CHAPTER V.
CONSOLIDATION OF BRITISH RULE.

Hutchinson's military mission made a considerable
headway in pacifying the revolt of the South Lushai Hills.
His diplomacy, tact and skill were the great contributing factors
in mitigating the grievances of the Lushais. But a formidable
opposition emerged in the personality of Ropouli Leni, the widow
of Vandulla and the daughter of Vonolel. She was a brave woman
of patriotic fibre and had an absolute command over the descendants of her husband. During the rising of 1892, all the great
Chiefs of Vandulla's clan laid their lives leaving behind Lal-
thuma as the head. But he was under the complete control of
his mother, Ropouli Leni. Both the father and husband of Ropouli
Leni were the famous Lushai Chiefs who opposed the English.
She had the misfortune to witness the brutal murder committed
by the English troops upon her relatives. Many of her sons and
grandsons sacrificed their lives in fighting against the British.
Ruthless suppression of the rebellion of 1889-90 reduced the
Vandulla's descendants to sheer destitution. The official report
admitted that all the villages, except Aitur and Malthuma, were
now ruled by the widows. Under these circumstances it was very
difficult on the part of the widow of Vandula to offer a green
signal to the English in their programme of extension of
authority. She did not miss any opportunity to obstruct the
British administration. This was quite natural. She asserted
her influence upon her son Lalthuma who had already become a problem to Shakespear. Because of Lalthuma's opposition collection of tribute and labour from the Lushai Chiefs became very difficult on the part of the Government. Shakespear came to know of the serious offence of Lalthuma that he had certain complicity with the murder of Stewart. Moreover, his anti-British activities were manifest. But Lalthuma was just the instrument at the hands of his mother. At first the British officers failed to realise this. They punished him by imposing fine and failing to correct him they imprisoned him. At the instance of Shakespear Ropoui Leni was also arrested. With the arrest of Ropoui Leni the Vandulla's clan lost its leader and it became easier for the English to subdue the chiefs of lesser importance. But the English were not very sure of their success, considered the presence of Ropoui Leni at Lungleh detrimental to the peace in the South Lushai Hills and Shakespear proposed the transfer of Lalthuma and his mother from the Lushai Hills to avert further trouble. According to the instructions of the Government of Bengal they were deported to Rangamati, the headquarters of Chittagong Hill Tracts. But Ropoui Leni could not survive the shock of the prison life and within a year of her detention she died.

**AMALGAMATION OF THE SOUTH AND NORTH LUSHAI HILLS.**

On September 6, 1895 the South Lushai Hills were formally annexed to the British India, and included within the
territory under the administration of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. Under the same Proclamation of the Governor General, North Lushai Hills came under the jurisdiction of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. In South Lushai Hills Shakespeare was appointed the Superintendent and Mr. Porteous continued his service in the North Lushai Hills as the Political Officer. For the time being no drastic change was made in the administration and the existing setup that had been being followed since 1890 was allowed to continue. Law and order were the immediate problems before the local authorities and they concentrated their energies in enforcing law and order. For this, both the South and North Lushai Hills administrations chalked out a programme of systematic disarmament. Lushais being an armed race possessed huge quantity of guns in their villages; and according to this policy they were to surrender the unlicensed guns and secure licence for them. Any violation to this rule was severely dealt with. For the enforcement of this order Shakespeare adopted coercive methods. Many Lushai Chiefs, already disorganised, readily agreed to surrender the unlicensed guns but a section of the spirited people refused to obey the order of the Superintendent. The punitive expeditions were sent against Jaduna and Kairuma, the Southern Chiefs. Shakespeare adopted extreme measures to coerce them. Next the South Lushai administration paid its attention to the recalcitrant Chief, Vantura. His village was completely disarmed and the Chief was killed. Inspite of the
heavy loss inflicted upon the unwilling Lushai Chief by the English, Dakola did not readily agree to the proposal of disarmament, because the guns were the life-blood of the tribes. Shakespear took positive steps to disarm him and his clan. He and his subordinates were put under arrest and at the point of bayonet they were asked to issue an order to their men to surrender the guns. Mr. Dreck Brockman, the Assistant Superintendent, tortured physically the son of Dakola for his stubbornness. Shakespear had no soft corner for the disobedient Chiefs. He purged the tough elements from the Lushais and threw them into prisons and the prison authorities so illtreated them that a large number of the prisoners either committed suicide or died. Shakespear's ruthless method achieved its desired result. Within five years of his office he made the South Lushai Hills almost free from the Chiefs of age, to take away the last trace of independent spirit from the Lushais. Groaning mothers and weeping widows were the first among the adult population to welcome the British rule in the South Lushai Hills.

