Chapter II

THE BRITISH OCCUPATION OF KUMAUN AND GARHVAL AND CONTROL OVER KALI SUTLEJ FRONTIER
INDIA TIBET BOUNDARY
FROM LIPU LEKH PASS TO SHIPKI PASS

HIMACHAL PRADeSH

PULAMSUMBA
JADHANG
MELANG
KEDARNATH
BADRINATH
O NitI PASS
NITI
OMALLA

DIGUE

DANGPO GOMPA
GUMLA
BABA

UTTAR PRADESH PURANG

Dharma Pass
Lipu Lekh Pass
TINCLAKHT

NEPAL

MANASAROVAR LAKE
The Mughal Monarchy did not fade out of India immediately after the death of Aurangzeb—as a matter of fact it continued for a century and a half more—but its power and prestige rapidly declined. The provincial viceroys had set up as independent Princes in all but in name and some newly-risen Indian powers had grabbed territory and assumed sovereign power. The invasions of Nadir Shah and the Abdali had dealt deadly blows to the falling fabric. The English took advantage of the sorry state of things and soon established their firm sway over such regions as had become most vulnerable due to the protraction of war or weak administration of ineffective princes. The battle of Plassey had put them on the road to power; the third battle of Panipat (1761)—though fought far away from the field of activity of the English, and between the Marathas and the Abdali, with either of whom the English had little to do—opened up possibilities for the furtherance of their political ambitions. After establishing themselves in Bengal, the Company moved westward fairly fast. A treaty of friendship and alliance was concluded with Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula of Awadh in 1765. The British troops were stationed in the forts of Chunar and Allahabad in 1772. The possessions of Raja Chait Singh of Banaras were ceded to the Company by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in 1775. The succeeding Nawab Saadat Ali Khan brought the British to the banks of Jamuna by ceding the lands in Ganga Jamuna Doab and the
whole of Rohilkhand in 1801. (1) Thus, by the dawn of the
teneth century, the British East India Company came to a
region where several powers were contending for territorial gains
at the cost of twin states of Kumaun and Garhwal, between the
rivers Jamuna and Sutlej on the frontiers of India.

Kumaun

With the accession of Raja Devi Chand in 1720, the political
power of Kumaun began to decline rapidly. He was weak and irreso-
lute and under the influence of his advisers, he embarked upon the
wild schemes which were ultimately responsible for the fall of his
house. In order to establish the 'Golden era' in Kumaun he tried
to pay off the debts of all his subjects. This undertaking was a
costly affair. About a crore of rupees was spent without the
realisation of the ruler's object. The condition of his unthrifty
subjects remained as it was. He fought wars with Garhwal and Doti
and tried to take part in struggle for power then going on in the
plains. On the advice of Manik and his son Puran Mall Bisht,
Devi Chand took Afghan Daud Khan into his service as a military
general. Sometime before Devi Chand had supported the cause of one
Sabir Shah in opposition to the Mughal King of Delhi and the latter
now sent one Azmat-ullah Khan to take possession of Rudrapur and
Kashipur. Devi Chand with his army marched from Almora to meet him
in battle near Nagina. Before the commencement of battle, Daud Khan

(1) G.J. Aitchison, A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and
Sanads, Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries
was bribed by Azmat-ullah Khan who deserted Devi Chand with all his forces. Devi Chand was defeated and took shelter in a Thakurdwara. Soon after this he retired to the village of Debipur in Kota, where he had built himself a pleasure house. He remained there for the last three years of his reign. In the year 1726 A.D. he was murdered by Ranjit Patoliya at the instigation of the treacherous ministers, Manik Bisht and Puran Mall Bisht. Devi Chand died without heirs and the Bishts, who now held the actuality of power searched out one Ajit Singh, son of Narpat Singh, Raja of Kaleshir from a daughter of Gyan Chand of Kumaun. Ajit Singh was called to Almora and installed as king under the name of Ajit Chand. The Bishts along with one Birbhadra Joshi as Kamdar began to plunder people of Kumaun. Ajit Singh was, however, not destined to rule for a long time and like Devi Chand, he also was murdered in 1729 by the Bishts. A puppet was again searched out and the bastard son of a female slave was placed on the throne as a son of Ajit Chand with the name of Balo Kalyan Chand. Their triumph was, however, short lived. The Maras and Phartiyals, the people of Kumaun united and sent messengers to the Mal Rajas of Doti in search of the members of Narayan Chand's family who had settled there. One Kalyan was found out and was brought to Almora to be installed as Raja under the name of Kalyan Chand in 1730. (2)

