Hugel, op.cit., p.33; Vigne, op.cit., II, p.345).

64. Kashmir herself imported salt and sugar in large quantities from Punjab. The latter article was imported in the form of raw material (khandsrari) and here it was further processed into Candal sugar by a process of crystallization. These articles were mostly consumed within the valley but a small portion of them was re-exported to Tibet. (Hugel, Kashmir, pp. 32-33).
| 14. Silver | 14. Walnut oil |
| 15. Jade | 16. Butter and clarified butter (ghee) |
| 18. Vessels (made from jade and crystal) | 18. Almonds |
| 20. Cinnabar | 20. Ottar skins |
| 22. Log-wood | 22. Costus |
| 24. Tibetan horses | 24. Ottar skins |
| 25. Ponies | 25. Senna |
| 26. Rosary | 27. Pearls |
| 28. Musk | 

According to the estimate of Hugel, who visited Kashmir in

65. Silver was imported in the form of clumps, bearing the Chinese stamp which was thereby certified as pure silver. (Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff.117, 129, Hugel, Kashmir, p.33) This metal was made into coins in Kashmir.

66. Butter and clarified butter, which were exported to Tibet, brought enormous wealth into Kashmir (Moorcroft, op.cit., p.149, Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff.117, 118, 125).

67. Kashmir had through ages enjoyed the monopoly of saffron cultivation and also exported a large quantity of it to Yarkand (Vigne, op.cit., II, p.34; Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff.117, 118.)

68. The other pigments used for dying shawl wool, such as Cochinial and Ultra-marine were imported from Yarkand, White-lead from Russia and verdigris from Britain. (Moorcroft, op.cit., I, p.125).
1635, the total value of imports and exports was as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Imports</th>
<th>Exports</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shawl wool</td>
<td>1. Pashmina stuffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2. Paddy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>340,000 Rs</td>
<td>2,500,000 Rs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>160,000 Rs</td>
<td>1,000,000 Rs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>500,000 Rs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL 500,000 Rs</td>
<td>4,000,000 Rs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The enormous excess of thirty five lakh rupees of exports over the imports shows the economic potential of Kashmir.

Trade Facilities

During the Afghan rule, the external trade of Kashmir was conducted by Gilzai Pathans and Durani Afghans. But with the establishment of Sikh rule, this type of monopoly over the external trade of Kashmir ended and both Kashmiri and Punjabi merchants indulged in trade freely. In 1838 Khawaja Mohammad Shah Naqashbandi, Ganesh Pandit, Pandit Sajram Bahan, Pandit

69. Hugel, Kashmir, p.35.
70. In spite of such a huge surplus in trade, Kashmir did not at all prosper, because it was continuously drained of her wealth by Lahore Darbar. (Thornton Edward, op.cit., Vol.I, p. 365).
Koul Bahan, Himmat Pandit, Pandit Raja Kak, Sukh Ram Pandit, Tiluk Chand, Sheikh Jalalu'd-Din, Mohammad Joo, Gafar Hakim and Shankar Pandit Qutroo were among the leading traders of Kashmir. In 1646, Mullah Ahmad Khan and Haji Mohammad Sadiq were the famous shawl merchants of Kashmir. Governor Sheikh Ghulam Mohiu'd-Din (1842-46) also indulged in shawl trade and appointed the commission agent for this very purpose. Mirza Ahmad transacted the business of shawls for governor Sheikh Ghulam Mohiu'd-Din and General Ventura who was European military general of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

For the convenience of traders Sarais were constructed at Banihal, Shahabad, Anantnag, Bijbehara, Shopian, Tral, Pampore, Hazratbal, Batmula, Sopore, Sumbal, Pattan, Kanihama, Chharisharif and Keri. In addition to this, in the parganahs of Nagam and Shopian two inns of Mughal times, provided accommodation to large parties of traders, particularly from Lahore and Amritsar.

