APPENDIX C

THE TREATY OF COMMERCE BETWEEN ASIAM AND THE EAST INDIA COMPANY IN 1793.

Translation of a new system of Commerce adopted by the Maharajah Gurgi Deo, Assam, 28th February, 1793.

The Maharajah Gurgi Deo, highly sensible of the benefit he has experienced from the aid which has been afforded to him by the English Government, and desirous not only of cementing the harmony and friendship which subsists between him and that power, but also of extending the beneficial effects thereof, in general, to the subjects of Bengal and Assam, has, at the recommendation of Captain Welsh, the representative at his Court of the said English Government, agreed to abolish the injudicious system of Commerce which has heretofore been pursued, and to adopt in its stead the following plan, liable however to such alterations and amendments as occasions may require, for the mutual benefit and comfort of the subjects of both countries.

ARTICLE 1

That there shall henceforth be a reciprocal and entire liberty of Commerce between the subjects of Bengal and those of Assam for all and singular goods and merchandizes on the conditions and in such manner as is settled in the following rules.

ARTICLE 2

That to facilitate this free intercourse between the subjects of both nations, those of Bengal, in fulfilling the conditions hereafter prescribed, be permitted to proceed with their boats loaded with merchandizes into Assam, and to expose their goods for sale, at any place or in any manner may best suit their purposes, without being subject to any other duties than are established by these Articles.

ARTICLE 3

That a regular Impost be levied on all goods or merchandizes, whether of Export or Import, and that these duties be fixed as follows:-
IMPORTS

1st - That the Salt of Bengal be subject to an Impost of 10 per cent. On the supposed prime cost, reckoning that invariably at 400 Rupees per 100 maunds of 84 sicca weight to the seer.

2nd - That the Broad Cloths of Europe, the Cotton Cloths of Bengal, Carpets, Cooper, Lead, Tin, Tutanag, Pearls, Hardware, Jewellery, Spices, and the various other Goods imported into Assam, pay an equal Impost of 10 percent on the Invoice price.

3rd - That Warlike Implements and Military Stores be considered contraband and liable to confiscation, excepting the supplies of those articles which may be required for the Company's troops stationed in Assam, which, and every other matter of convenience for the said troops, whether of clothing or provisions, are in all cases to be exempt from duties.

EXPORTS.

1st - That the Duties to be levied on all articles of Export (except in such cases as are hereafter mentioned) be invariably 10 per cent, reckoning agreeable to the rates hereby annexed to each, viz. -
Mooga Dohtees, per md. of 84 sa.wt. to the seer 95 0 0
Mooga Thread, ditto ditto 70 0 0
Pepper, ditto ditto ...
Elephants' Teeth, ditto ditto 50 0 0
Cutna Lac, ditto ditto 4 0 0
Chuprah and Jury Lal, ditto ditto 3 0 0
Munjeet, ditto ditto 4 0 0
Cotton, ditto ditto ...

2nd - That all articles of Export not herein specified (with the exception of the following), and for which no certain calculation can be made, be subject to an equal Impost, in such instances always to be paid in kind; and with respect to these articles which have been particularized, that the Duties be received either in money or kind, as may be most convenient to the Merchant: but as it may happen that a temporary scarcity of grain may occur either in Bengal or Assam, to provide against which, Rice and every description of Grain to be exempt from Duties.

ARTICLE 4

That any person or persons detected in attempting to defraud the Surgy Deo of the Duties hereby established, shall be liable to a confiscation of his or their property, and for ever after debarred the privilege of the trade.
ARTICLE 5

That for the purpose of collecting the said Duties, Agents be appointed and Custom Houses established for the present, one at the Candahar Chokey and one at Goughatty.

ARTICLE 6

That it be the business of the Agents to be stationed at the Candahar Chokey to collect the Duties on all Imports and on all Exports, the produce of the country to the westward of Goughatty, for which they are to be held responsible. They are to examine all boats passing up and down the river, and, after having settled with the proprietor for the amount of the Duties, they are to grant him a passport, specifying the number and quantity of each article, a copy of which they are to forward, without delay, to the Agents at Goughatty, whither, or further, if it be necessary, the Merchant may proceed under sanction of the said pass.

ARTICLE 7

That it be the business of the Agents stationed at Goughatty to collect the Duties on all Exports the produce of the country parallel to it north and south, and also on all
Exports the produce of the country to the eastward, as far as Nowgong, for which in like manner they are to be held responsible. They are to examine all boats passing down the river, and to grant passports to the proprietors, copies of which to be forwarded to the Agents at the Candahar Chokey, who are to re-examine the cargo, lest, on the way between Gowhatta and their station, the merchant may have taken goods on board which could not be specified in the pass granted at that place.

ARTICLE 8

That as an incitement to the Agents to be industrious in the discharge of their duty, a recompense be made to them, bearing a proportion to the amount of the collections, and that for the present it be fixed at 12 per cent. on the said collections, which is calculated to defray all incidental expenses.

ARTICLE 9

That the said Agents be required to be sureties for each other, and that the whole be bound by engagements to the Surgy Deo, not only for the purity of their conduct in the collections, but also that they abstain from having any concern, either directly or indirectly, in trade.
ARTICLE 10

That a copy of their accounts be produced on or before the 10th of every month, and that the payment of the collections be made into the hands of any person the Surgy Deo may appoint to receive it at the expiration of every quarter.

ARTICLE 11

That the standard weight hereafter, both for Exports and Imports, be 40 seers to the maund, and 84 sicca weight to the seer.

ARTICLE 12

That as much political inconvenience might arise to both Governments from granting a general license to the subjects of Bengal to settle in Assam, no European merchant, or adventurer of any description, be allowed to fix their residence in Assam, without having previously obtained the permission of the English Government and that of the Surgy Deo.
ARTICLE 13

That as Captain Welsh, the representative of the said English Government, in consideration of the Surgy Deo having removed the prohibitory restrictions which have hitherto existed, to the detriment of a free intercourse, has signified his intention of bringing to punishment all persons from Bengal, offending against the established laws of Assam, or infringing these Articles, so the Surgy Deo, on his part, declares he will punish all abuses in his subjects, tending to obstruct or discourage the reciprocal intercourse this system is designed to promote.

ARTICLE 14

That copies of these Articles be affixed at every public place throughout Assam, that none may plead ignorance, and that Captain Welsh be requested to send one officially to his Government.

Sd/- THO. WELSH, (The seal of the
Captain Maha Rajah Surgy Deo)