Immediately after his accession Kalyan Chand set himself to punish the Bishts. Both Manik and Puran were killed along with

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(2) Edwin T. Atkinson, The Himalayan Districts of the North-Western Provinces of India (Allahabad, 1884), vol. 2, pp. 520-34.
their families. The poor little Raja Balo Kalyan was given away as a slave to a Musalmman Javelin-man who was attached to the court. Thus ended the Bisht interregnum. Kalyan Chand was confronted with a stupendous task of restoring the internal order in Kumaun and resisting the external aggression of Awadh and Rohilas. He somehow managed the affairs of the state for seventeen years and died early in 1748 A.D., leaving his son and family in the hands of Shiva Deo Joshi the then Prime Minister of the state. Dip Chand who succeeded his father Kalyan Chand in 1748, was a man of mild and weak temperament. He was generous and kind to one and all. He was entirely in the hands of the priests. Despite the weaknesses of the king, Shiva Deo Joshi, the Prime Minister, managed the affairs of the state fairly well throughout his life and justified the trust reposed in him by Kalyan Chand. He was killed in a revolt of soldiery in 1764 A.D. (11 Pus 1821 Sambat) (3) and this tragic event was followed by an era of chaos and confusion, which paved the way for the Gorkha occupation of the state in 1791.

Shiva Deo Joshi was succeeded by his eldest son Jai Krishna as Prime Minister and Viceroy of Kumaun. Within two and a half years of his succession to the office, a son was born to Raja Dip Chand. On the birth of this prince, queen Shringari Manjari began to entertain the thought that she had a claim on the regency. Soon she entered into an intrigue with Hafiz Rahmat Khan of Rampur through Jodh Singh, a relation of her and a favourite of the

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(3) Ibid., p. 594.
Rohilla Chief. She wanted that Jai Krishna should act according to her wishes or else he should quit his office. Hafiz Rahmat Khan impressed this upon Jai Krishna who, out of disgust and disappointment, resigned all his situations and retired from the Government. Thereupon Shringri Manjari appointed her favourites to the various posts of the state. Krishna Singh was appointed Prime Minister, the post of Commander-in-Chief was given to Mohan Singh, Permanand the paramour of the queen was appointed to the Viceroyalty and Jodh Singh was appointed manager of Kashipur. This team could not pull on well together, and well within a year Mohan Singh was relieved, and replaced by Parmanand. He fled to the Rohilas, and through the assistance of Dundee Khan of Bisauli gathered a body of troops. He also drafted the help of the Rohilas to attack Almora and defeated the Rani's troops. Raja Deep Chand was captured and the Rani and her paramour, Parmanand were put to death. Hafiz Rahmat Khan who had a soft corner in his heart for Raja Deep Chand, sent for Harsha Deo and Jai Kishan, sons of Shiva Deo Joshi, and helped them in ousting Mohan Singh who fled to Awadh. This time Deep Chand appointed Harsha Deo as his Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief and Nand Ram as the Governor of Kashipur. Thus peace was restored in the kingdom of Kumaun for the time being, but soon intrigue was set on foot. Jai Kishan opened correspondence with Mohan Singh and paved the way for his return on condition that he apologized for his past misconduct. Jai Kishan was keen to remove Nand Ram from Kashipur. But while on his way to Almora, Mohan Singh won over Nand Ram and warned him of the impending danger. Mohan Singh had encouraged Nand Ram to resist the plan of
Jai Kishan. Soon, Jai Kishan was defeated and put to death by Mohan Singh. In 1777 Deep Chand and his two sons were killed by Mohan Singh. After getting over all his adversaries, Mohan Singh proclaimed himself Raja, assuming the title of Mohan Chand. He assigned the Tarai to Nand Ram, who surrendered it to the Nawab of Awadh. Mohan Chand let loose a reign of terror. The relations and friends of Shiva Deo Joshi were stricken with fear and migrated from Kumaun. The atrocities of Mohan Chand attracted the attention of the rulers of Doti and Garhwal. They opened communications with Harsha Deo who was then in prison and at an opportune moment they attacked Kumaun, and compelled Mohan Chand to seek safety in flight to the plains. The victorious prince of Garhwal Lalit Shah placed Kumaun in charge of his son, Pradyumna Shah, under the title of Pradyumna Chand. (4)