North Lushai Hills district authorities also followed the same method in enforcing the order of disarmament. But their task was comparatively easy. After the successful suppression of the revolt of the Western and Eastern Lushai Chiefs, very little was left to be done to coerce the tribesmen. For fear of penal measures the Chiefs under the North Lushai Hills administration did not offer substantial resistance but
surrendered their guns. But some Chiefs living on the outskirts of the North Lushai Hills district adjacent to the Chin Hills of Burma and within the administrative jurisdiction of the South Lushai Hills district of Bengal posed some challenge to Porteous, the Political Officer of the North Lushai Hills. The refusal of these Chiefs to obey the order of the Government generated a ferment in the hills under Porteous. The Chiefs, like Kairuma, Jaduna and Jacopa, had their supporters also in the North and in any operation they were more easily approachable through the northern ridges of the hills. Accordingly, a punitive expedition was sent in 1895 against those offending tribes under the instruction of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. The Governments of Bengal and Burma also sent supporting columns to assist the main expeditionary force. Those Chiefs were captured and their tribes punished. Along with the tributory labour the order of the gun-licence was strictly enforced.

It has already been pointed out that the problem of disarmament in the North Lushai Hills did not assume so much importance like that of the South Lushai Hills district. Moreover, Porteous laid more emphasis upon the programme of the construction of roads to expedite the consolidation of British rule. The programme of disarmament reached its completion in the North Lushai Hills after the amalgamation of this district with the South Lushai Hills in April 1898.
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHIN LUSHAI CONFERENCE

In the meantime the recommendations of the Chin Lushai Conference were discussed by the Governor-General-in-Council to solve the administrative problems of the Chin Lushai country. The Conference recommended that the North and South Lushai Hills with a portion of the Arakan Hill Tracts should be placed under Assam at once. The conclusions at which the Governor General in council finally arrived were as follows:

1. The whole of Lushai country under the Chief Commissioner of Assam and the transfer of South Lushais from Bengal to Assam should be made as early as possible.

2. The Chittagong district should also be transferred from Bengal to Assam, as soon as the settlement operations now in progress have been brought to an end. If the settlement cannot be finished within the current year, or if it is found that there are difficulties in the way of an immediate transfer of the entire district, the subdivision of the Hill Tracts should be transferred in advance of the rest.

3. The Government of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam should be consulted as to the expediency of transferring to Assam the whole Chittagong Division, including the Political charge of Tripura.

4. The Northern Hill Tracts should be transferred from Burma to Assam. The Chief Commissioners of both provinces have been referred to on this subject. The Governor General-in-Council will be glad if the Chief Commissioners will put themselves into communication and consider the matter with a view to settling the failure position of the boundary between their respective administrations.

5. When detailed proposals are submitted to give effect to the five transfers indicated above viz South Lushai, the Chittagong district, Chittagong Hill Tracts and North Arakan Hill Tracts - they should include careful estimates of additional expenditure if any, involved in each case.
With regard to Chin Hills no declaration of Policy need to be made for the present.  

The Government of Bengal had no objection in the proposal of amalgamation of the North and South Lushai Hills district into one unit and readily agreed to cede the South Lushai Hills to the administration of Assam but the Chief Commissioner of Assam raised the objection on the ground of finance. Mr. Durand, the Foreign Secretary, Government of India, informed the Government of Assam that the Viceroy had agreed (1) Lushai expenditure must continue to be provincial. Present cost of administering the territory to be transferred might be deducted from Bengal and given to Assam. (2) Aijal - Lungleh road if constructed, would be imperial charge but no special grant could be made for that in 1893-94, and Public Works Department could only make provision by reappropriation from Manipur road, so that there is no practical prospect of funds next year. (3) Military Department could not undertake responsibility or charges for supply and transport of Police, but would bound, small staff on payment, to organise supply and transport system. The Chief Commissioner of Assam was also appraised of the cost of administration of the Lushai Hills to be Rs. 5,62,992 by the Political officer the North Lushai Hills. This officer, too, advocated strongly the amalgamation on the ground of better administration. Being assured of liberal financial grant by the Central authorities the Chief Commissioner of Assam communicated his assent on March 19, 1893 to the Government of India.
The Chin Lushai Conference occupies an important place in the history of the Lushais. The recommendations of the Conference were broad-based on a uniform political principle. Some talented British officers since the time of Edgar were advocating a uniform Lushai Policy for administrative convenience but their suggestions could not be carried into practice because of the internal and external difficulties of the provincial Governments. After the permanent occupancy of the Chin Lushai country the Foreign Department, Government of India, gave a thought to the old suggestions. Sir Durand was the main force behind the Conference. The Chin Lushai Conference studied the Lushai problem in proper perspective and aimed at solving the complications of administration once for all. With this objective the Governor General proposed the amalgamation of Chittagong Hill Tracts with the administration of Assam. The people living in the ranges of hills could better be controlled from this type of administrative unit. Ethnologically and geographically those people living in the Lushai Hills and Chittagong Hill Tracts belong almost to the same category. In fact, this vast tract of land consisting of Lushai Hills (North and South) Chin Hills, Chittagong Hill Tracts and North Arakan is vaguely called in Lushai language as 'Mizo Ram' Viz, the land of the Mizos. Durand wanted to create a separate Division of Chin Lushai country preferably under the Assam administration. Undoubtedly, this type of regrouping of the administration of the Eastern Frontier
was fraught with insurmountable difficulties, especially of communication, but his approach was based on future political considerations. Unfortunately for the opposition of Mackenzie, the then Chief Commissioner of Burma, the suggestions of Jurand were turned down. Even the Governor General-in-Council had to go back from their conclusions which they had arrived at after the Chin Lushai Conference. Only the amalgamation of the two Lushai units were carried into practice — that too, after five years, in 1898.

/ AMALGAMATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH LUSHAI HILLS DISTRICTS.

On April 1, 1898 the South Lushai Hills District and North Lushai Hills District were amalgamated into one unit known as the Lushai Hills District under the Chief Commissioner of Assam with Aijal as the headquarters. Major Shakespear assumed the charge of the Lushai Hills as the Superintendent. North and South Battalions were also amalgamated into one unit under the Command of Major Loch. But the political staff under the Superintendent was weak and the Chief Commissioner applied for the appointment of a second officer at Lunglei to the Government of India. The Home Department of the Central Government agreed to the proposal of the provincial Government and Drake Brockman was posted as the Assistant Superintendent at Lunglei. Thus Lunglei, which was reduced to insignificance after the amalgamation regained its political importance to some extent.
ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES - EXECUTIVE

The Superintendent of the Lushai Hills was the head of the executive of the district. The district administration was under the direct supervision of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. Under the Assam Frontier Tract Regulations, the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills, like the Superintendent of the Naga Hills, had certain extra judicial powers. He had the duties to settle all disputes between the Chief and Chief and Chief village and village, and tribe to tribe, and to prevent all raiding and public breaches of the peace. He did not interfere with the administration of each village by its own Chief; unless in very exceptional cases when called on to interfere. Because of these special power enjoyed by the Superintendent he selected certain Lushai Chiefs and invested them with certain powers relating to the settlement of petty suits, collection of revenue and tribute. Those Chiefs received certain subsidies in lieu of their services. In a sense, those Chiefs acted as the Government officials of local nature. The Lushais were allowed to feel the local tribal autonomy. It is relevant to point out in this connexion that in Naga Hills administration the Superintendent had already enjoyed all these powers and the Government of Assam followed the similar type of executive setup in the Lushai Hills. Indeed, before the annexation of the Lushai Hills J.Knowlidge, the Political Officer, who was transferred from Naga Hills to North Lushai Hills administration, advocated the Naga Hills set up in the Lushai Hills.
SPECIAL POWERS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

The Superintendent not only enjoyed certain extra judicial powers but also had the upper hand in the Police administration. He had the power to issue orders to the Commandant in all matters. The provisioning of the force and transport were under the Superintendent.

DIFFERENCE OF LUSHAI ADMINISTRATION WITH OTHER DISTRICTS.

The whole structure of the administrative machinery was different from that of the plains districts. This was devised with a special motive. The Government of India considered it unnecessary to appoint a special set of judicial officers with criminal and other powers. Unlike the plains districts of Assam and Bengal, the social condition of Lushai Hills was materially different. In a country where the law and order problem was of utmost importance, Superintendent needed some special powers. Moreover, the Lushai Hills administration was based on the administrative experience of the South and North Lushai Hills districts where the executive heads hitherto enjoyed the similar powers. Secondly, for the pacification of the tribes, this special type of administration seemed to be necessary to the Government of Assam. The selection of certain Chiefs and investing them with some powers was in keeping with the social and political traditions of the Lushais. Besides, the Government wanted to ensure tribal and village responsibility by adopting
this measure. This type of administration, although suffers from certain inherent defects, was congenial to the traditional setup of the Lushai Hills. Within a short time the Lushai people got accustomed with this type of executive. The influence of this experience was so profound that it bears its mark on the Indian Constitution also.