But some obstacles were created for the free flow of trade. For instance the Sikhs created terror in the hills adjoining Kashmir and Punjab, which hampered the trade of Kashmir for some

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73. Ibid., ff.109,112; Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit., p.32.
74. Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit., p.28.
76. Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.68.
time in the early phase of the Sikh rule. Secondly, the severe sectarian riots which occurred in Kashmir during the governorship of Bahama Singh Ardali (1831), created abnormal conditions and the businessmen closed their shops and left the valley for good. To quote Vigne "Persian merchants, of whom there were two or three hundred, retreated from Kashmir, and have never since resided there." 

Besides this government imposed rapacious import and export duty. No distinction was made between the humblest commodity and the rearest luxury in case of custom duty. As such the government collected one lakh and four thousand rupees as import and export duty in 1846. For this very purpose custom posts were established at different places such as Banihal, Shahabad, Kulharva, Tossamaidan, Hirpura, Sedau, Firozpur, Baramulla, Gund-i-Sur-Singh, Lalkhol, Saulow, Ganderbal, Gangagir and Matrigam.

76. Sayyid Ahmad Brailvily was a fanatic Muslim and he had many followers among the Muslim masses. He wanted to restore Muslim rule in India, for this he had a design to liberate Kashmir first, in order to develop it as permanent base for his operation. (Wayamu'd-Din Ahmad, The Wahabi Movement in India, Calcutta, 1966, p.83). He with the support of some Pathan tribes made a general revolt against Sikhs on the border adjoining Kashmir. But he was defeated by Prince Sher Singh in 1831 and ultimately assassinated (Hunter, W.W. Indian Musalmans, pp.9-43).

80. Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit., p.34.
In 1846, the following custom duty was levied on the articles imported from and exported to Punjab and British India.

## Imports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the article</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Rate of the custom duty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Cloth of every kind including silks and Kamkhab (brocade)</td>
<td>1 kharwar</td>
<td>Rs 4\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cloth of every kind including silks and grocery</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 1/8/- to 3\frac{3}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cloth of every kind including silks and raw sugar.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 1\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Salt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 1\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 1\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Exports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the article</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Rate of the custom duty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Inkstands and white paper</td>
<td>1 kharwar</td>
<td>Rs 2\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Silk</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rs 6\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Clarified butter</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rs 1\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Black zeera</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 1\frac{1}{2}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Morels</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 6/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Quince seed</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rs 2\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Costus</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 6/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Hemp</td>
<td>Six seers</td>
<td>Re. 8/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Saffron</td>
<td>one seer</td>
<td>Re. 4/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Woollen cloth</td>
<td>per piece</td>
<td>Re. 12/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Apples</td>
<td>per head load</td>
<td>Re. 4/-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re. 1\frac{1}{4}/-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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82. Lala Ganesha Lal, op.cit., p.24. See, for customs duty levied on the commodities imported from and exported to Central Asia, appendix "C".

83. Lala Ganesha Lal, op.cit., p.23.

84. Vegetable substance used as flavouring.
The zamindars, chowkidars and Harkaras who always remained in attendance on these check-posts appropriate a portion of the customs duty.\textsuperscript{85} But from 1844 onwards, government took seventh share of their wages as its tax. But this imposition on their labours excited great discontent and murmur among the labouring class.\textsuperscript{86}

**Internal Trade**

The internal trade of the country was carried on both by land and the river. As far the places not connected with water, commodities were carried to and brought from them by men and beasts of burden along the narrow footpaths. These so called internal roads were mere beaten tracks and were running up and down the hills and big mountains. They were sometimes winding through thick forests and were awfully muddy during winter and wet weather. So water transport was the pivot upon which all the internal commerce moved. The Jhelum river was an important water highway from Khanabal (near Anantnag) to Baramulla. It is because of the fact that there were ninety four ghats (loading and unloading places) on the banks of river Jhelum, Nallaha Mar and the Dal Lake.\textsuperscript{87} In 1846, in addition to pleasure

\begin{footnotes}
\item \textsuperscript{85} Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit., p.25.
\item \textsuperscript{86} Lala Ganeshi Lal, op.cit., p.25.
\item \textsuperscript{87} Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.136.
\end{footnotes}
boats, there were two thousand of them, employed in trade and
passenger traffic, various types of boats such as kishts
(big barges) Dungas, Shikaras, Parindas, etc. were used by
the people in their various pursuits of life. According to
Moorcroft some of the barges were of such considerable size
that they carried a cargo of one hundred and fifteen tons. The
same kind of description about these large and heavy boats,
which resembled the Punjabi 'beri' of that time, is found
in the Vigne's travelogue and Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir. But
one of the common forms of the boats was Dunga. It was a
keel-less bottomed and fifty to sixty feet in length and six
feet in width. This was mainly passenger boat but during the
winter months when passenger traffic came to a stand still, it
was also used for carrying wood and provisions. Shikara was a
small edition of the Dunga and was employed for short journey,
but it was mainly utilised for hunting and fishing purposes, so
it earned the name of Shikara.