Pradyumna Chand restored the Joshis to power, and Harsha Deo Joshi was appointed Prime Minister. It was only after the death of Lalit Shah that the relations between Jayakirti Shah his successor in Garhwal and Pradyumna Chand his son in Kumaun became strained. This gave a chance to Mohan Singh once again to enter into Kumaun politics. He soon entered into an understanding with Jayakirti Shah in the hope of recovering the kingdom of Kumaun. When this was known to Harsha Deo, he on behalf of his master went to Srinagar for demanding an explanation from Jayakirti Shah who

refused to be cowed down. The struggle which followed was a
great blow to Garhwalis. Jayakirti Shah suffered a crushing
defeat and died shortly afterwards. Pradyumna occupied the throne
and joined Garhwal and Kumaun into one kingdom; but his preference
for Garhwal alienated the Kumaunese people. By 1786, the people
of Kumaun threw off the dominance of Garhwal, and Mohan Singh once
more came to power in Kumaun. Harsha Deo Joshi fled from Kumaun
and collected a large army for an attack on Mohan Singh. He
defeated Mohan Singh and made him and his brother Lal Singh
prisoners. Lal Singh was pardoned but Mohan Singh was put to
death. Harsha Deo invited Pradyuman Shah to come to Kumaun, but
when the latter declined, he placed on the throne Shiva Singh
a descendant of Udyat Chand. But this arrangement was destined
to be of very short duration. Kumaun, this time was attacked by
Lal Singh, who compelled the King and the Minister to flee. Lal
Singh occupied the throne of Kumaun and Mahender Singh, the son of
Mohan Singh, became his Prime Minister. (5) When Kumaun was
passing through such a state of demoralisation, it whetted the
appetite of Awadh, the Ruhelas and the Gorkhas of Nepal.

Garhwal

While Kumaun was engaged in the intrigues of Bishts and
Mohan Singh, Garhwal enjoyed a comparative stability. Fateh Shah
(1684-1716) credited with an attack on Tibet was succeeded by his

(5) Ibid., pp. 143-4.
son Dalip Shah in 1717. He could reign only for a few months and was succeeded by his brother Upendra Shah. Upendra Shah was ruler of Garhwal just for a period of nine months. Pratap Shah, son of Dalip Shah succeeded Upendra Shah and ruled Garhwal for half a century. During his reign Garhwal including Dehra Dun was in an exceptional prosperity. This prosperity soon attracted the attention of Najib Khan, the Ruhela Chief of Saharanpur. In 1767, the Ruhela led his first expedition into Dehra Dun and after a very feeble resistance on the part of Garhwal Raja established his authority there. Till 1770 Dehra Dun had been in the hands of Ruhelas. Pratap Shah died in 1772 and was succeeded by his son Lalit Shah (1772-1780). The latter took no notice of Dehra Dun which became a happy hunting-ground for Gujars, Sikhs and Musalmans. He was a weak ruler, and appeased the offending jagirdars of Dehra Dun with the grant of villages. Gulab Singh, the Pundir Rana obtained twelve villages with the hand of Lalit Shah's daughter in marriage. In the anarchy of Kumaun Lalit Shah was forced to intervene in 1779. He defeated Mohan Singh the usurper in Kumaun at Bagwali Potchar and permitted his son Pradyuman to become Raja of Kumaun. Lalit Shah had four sons: Jayakrit, Pradhuman, Parakram and Pritham. Lalit Shah was succeeded by Jayakrit Shah in 1780. The two brothers of Kumaun and Garhwal began to quarrel for subordination of each other. This quarrel led to overthrow of Jayakrit Shah, who died in disgust in 1804. (6)