POLICE ADMINISTRATION : REORGANIZATION OF POLICE FORCE

Lushai Hills Police administration was different from that of the plains districts. Before the amalgamation there had been two units of military Police - the Lungleh Battalions and Aijal Battalions. In August 1896 the Lungleh Battalion revolted against their masters. The Gorkhas of the Battalion were not satisfied with their service condition and considered their emoluments not commensurate with their hard tasks. The mutineers got upper hand and the administration failed to pacify them. The authorities of the FortWilliam got alarmed. Both the Commissioner of Chittagong and the Commandant of the 2/2nd Gorkhas at Aijal were instructed to advance to Lungleh to quell the mutiny. By tactful handling the Government suppressed the rebellion.

Immediately after this, the heads of the three executives of North Lushai Hills, South Lushai Hills and Chin Hills met at Lungleh in a Conference in December of the same year. The Conference laid a special emphasis upon the Police reorganization and recommended the amalgamation at once in one battalion of the whole Military Police Force in the Lushai Hills. According to the
recommendations the Police force was reorganised into one unit under the Command of Major Loch, who admirably supported Shakespeare in the administration.

**INTRODUCTION OF CIVIL POLICE.**

Lushai administration since 1898 gave up the earlier policy of sending punitive expedition against the offending Chiefs on the slightest pretext. Shakespeare now began to follow the policy of moderation and caution. Moreover, since 1898 the law and order did not pose any threat to the Lushai administration. The task of pacification was already over. Regarding disarmament the Chiefs co-operated with the Police instead of violating their order. The Lushais got accustomed with the method of licensing guns. The collection of tribute and labour did not worry the Superintendent. Without the help of the Police these were collected. The smooth running of administration made the Government of Assam feel, at the beginning of the present century, the disutility of continuing the Military Police Force in the Lushai Hills and the likely switch over of the Military Police to Civil Police. In fact, a Civil Police had also been organised in 1898-99 subsidiary to the Military Police, and the sanctioned Police force, Civil and Military, had also been reduced to 1,106 men only.

**SHAKESPEARE'S LAND SETTLEMENT.**

The friendly Lushai Chiefs did their best in co-operating with the district administration. The Government depended upon
the good will of those Chiefs. They were not merely invested with certain powers but were also allowed to follow their age-old custom of shifting the villages from one place to another. According to the provision of Land Settlement made by Shakespeare in 1898-99, each Chief was granted a certain area of the Lushai Hills within which he and his people were entitled to move about freely. This settlement seems to be the most intelligent administrative measure devised by Shakespeare. The Lushais were made to feel that under the new administration they were enjoying the same setup they had before their subjugation. They spheres of influence of the respective Chiefs saved the Superintendent, and also the Police, from many an unnecessary trouble.

Five Chin families came across the Tyao river into Lushai Hills and settled on a land belonging to the Chief Thansuma. The Tyo river was the boundary between the Chin Hills and Southern Lushai Hills. The intruders were fined and were ordered to go away after the collection of their crop. But when they refused to go after the harvest, they were forcibly ejected by the military Police. Their houses were burnt down. The Government of India demanded explanation from the Government of Assam for such a stern measure. The Authorities of Shillong justified the action on the ground of necessity. They pointed out that the Superintendent had to be very particular regarding the settlement of outsiders on lands recognised as belonging to the local Chiefs.
LEGAL MEASURES

With the extension of British rule in the Lushai Hills, in spite of the Regulation of Innerline Reserve, there had been a considerable increase in the population at Aijal and Lungleh. In addition to the Bengali clerks and petty traders a considerable number of Gorkhas after their retirement from the army and Police force took Lushai Hills as their home. By the Assam Frontier Tract Regulation 1880, the hillmen were immune from paying off certain taxes to the Government. According to the operation of the said Regulation the plains people living in the Lushai Hills were entitled to get the same immunity. The Chief Commissioner of Assam in 1904 informed the Government of India that the number of civil suits instituted in the Lushai Hills in which people other than the Lushais were concerned was rapidly increasing. The Government of Assam found no reason why those people should not contribute to the revenue in the form of Court Fees and Stamp Duty. He proposed to extend the Court Fees Act and Stamp Act to the Lushai Hills district subject to a restriction similar to that with which they had been extended to the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia and Naga Hills by the Chief Commissioners Notification No. 992 of dated 13 September 1897. Governor General-in-Council agreed to the proposal of the Chief Commissioner and the Court Fees Act 1870 and Indian Stamp Act 1844 were extended to the district of Lushai Hills in 1904.
CERTAIN REVENUE MEASURES

In Lushai Hills there was practically no scope of realising the revenue from the hillmen. The administration fixed the revenue of one rupee per house per year and the task of collection was entrusted with the Chiefs of the Government. There was also the provision of collecting this house tax in kind. From the licensed guns the Government levied certain fees which the Lushais had to pay each year at the time of renewal of the licence. The administration issued the licence of the licence of a gun per fifteen houses in a village. Heavy fines were imposed on the discovery of an unlicensed gun. From the established hats or trade marts the administration used to collect certain amount of revenues but nothing was fixed on that account. With the steady growth of the townships like Aijal, Lungleh, and Demagiri and with the decline of the traditional Lushai Chiefs, the old trade marts like Changsili, Tipaimukh, Kasalong suffered a natural decline. The traders from Cachar and Chittagong shifted their establishments to the new towns gradually. But their contribution to the revenue of the Lushai Hills was insignificant.