The Parinda (flyer) was also passenger boat but not for
common herd. It was a dignified vehicle for the rulers and
bureaucracy of the time. It was the fastest craft on the river
Jhelum because it was propelled by forty to fifty rowers at a

66. Lala Ganesh Lal, op.cit., p.31.
69. Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.106.
92. Baden Powell, Handbook of the Manufactures and Arts
   of the Punjab, II, p.225.
94. Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.108.
95. Lawrence, op.cit., p.361.
time. The Farinda paddlers indulged in fancy strokes, which were known as "Kirpa Rami Chappy" in the honour of the pleasure loving Sikh governor Kirpa Ram (1827-30).

Rivers and canals were spanned with bridges. There were one hundred and one bridges throughout Kashmir during the Sikh rule. In this connection, Hugel is worth quoting: "In no country in the world, perhaps, are there so many bridges as in Kashmir. They span every river and brook, great and small, and are all built and kept in repair by the government, without the levy of any toll." These adequate transport facilities would have certainly provided better chances for the development of internal trade.

The internal trade of Kashmir which consisted of imported commodities as well as locally produced agricultural productions and manufactures was fairly brisk. The boats laden with paddy, salt, vegetables, fruits, tobacco, snuff, paper, earthen pots, kangaris, grass, bricks, stones and other forest products such as costus, birch-bark and morels were loaded and unloaded at the ghats on the Jehlum and the lakes, around Srinagar.

The Shergarhi locality, Zaina Kadal and Habba Kadal were the main markets within the capital city of Srinagar. The Sheikh Bagh which is located between Saraf Kadal and Qazi Kadal, was habitated by the famous merchants and money-lenders of the valley.

97. Lawrence, op.cit., p.32.
98. Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, f.137.
100. Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff.86,88,114,119,128,130.
The chief markets of internal trade were Banihal, Shahabad, Anantnag, Bijbehara, Shopian, Tral, Fampore, Pattan, Kanihama, Chharisharif and Keri. These market towns which contained a bazaar and usually a big mosque were also famous for certain manufactures. For instance Anantnag was the main centre of saddle cloth and Gabba manufacturing and Sopore for pattu. Like India in Kashmir too, customers used to purchase their provisions daily in the markets and a walk through them was a treat for them, no matter how tried they may be.

The goods which were brought from and sent to Srinagar from different trading centres of the valley, were subjected to Octroi at various places. For this very purpose octroi posts were established at Anantnag, Soniwar, Mysomnia, Batmalu, Chattabal, Haftchinar, Dadar Hama, Shahabud-Din Fora, Sopore, and Baramulla. The octroi was charged according to the value of the commodity at the rate of an anna per rupee.

The internal trade was conducted both by state and the private business men. But as far as the paddy was concerned, government had established monopoly over its trade and did not allow the private individuals to dispose it in the markets until government grain was sold. Moorcroft states that, that

103. Hugel, Kashmir and the Punjab, p. 159.
104. Dasturul Amal-i-Kashmir, ff. 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, 115, 118,
128 and 129.
105. Ibid., f. 110.
portion of the paddy which government received by way of revenue was "sent into the market at a high price, and no individual is allowed to offer the produce of his farm at a lower rate, or sometimes to dispose of it at all, until the public corn has been sold." It would have certainly prevented the growth of indigenous grain merchants.

To conclude trade played an important role in the economic prosperity of Kashmir during the period under review. Not only did it keep the native arts and crafts alive but gave a boost to them. It provide employment to a considerable number of people, stabilised their economic position and improved their standard of living.