Muslim inroads in Kumaun and Garhwal

Weak rule in Kumaun and Garhwal and the internal strife and struggle, first attracted the attention of neighbouring Muslim rulers of the area. Kalyan Chand the Raja of Kumaun provided the cause for the first Ruhela attack on Kumaun. A fugitive of Kumaun Himmat Gosain had taken shelter in the Ruhela camp in 1743-44. Kalyan Chand despatched assassins to the Ruhela camp to murder Himmat Gosain and his family. Ali Mohammad Khan was enraged at the murder, sent a force of ten thousand men under the command of Hafiz Rahmat Khan, Pinda Khan and Bakshi Sardar Khan to invade Kumaun. This force immediately smashed the feeble resistance of Shiva Deo Joshi at Rudrapur and proceeded to Almora. Kalyan Chand fled from Almora and requested Pradip Shah of Garhwal for help. Almora was soon occupied by Ruhelas. The combined forces of Kumaun and Garhwal met the Ruhelas at Dunagiri, but were utterly defeated. The triumphant forces of Ruhelas threatened Srinagar, the capital of Garhwal. Thereupon the Rajas of Kumaun and Garhwal came to terms and agreed to pay three lakhs of rupees to Ruhelas who in turn vacated the country. (7) Soon after Ruhelas, Nawab Mansur Ali Khan of Awadh occupied the pargana of Sarbana in Kumaun. In a battle against Teju Gujar, the Awadh Chakladar, Shiva Deo Joshi was wounded and taken prisoner. It was only after the intervention of the Mughal Emperor, that the pargana of Sarbana was restored to Kumaun. (8) Najib Khan of Saharanpur captured Garhwal territory.

(8) Batten, n. 4, p. 137.
of Dehra Dun in 1757, and held it till his death in 1770. From 1770 to 1785 Dehra Dun was under the control of local jagirdars. In the year 1786, Gulam Kadir, the grandson of Najib Khan, attacked Dehra Dun and inflicted untold miseries upon the population of the valley. (9)

Gorkha attack and Occupation of Kumaun and Garhwal

When Kumaun and Garhwal were under the attack of Awadh and the Rubelas, a strong power was emerging in Kathmandu valley. Prithvinarayan Shah came to power in 1742 over a small principality of Gorkha. Immediately after his accession to power he commenced his career of conquest with the annexation of Nawakot and the hill country in the west. By 1768 he annexed Kirtipur, Banepa, Bhatgaon and was in possession of Kathmandu. He died in 1775 and was succeeded by his son Singh Pratap Shah. Singh Pratap ruled for a short while and was succeeded by his son Ran Bahadur Shah in 1778. Kumaun was then a cockpit of intrigues and anarchy. Ran Bahadur despatched an army to Kumaun under the command of Chautaria Bahadur Shah, Kazi Jagjit Pande, Amar Singh Thapa and Surbir Thapa in 1790. Both Lal Singh and Mahendra Singh met the enemy in the battlefield, but were badly defeated. They were compelled to leave the country at the mercy of the invaders. Next year Gorkhas launched an attack on Garhwal from Almora. Garhwal forces met Gorkhas at the Fort

(9) Aitkinson, n. 2, p. 578.
Langurgarhi and a battle was fought. While the siege of Langurgarhi was on, reports of Chinese incursion into Nepal were received. The Gorkha show of force was enough to frighten the Raja of Garhwal, who concluded a treaty of peace agreeing to pay an annual tribute of rupees twenty thousand and to keep an agent at Kathmandu. The Raja of Garhwal remained loyal to the terms of the treaty for twelve years to come. The Gorkha forces were withdrawn from Garhwal in 1791. Harsha Deo Joshi was put in charge of Almora by the Nepalese and Joga Mall was left to administer Kumaun. After being free from the Chinese, the Gorkhas once again turned their attention towards Garhwal. In 1803, a well equipped army under the leadership of Amar Singh Thapa, Hastidal Chautariya and Bam Shah Chautariya invaded Garhwal. The Raja and his family were closely followed by Gorkhas, but they successfully escaped to Dehra Dun. Amar Singh Thapa and his son Ranjor Thapa assumed the charge of the administration of Kumaun and Garhwal. (10) Triumphant Gorkhas expelled the Raja of Bashahr from his capital Rampur and occupied the Sutlej-Kali tract.

The British in Kumaun and Garhwal

The British Government after its establishment in the Ganga Jamuna Doab and Rohilkhand, was eagerly watching the developments on the frontiers. After expelling Jaswant Rao Holkar from Punjab, the British Government had secured a treaty of friendship

(10) Ibid., pp. 607-18.
and alliance with Ranjit Singh in 1806. In 1809 the extent of Ranjit Singh's territories were limited by the river Sutlej. Thus securing themselves from all probable enemies, the British Government was looking forward to annex the frontier principalities between the rivers Kali and Sutlej.