DEFENCE MEASURE: MILITARY POSTS

Military posts were absolutely necessary for the consolidation of the British rule in the Lushai Hills. During the Chin Lushai Expedition 1889-90, these posts were the bases of military operations and in the subsequent revolts they
admirably served the purpose of strongholds in quelling the rebellions. In a country where the natural barriers were the main obstacles in enforcing the order, the utility of these posts never diminished. Moreover, the system of communication in the Lushai Hills was interlinked with the defence arrangement. The principal roads connected one military post with the other. One of the recommendations of the Chin Lushai Conference was that the expenditure of the construction of the Aijal - Lungleh road be reimbursed from the imperial revenue. The important military posts like Aijal, Lungleh, Demagiri and Haka were either the termini or the starting points of the road system in the hills. Those posts and outposts were built in the most strategic areas having both the defensive and offensive arrangements. Their massive structure, impressive showmanship and military prestige commanded the allegiance of the recently subjugated Lushai Chiefs. The two large brass canons that were recovered from the 74 N.I. of Chittagong mutinees and were used during the South Lushai rising in 1891-92 from the Fort Lungleh were later transferred to Fort Aijal with the object of demonstrating the strength of British garrison. Regular march passes, sound of bugles and the display of guns from these military posts struck terror into the hearts of the tribesmen. The Lushai Chiefs had respect only for the superior power and the display of strength cowed them down before the might of the British Government.

It has already been pointed out that the military posts
had a direct bearing upon the communication system in the Chin Lushai country. It was the duty of the military police posted there to supervise the maintenance of the roads. After the formation of the Lushai Hills district in 1898 the importance of Aijal as headquarters grew up. But the communication system of Fort Aijal was not so good as that of the Fort Lungleh. The route from Silchar up the Dhaleswari river was improved. This opened the river to boats as far as the present Sairong Ghat, 14 miles from Aijal, between which points a cart road was made, thus lessening the cost of transporting rations and stores into Aijal, and Changsil ceased to exist as a post. Fort Aijal was fortified and being the headquarters of the Lushai Hills Military Police Battalion it began to command the all other military posts in the Lushai Hills.

Fort Lungleh which had the unique military strategy and which played the most vital role in subjugating the Lushais lost its former importance. This military post was not merely the headquarters of the South Lushai M.P. Battalion up to 1898 but was also the very important centre of Lushai administration. Under the instruction of the Government of India the officers of Chin Hills, North Lushai Hills met at Lungleh with the Superintendent of the South Lushai to discuss the Chin Lushai problem frequently. From the stand point of communication Lungleh was well connected with Demagiri and Chittagong. Because of its long association with the administration of Bengal this post became very favourite
of the authorities of Calcutta. Lungleh was the only post in
the heart of the Lushai Hills where the army could be despatched
easily, straight from Calcutta. Before 1898 when it was the
head-quarter of the South Military Police Battalion it had the
strength of about one thousand men. In times of emergency it
could house about three thousand men.

The most favourite of all the military posts was Fort
Tregear. It was built before the Chin Lushai Expedition 1889.
This fort earned a unique military prestige in subjugating the
Chin Lushais. It was located on the border of Chin Hills and
South Lushai Hills. From the stand point of military strategy
this fort was, as it were, the sentry in the frontier of India
and Burma. It was burnt in 1892 by an accidental fire but was
rebuilt. The difficulty with the Fort Tregear was the acute
scarcity of water supply. The Military Department reluctantly
agreed to give up the Fort in 1898. Another position for the post
was selected nine miles further east and was called South Vonlaip-
phi. In 1896 the post at North Vonlaiphai was established. In
1898 an important military post was established at Champhai on
the east of Aijal. The post was built at an elevation of 600 feet
and since then it has been commanding the strategic frontier of
Assam and Burma. In the North Lushai Hills this is the most
favourite of all the posts.

The post at Demagiri near the border of Chittagong Hill
Tracts and South Lushai Hills had originally been the old fort
of the Lushai Chief, Rutton Pooa. This was the oldest of all the military posts in the Lushai Hills. Since the Lushai Expedition 1871-72, the Demagiri post served the purpose of the strong military base of the English. Throughout the Anglo-Lushai relationship in the nineteenth century, Demagiri witnessed a large number of diplomatic missions. This post was, in a sense, the gate-way of the Lushai Hills. The creation of Pakistan has disrupted the communication of Demagiri but its importance has all the more increased because it is the last border post in the Indo-Pakistan border.

The incorporation of the Lushai Hills district into the administration of Assam made the Lushai Hills close to the local authorities of Cachar. Silchar, thus, became the base of military supplies in the Lushai Hills. Kolosib, the new post situated in the middle of the Silchar-Aijal road, assumed a tremendous importance from the stand point of transport. Like Demagiri this new post became the gate of the Lushai Hills from the north. Other than Kolosib the important outposts on the Burma border were Darngan and Sharngan.

All those military posts were the nerve centres of British administration in the Lushai Hills. Many of those military posts, in course of time, outlived their utility but in times of emergency excepting fort Tregear they were revived. Revolt in the Mizo Hills in 1966 has considerably altered the military strategy of this area. As a result of the regrouping of the villages in consequence
of "Operation Security?" undertaken recently by the Indian Army would lead to the establishment of entirely new posts and outposts on the Silchar - Lungleh - Demagiri road but the utility of the old military posts established by the English could never be outlived. Fort Aijal and Fort Lungleh are not only the centres of Lushai administration but they command the Indian Security Forces with confidence in a most sensitive frontier of Burma and Pakistan.

**PROBLEM OF AN UNADMINISTERED TRACT**

An unadministered tract lay on the immediate neighbourhood of Sherkor, the most important post of the South Lushai Hills. Shakespear proposed to the Government of Assam to incorporate or at least extend political influence over the said tract which consisted of about one hundred square miles. The Superintendent pointed out that the unadministered tract was the source of immense hardship to the administrations of the surrounding settled administered districts because it harboured bad characters. He advocated that the annexation of the tract would secure a well defined southern boundary for the Lushai Hills. The Government of Assam, in furtherance of the matter, instructed the Assistant Superintendent of Lushai Hills to make a careful examination of the matter. After the enquiry both the Assistant Superintendent and the Superintendent came to the conclusion that the time had come for the effective control of the Lushais living within the unadministered tract between the Lushai Hills and Manipur. But
this time Shakespeare pleaded for the annexation of the tract into Arakan on the ground of administrative convenience. The Government of Assam thus did not consider it worth the risk in carrying the investigation further. To check the lawlessness the military post Tuipong was established near Sherkor in 1907.

**DEMARCAISON OF BOUNDARIES**

Ill-defined boundaries had always been the important cause of border explosions. But, before the pacification of the tribes, it was almost impossible to complete the task of boundary settlement. Governor General-in-Council, immediately after the Chin Lushai Conference, recommended the demarcation of boundaries that would be necessary after the amalgamation of the Lushai Hills into one unit. Very little was left to restore law and order in the Lushai country since 1896. Both the Chin administration and Lushai administration got the respite to concentrate their energies in constructive works. Accordingly, the Government of India set up a Boundary Commission headed by P. Maxwell and H. W. G. Cole to demarcate the boundary between the Lushai Hills and Manipur.

**MANIPUR - LUSHAI HILLS BOUNDARY**

From January 22 to February 9, 1900, the Commission was engaged in the field work and made an extensive survey of the Lushai country adjoining the Manipur State. The Commissioners received considerable guidance by the report of the Chin Manipur Boundary Commission, 1898. But the Commissioner of the present
Commission detected an error of the earlier Commission relating to the highest peak of Lungling Hill. After the completion of the survey the Commission submitted the following report:

"The boundary commences at the junction of the Tuivai river with the Barak river, known as Tipaimukh, there is a revenue survey pillar on the left bank of the Tuivai, about 50 yards to the south west of the junction, which marks the tri-junction point of the Manipur State and the Cachar and Lushai Hills district.

Proceeding up the Tuivai round Senvall Hill and under pabarchang Hill, the course of the river followed untill it receives the Tui-Toi stream, thence up the Tuitol stream to one of its sources at a saddle known as Bongkot, where a boundary pillar marked M.L.(1) has been erected, thence crossing to the east side of this saddle down a stream, which is one of the sources of the Vang-Vum-Lui and continuing down this latter stream untill it falls into the Tuivai river.

Thence again up the Tuivai river, flowing now north of Chapui Hill, and following the course of this river untill it receives the Tuikuri stream north west of Lunglely Hill.