After the occupation of Kumaun and Garhwal, the Gorkha power, unmindful of the power of the British Government, embarked upon a series of aggressions in the British territories. In Saran frontier about thirty villages were occupied by the Gorkhas. In Trihoopt about two hundred villages were seized. The Nawab of Awadh was badly harassed and places like Butwal, Tilpur and Bankeepur were captured by the Gorkhas. Five parganas of Rohilkhand were occupied. Kashipur in Moradabad district was occupied and Raja Sansar Chand of Kangra was threatened. (11) Under such circumstances it was decided to strike at the Gorkha power. Lord Hastings declared war on 1 November 1814. It was decided to attack Nepal simultaneously from as many points as possible. Major-General Morley with 8,000 men was sent to Behar. In Gorakhpur a force of 4,000 men was entrusted to Major General Wood. General Gillespie with 3,500 men was instructed to enter Garhwal and eject the Gorkhas from Srinagar. At the extreme west of the position General Ochterlony was to hold the Gorkhas in check. In Kumaun

Lieutenant Colonel W.L. Gardner was to proceed up the Kosi river and direct the attack against Almora. Captain H.Y. Hearsay with 1,500 men was to enter the area near Kali river by the Timla pass. (12) The object of the British Government in roping in the Gorkhas can be described thus:

The acquisition of the low countries along the whole course of the frontier and of the province of Kumaun may it is hoped in a great measure contribute an indemnification for the expenses of the war while the occupation of these posts in the Hills which government may determine to retain will materially strengthen our frontier in that quarter, and enable us to maintain that control over the restored chiefs necessary for the preservation of harmony and tranquillity among them. (13)

The result of this elaborate military mobilization by the British Government was a foregone conclusion; the power of Gorkhas was shattered. General Ochterlony who was in the extreme west entered into an agreement with Kajee Amar Singh Thapa the Gorkha Governor of Garhwal on 15 May 1815 by which the entire Garhwal passed into the hands of the British Government. (14) On 14 May

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(12) Nepaul War Papers (Calcutta, 1824); Prinsep, ibid., pp. 81-215; K.C. Chaudhari, Anglo-Nepalese Relations: From the earliest times of the British Rule in India till the Gorkha War (Calcutta, 1960).


(14) Convention or Agreement entered into between Kajee Amar Singh Thappa and Major-General Ochterlony, 15 May 1815, No. 43; Saxena, n. 13, pp. 100-1.
1815 the Gorkha forces in Kumaun were expelled beyond the river Kali. This territorial acquisition was confirmed in 1816 by the treaty of Sanguli. (15) Thus the frontier territory between the rivers Kali and Sutlej went into the hands of the British Government.

The British Government soon after the annexation of Kumaun and Garhwal began to ascertain the boundaries of the area with Tibet. W.L. Gardner who was chasing Gorkhas reached the northern border and set himself to the task. He reported that Nangullee, Millum and Neetee Ghat were the border villages. The possession of Kumaun and Tibet (Condeysee) in the area were separated by high passes of Beeanse (Lepu Lekh) Darmah, Joowar, Neetee and Perwa. Through these passes the communication and trade with Tibet was regulated. These passes were "... open across the Hymachal into Condeysee from the 26 of June till about the end of November". (16) Gardner left Kumaun under the control of his assistant George William Traill, who was later appointed Commissioner in 1815. He ruled the area for two decades and extended the administration up to high passes of Mana, Niti, Jowar, Darma and Byans. (17)

(15) Colonel J. Nicolls to C.M. Ricketts, Principal Private Secretary, 16 May 1815, No. 44; Saxena, n. 13, p. 102.


The successor of Traill, J.H. Batten noted in regard to Garhwal boundaries that "In the north, the Himalayan peaks and passes separate it from Hundes". Batten, n. 4, p. 117.
Beyond the territories of Garhwal, Raja Mahendra was restored to power in the state of Bashahr on 8 February 1816. (18) The boundaries of the state were ascertained. The territories of Bashahr and Tibet were divided by Shipkee pass which was situated at a height of about 13,500 feet above the sea level. (19)

The administration of the Kali-Sutlej tract was entrusted to the Superintendent of Sikh and Hill States and the Commissioner of Kumaun and Garhwal. The boundary ascertained during the first two decades of the nineteenth century was running along the high passes of Shipkee, Mana, Niti, Jowar, Darma and Byans, which remained so since then. No conflicts occurred with Tibet on this issue and the East India Company pursued a policy of independence and non-interference with it.