Thence up the Tuikuri stream to its source below boundary pillar No. 8 of the Manipur-Chin boundary, situated on a saddle about four miles east of Lunglely Hill, where the Tuivai river is the boundary, the left bank is the boundary of the Lushai Hills and the right bank that of Manipur." 36

The Government of India acknowledged the new boundary line between the Manipur State and Lushai Hills as demarcated by the Maxwell Commission and this boundary continues its existence till to-day.

**CHIN-LUSHAI HILLS BOUNDARY**

Delimitation of Manipur - Lushai boundary raised the problem of the undefined border between the Chin Hills and the Lushai district. Formerly, the South Lushai district had close connexion with the Chin Hills administration and both the
administrations accepted Tyo river as the boundary. But the
boundary between the North Lushai Hills and Chin Hills was never
scientifically drawn. The boundary adjustment between the Chin
Hills and the Lushai Hills became all the more indispensable after
the incorporation of Kuboo Valley of Manipur into Burma. With
the fall of the Eastern Lushais in 1892 the Government of Assam
could initiate the matter in this regard but the revolt of Manipur
in 1891 and the subsequent law and order problem in Chin Hills
and Lushai Hills deferred the long overdue settlement. The Govern­
ment of India entrusted the task to a Boundary Commission in 1901.
The Commissioners like W.C.M. Dundas and A.C. Bateman demarcated
the boundary and submitted the following report:

"The boundary commences at the confluence of the Tuisai
and Tuisai streams. There is a chain and pillar No. 2 placed
there on the left bank of Tuisai and 5 yards from the confluence
of the stream, marking the trijunctional point of Manipur, Lushai
and Chin Hills. The boundary now goes up the stream of the Tuisai
to where Tuimang meets it. This direction is due north and south
thence up the Tuimong to a point where its tributary the Bapuil-Lui
meets it, finally up the Bapuiluli to its source below a pillar
marked L/C.H/3 on Vai-kholmn, where is also the source of the
Tyao, the reorganised boundary between the Chin Hills and Lushai
Hills districts."37

The readjustment of the boundary in 1901 completed the
hitherto incomplete task of the Government. This boundary is now
the recognised international boundary between India and Burma.

CACHAR LUSHAI HILLS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

After the demarcation of the Chin Hills and Lushai Hills
boundary, the task of delimitation was almost complete except
the rectification of the boundary between the Cachar district and
Lushai Hills district. The matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India by Mr. Fuller, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, in 1903. He informed that the Cachar Lushai Hills boundary which was given in the Chief Commissioner's notification on June 24, 1875 though somewhat vague in its terms, was formally sufficient for practical purposes. Since the pacification the Lushais had been moving north wards towards the plains of Cachar, and the plains people of Cachar, no longer afraid of the Lushais had been moving south wards. Frequent questions regarding the boundary had consequently arisen, especially in connexion with the falling of timber along the different rivers which cross it. The settlement of land near the boundary had been delayed because of the uncertainty as to the land to which it belonged. This caused inconvenience to the operation of land settlement undertaken by Shakespear in 1898-99. The Chief Commissioner advocated a revision and a more scientific demarcation of the boundary. He proposed to transfer from the Cachar district to the Lushai Hills a tract which geographically belonged to the Lushai Hills and which contained some Lushai hamlets. Fuller pointed out this tract as a resort for the Lushais who were discontented with their Chiefs and who escaped from the control of the Superintendent of the Lushai Hills. This tract was traversed by the road from Silchar to Aijal, the maintenance of which was exceedingly difficult for the Silchar authorities, whereas under the Lushai system of administration it was compa-
comparatively easy. Part of the tract was included in the reserved forest known as the Inner Line Reserve. Thus the control of the Forest Department would not be affected by the shifting of the forest lands from Cachar to the Lushai Hills.

The southern boundary of Cachar since the time of Edgar's treaty with Sukpilal (1870) had been more or less based on political consideration than on geography. The Chief Commissioner proposed the connection of the vague southern line of the Cachar boundary. Two alternative lines were suggested. One to the north running from the west of the Chatarchura or Siddheswar-Sirispur range down the Bhagsurra stream to its junction with the Dhalaswari rivers; the other to the south running from the east of the same range and down a tributary of the Pakwa stream to where it joins the Dhalaswari.

Fuller pointed out that the northern line would exclude from the Cachar district some land suitable for rice cultivation so he preferred the southern line. He further submitted that for the boundary adjustment not merely a tract of land be transferred from Cachar to Lushai Hills but also two smaller tracts from Lushai Hills should also be transferred to Cachar. The proposed transfer might lead to some legal difficulties because the above readjustment would affect the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court. Both the Governments of Assam and centre came to the conclusion that the readjustment of the Cachar-Lushai Hills boundary was necessary but the main obstacle in this respect was
the Indian High Courts Act 1865. Governor General consulted with the judges of the Calcutta High Court who agreed to cede their jurisdiction in the greater interest of a political settlement. Accordingly, the Governor General-in-Council approved of the proposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam and sanctioned the transfer of a tract of land from Cachar to Lushai Hills and two smaller tracts from the latter to the former.

With its incorporation into the British dominion till the time of the annexation of Lushai Hills, Cachar played a very important role in the Anglo-Lushai relationship. Best frontier officers throughout the second half of the nineteenth century regulated the Lushai affairs from Silchar. With the transfer of the last piece of Lushai land from Cachar to Lushai Hills marked the end of that chapter. The new boundary readjustment, as if, the last corner stone hitherto remained unturned was turned for the consolidation of British rule in the Lushai Hills.
Notes on Chapter V.

B.J.P. Political A - is the abbreviation of Bengal, Judicial Proceedings of the Political Department(A).

B.P.P. - is the abbreviation of Bengal, Political Proceedings.

I.F.Extl A... - is the abbreviation of the India, Foreign Department, External A, Proceedings.

K.W. is the keep with,(the notes by the Secretaries).

   Oldham, Commissioner, Chittagong to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bengal. Vandulla's descendants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Relative</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Dead or Alive</th>
<th>Name of Village</th>
<th>No. of houses</th>
<th>Present Ruler</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ropui Leni</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Alive</td>
<td>De-Lung</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>Ropui Leni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thangshanga</td>
<td>grand son</td>
<td>Dead</td>
<td>Chelkai</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>Thangshanga's widow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrangpura</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>Dead</td>
<td>Tiltalong</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Darchokpui, the widow of Thrangpu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songliana</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>Dead</td>
<td>Marchung</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Widow of Songliana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotona</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>Dead</td>
<td>Aitur</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Lientora, grand son of Vendula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalthuma</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>Alive</td>
<td>Mualtum</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>Lalthuma</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2-4. Ibid.


7. See Chapter V. Rising in the North.

8. B.J.P. Political Deptt. November 1896. No. 85. Political Officer, North Lushai Hills to the Secretary, Chief Commissioner, Assam.

9-10. I.F Extl A. September 1892. No. 56. Report by H.M. Durand, Secretary, Foreign Deptt, Govt of India, dated Simla July 25, 1892. Letter No. 1383 W.

11. I.F Extl A. September 1892. No. 32. Resolutions of the Chin Lushai Conference, the Resolution No. 5. See also B.P.P. Nov. 1893. No. 99 File 24-1 Durand to the Chief Commissioner of Assam.


16. I.F Extl A. February 1898. No. 97. Secy, Govt. of India to the Chief Commissioner, Assam, dated July 27, 1898. The transfer of South Lushai Hills to Assam and connected questions.


18. I.F Extl A. April 1897 Nos. 220-228. Future Administration of the Lushai Hills. See the Proceeding No. 220. Letter of Gait to the Secy, Foreign Deptt. Govt. of India, dated Shillong July 6, 1896, and also No. 221; the letter written by E.A. Gait to the Political Officer, North Lushai Hills, Shillong June 26, 1896 for the FRONTIER TRACT REGULATION.

19. B.P.P. April 1897. No. 72. File 24-112. Officiating Commissioner, Chittagong to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Bengal. See also I.F Extl A. January 1897 Nos. 165-172. Conference for the settlement of questions regarding the general position in the Lushai Hills. K.W.No. 1. Part II. Note by the Chief Secretary, Govt of Bengal, October 27, 1896.
20. I.F.Extl A. January 1897 No. 172. List of subjects to be considered and reported on by the Conference to be held at Lungleh in December 1896.


22. Chakraborty B.C. - 'British Relations with the Hill Tribes of Assam' p 80.


33. B.J.P. August 1872. No. 1. Hankey to the officiating Secretary, Judicial Deptt. Govt. of Bengal, dated April 1, 1872. Measures for the defence of Chittagong Hill Tracts.

the inclusion of these six villages (about 1,000 Square mile) would provide a well defined boundary to the southern border of Lushai Hills. But now he thinks that inclusion in Arakan is better for Sherkor is nearer. So the Assam Government from Lushai Hills cannot join in any expedition."


38-42. I.F.Extl A. March 1904. Nos. 44-46. Transfer of a tract of land from the Cachar District to the Lushai Hills District, and of two smaller tracts from the latter district to the former. For the Notification by the Chief Commissioner see enclosure I of the proceedings No. 44. For the old boundary see 'Sukpilal's sunad' in Chapter III.