**Tibetan Encroachments in Garhwal and Kumaun**

By 1855, practically the whole of India had passed into the hands of the British Government and the rule of the East India Company was replaced by the Crown. The British administration in India thought it expedient to revise their policy towards Tibet.

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(19) Captain P.C. Kennedy, Assistant, Deputy Superintendent, Sikh and Hill States to Lieutenant W. Murray Superintendent Sikh and Hill States, 6 July 1824, Punjab Government Records, Delhi Residency and Agency 1807-1857 (Lahore, 1911), vol. I, pp. 255-99, para 84; Captain Alexander Gerard, *Account of Koonawar in the Himalaya etc. etc. etc.*, George Lloyd, ed. (London, 1841), pp. 122, 282. "From the Oopseung the Road was a firesome and rocky ascent to the pass which separates Koonawar from the Chinese dominions, 13,518 feet above the level of the sea". (p. 282) Entry into the narrative of the journey made in 1818, dated 12 October.
The Duke of Argyll while agreeing to the proposal, informed Lord Mayo, the Viceroy, on 5 May 1870:

I entirely concur with Your Excellency's Government that benefit may reasonably be expected from the proposed measure of abandoning our recent policy of isolation towards Tibet and resuming the former friendly communications with its ruler, which was originally opened by Mr. Warren Hastings, which have unfortunately been too long in abeyance. (20)

This change of policy did not effect the border between the Kali and Sutlej rivers, however its manifestations were definite and perceptible on the frontiers of Kashmir, Sikkim and Bhutan. A Resident was appointed in Kashmir in 1885 and Maharaja Partap Singh was deposed on flimsy pretenses in 1889. The opening of Sikkim was vigorously pursued and a political officer was appointed there in 1889. (21) At this time also occurred a change in the attitude of Tibetan Government towards the British. Dalai Lama XII died in 1876, and the Regency which assumed power was more hostile to the British Government than the Dalai Lama. (22) The concentration of the British activities in the frontier region, created greater suspicion in the minds of Tibetans about the intentions of the British Government. Every attempt towards opening of Tibet was frustrated, and a series of encroachments were made by the Tibetans on the frontier land.

(20) Duke of Argyll, Secretary of State for India to Earl of Mayo, 5 May 1870, Foreign Political A, June 1870, No. 102.


Garhwal, Barahoti

In about 1889 a British officer on leave named Campbell was travelling along the frontier near Niti pass. Tibetans in order to prevent the entry of the British officials came down to Barahoti—a place in the vicinity of the pass—and had established a customs post with ten or twelve men. This encroachment was reported to the British Government. In the opinion of the Chief Secretary of N.W.P. and Awadh the small guard house was of no harm to the people in the area. (23) But he was told that "... their action in establishing a customs house within the British frontier constitutes an encroachment which cannot be tolerated". (24) It was decided to communicate with the Tibetan authorities in the area. Failing in the efforts of communications with Tibetan authorities, the matter was brought to the notice of the Viceroy. Lord Lansdowne reluctantly remarked, "I should be sorry to resort to a little expedition, but it would not do to overlook a deliberate encroachment". (25)

Lord Roberts, the Commander-in-Chief was asked for the needful action in getting the territory vacated by the Tibetans. The first and third Gorkha Battalions under Major C. Pulley were

(23) Chief Secretary to N.W.P. Oudh to Secretary, Government of India, Foreign External A, May 1889, Nos. 39-58.
(24) G.R. Irwin, Under Secretary to Government of India to Chief Secretary, N.W.P. Oudh, 21 September 1889, Foreign External A, November 1889, No. 21.
immediately sent to the area and on the approach of this force near Barahoti the Tibetans ran away. Soon after the expedition, Pandit Dharmanand Joshi, Deputy Collector of Kumaon was deputed to explain to the Tibetan official Sarji with the help of the maps, the exact boundary line in that region so as to avoid future incidents. (26) However, the Tibetans occasionally transgressed the boundary to announce the trading season to the people of the area. The Government of India on its part decided not to notice these minor border encroachments. (27) In 1914 the Government of India again wrote the description of the Barahoti boundary to Tibetan official Lonchen Shatra. No objection was ever raised in regard to the boundary in the area by the Tibetan authorities. (28) Therefore the issue was taken as settled and the Niti pass remained an undisputed frontier between Garhwal and Tibet.

Kumaon

During the same time as that at Barahoti, Tibetans made encroachments in Kumaon. The Tibetan officer (Jongpen) was in the habit of stopping travellers and sending down his men in the British territory. People from Taklakot (Tibet) were regularly using roads in the British territory whereas British European

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subjects were subject to harsh treatment. The wood and fuel was
freely taken out of the British territory. The Rest houses and
Dharmasalas were smashed by Tibetans. There was no British Agent
at Garbyang to listen the disputes or to supervise the area. Major
General G.L. Channer, Commander Rohilkhand Division, who had been
to Mansarowar Lake in 1894, brought the matter to the notice of the
Government. He suggested the appointment of a native Mukhatar
(Agent) at Garbhyang for forwarding complaints regarding disputes
and the destruction of property. Channer asked the Government
that the Jongpen (Tibetan officer) should be informed that as the
Tibetans freely use the roads in the British territory, Englishmen
should also be allowed access to the lake and Kailash for sports.
He demanded the deputation of a party of Gurkha rifles under a
British officer to Dharchula. (29)

It was with great difficulty that T.U. Stuart, the Deputy
Commissioner of Almora, could meet the Jongpen and impress upon him
the wrongs done by the people of this area. He succeeded in
bringing him round to his viewpoint. (30) At the same time
Lieutenant E.E. Bliss was asked to move to Dharchula with a detach-
ment of first and third Gorkha Rifles. The administration of the
area was reorganized and tightened. Khadg Bahadur Pal and Parmanand

(29) Major General G.L. Channer to J.U. Stuart, Deputy Commissioner
Almora, 14 September 1894. Foreign External A, February 1895,
No. 9.

(30) J.D. La Tonche, Chief Secretary to N.W.P. and Oudh to
Secretary Government of India, 15 January 1895. Foreign
External A, April 1895, Nos. 93-100.
were appointed as Mukhtiyar and Peskar with certain powers at Garbhyang and Pithoragarh (SOR). A Tehsildar was appointed at Champawat. Bageshwar road connecting Almora and Askote was repaired, and arrangement was made for the assessment of the taxes at Bageshwar fair. (31) In 1897 Tibetans levied certain taxes on the people of Dharma Pargana near Darma Pass. The area was separated from the rest of the district of Almora (now Pithoragarh) by a lofty range of mountains which rendered them inaccessible except during the summer months. The Government of India took exception to this and suggested to the local authorities that, "... if need be a military force should be sent. No land tax of any kind can be levied by Tibetans on Indian territory". However, the issue was decided amicably by the officials of both the governments. (32) But during the fifty years of the present century there were several small encroachments on this border by Tibetans, at Nilang, Jadharg and Barahoti. All the disputes arising out of these encroachments were mutually settled by the local officers of the British and Tibetan Governments amicably. (33) It appears, there was no dispute about the boundary in the area prior to the advent of Chinese in Tibet.

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(32) Captain H. Daly, Deputy Secretary, Foreign Department to Chief Secretary Cudh, 18 September 1897, Foreign External A, November 1897.

(33) Official Report, n. 28, pp. 88-100, 185-96.
The boundary between the rivers Kali and Sutlej had been marked by nature in the form of watersheds, mountain passes and river valleys. There had been no disputes regarding the boundary. The rulers of the area both Katurias and their successors - the Shahs and the Chands - always knew the limits of their possessions. These limits were later confirmed by the British Government which came to power in the area in 1815. The people of the border area on both the sides had almost the same religious beliefs and, therefore, they were always had some sort of affinity. They were using the passes for their trade and social get together. Authority and politics never came in their way of life. No authority either in India or Tibet ever entertained mutual hostility or fear from each other. If at all there had been some sporadic attacks, they were of very short duration. It was only after the British Government came to power in India that the Tibetans became a little alert. Being sensible of the fate of the Rajas and Nawabs of India, the Tibetans had to adopt a policy of watchfulness in self defence. This Tibetan attitude grew gradually with the strengthening of the British power on their borders. The British efforts towards the opening of Tibet from different sides were met with greater resistance on its borders and gave rise to the encroachments in Kumaun and Garhwal by the Tibetan. These petty encroachments were always settled amicably by the border officers. The Chinese power in Tibet was practically non-existent in the nineteenth century