Chapter - 2

Activities of Thomas Fisher (1832-35)

Thomas Fisher (1832-35) was the first Superintendent of Cachar. He joined as a clerk of the English East India Company in 1786 at the age of 14 and elevated to the position of a researcher in 1816 for his sincerity. He was an FSA of Perth and London in his later life. He showed his considerable talent for drawing and distinguished himself by drawing some monumental remains and antiquities. The Government of India deputed Fisher to enquire into the early history of Cachar in 1821 and same was done by him.\(^1\)

The last Cachari Rajah Govindachandra was murdered through conspiracy by Gambhir Singh of Manipur on 24 April, 1830. Lieutenant Thomas Fisher was made the civil incharge of Cachar on June, 1830 with the powers of a Magistrate and Collector.\(^2\) Thomas Fisher dealt with the
contesting powers - Gambhir Singh of Manipur, Tularam Senapati of North Cachar Hills, Rani Indraprabha, the eldest queen of Late Rajah, who raised their demand for the royal throne of Cachar. But nobody was acceptable for the royal throne of Cachar. So, the only solution of the problem was the annexation of plain Cachar with the British dominion. Accordingly, the Governor-General-in-Council annexed plain Cachar by a formal proclamation on 14 August, 1832.

Thomas Fisher was appointed as the Superintendent of plain Cachar in 1833 on a consolidated salary of Rs. 1000/- with headquarters at Dudhpatil chargeable on the revenue of Cachar. He was vested with the powers of a Magistrate, Collector, a Civil Judge and as a Frontier Officer. But the administration in between 1830 and the annexation of plain Cachar in 14 August, 1832, was placed under Lieutenant Fisher. He shifted his administrative headquarters to Dudhpatil from Cherapunji early in 1833 as it was difficult to control the whole situation from that remote centre of administration. He conducted the administration of Cachar under the supervision of Assam Commissioner in the initial stage. In 1836, Cachar was included in the Dacca Division and headquarter of Superintendent was shifted to Silchar from Dudhpatil. The designation of District Officer of Cachar was Superintendent (1832-66). Thomas Fisher was the first Superintendent of plain Cachar till 1835. But after the annexation of Jaintia in 1834, Cachar and Jaintia
became one administrative unit under the Superintendency of Thomas Fisher. He tried his level best to satisfy his colonial interest and did something for the progress of socio-economic and political situation of Cachar.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Thomas Fisher did commendable works in organising a composite society of Cachar comprised of various ethnic communities like Cacharis, Bengalis, Hindus, Muslims, Manipuris, and few tribals. Because, Fisher encouraged the immigration of people from Sylhet and neighbouring districts to develop the social set up of Cachar. During his Superintendency, about 12,000 people entered Cachar from Sylhet.

Thomas Fisher was a prolific writer and educationist. So, he intended for the promotion of education and suggested to the Commissioner of Dacca in June, 1834 for the establishment of vernacular schools in Cachar. He urged that some deserving persons be sent either at Calcutta or Serampore to enlarge their minds. The entire instruction in this district was to be conveyed in Bengali language. He also recommended for the recruitment of teachers from Sylhet in Cachar because, the natives of this district were not capable in this respect.
But Fisher could not materialise his mission due to the negligence of Home Government and he was instructed to do something for education from the resources of Cachar. The same view was embodied in the Charter Act of 1833. But Cachar was not then ready to bear the burden.

Thomas Fisher did little for the progress of medical and health. He appointed few native practitioners or native doctors in Cachar called Kabiraj and Hakim among the Hindus and Muslims respectively. Mentions had been made about one Native Doctor in September, 1833 during his Superintendency. The Medical Centre at Silchar was opened in 1835.

The common people of Cachar greatly affected by two major floods of 1833 and of 1834 during the Superintendency of Thomas Fisher. He provided relief measures of Rs. 1000/- for the flood affected people in 1834. He also distributed rice and paddy and in some instances gave small sums of money to the Mirasdars for the disbursement of the same among the flood affected people. For all these, he took receipts and the amount was realised afterwards.

The communication system was being not sufficiently good in Cachar, the British Government took initiatives to construct Sylhet-Manipur road through Cachar for their colonial interest. Accordingly, Thomas Fisher was entrusted to complete the work first from Sylhet to
Badarpur thence, to Banskandi. Some prisoners were brought from Sylhet jail to complete all these roads. He charged Rs. 4000/- to construct the Sylhet-Banskandi road. He also constructed the Sylhet-Manipur road through Cachar. The existing road of 1824 from Dudhpatil to Jirighat was made workable by Thomas Fisher considering it as a highway. Silchar embankments were constructed to avert frequent floods and periodical inundations in Cachar Dinghee or country boats, steamers were the only source of navigation throughout the year in the Barak and Katakhal river.

Fisher did not interfere with the existing religious groups in Cachar. He provided religious freedom to all ethnic communities in practising their indigenous religious customs and institutions. Sacred places of them were also recognised. There was a Kalibari in Silchar town which was founded by a Peshkar of Superintendent's office in 1833.

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

Thomas Fisher did everything to enrich the economy of plain Cachar. He was hopeful about the revenue prospects of Cachar. Because, Cachar was a resourceful place. But his mind was deeply rooted for the consolidation of colonial British rule in Cachar. So, Fisher restored the old administrative order of the princely regime and did not
interfere in the existing system of administration. Because, British rule in Cachar was yet in its infancy and thought it better to consolidate British rule without injuring the sentiment of people. It may cause huge work load for the Government. The financial difficulties also stood in the way of altering existing institutions. So, Fisher made slight modifications in 1833 as were considered absolutely necessary confirming the former officials in their respective positions with customary powers and privileges.\(^{23}\)

Revenue payment in kind was discontinued and money payment was substituted during the Superintendency of Fisher. The old rate of assessment made during the reign of Govindachandra was also continued by Thomas Fisher.\(^{24}\)

Thomas Fisher did commendable works for the maximisation of revenue without making any regular settlements in plain Cachar. He kept the fiscal administration intact as was prevalent during the princely regime.\(^{25}\) Plain Cachar was sparsely populated district at the time of British possession in 1830 under the charge of Thomas Fisher. Most of the tracts were arable but unoccupied jungle lands. So, Fisher surveyed both land and population of plain Cachar. He found 29,000 acres cultivated land in 1830,\(^{26}\) and rent was fixed at the rate of Rs. 3-12-0 per Kulbah. He also fixed the rent of 252 Kulbahs, Katnee land of the elder Rani at Rs. 1000/- only.\(^{27}\) Fisher also estimated the quantity
Activities of Thomas Fisher

of arable but unoccupied waste land of plain Cachar at 18,00000 bighas in 1833. Fisher encouraged the immigration of people from Sylhet and neighbouring districts to Cachar for the proper utilisation of waste land that may cause economic prosperity of Cachar. The total population of plain Cachar estimated by Fisher was 50,000 consisting of Cacharis, Muslims of Bengali origin, Hindus including the Nagas, Kukis Manipuris as per the local census of 1831. Captain Pemberton in course of his survey duty in Cachar reported that about 12,000 people had immigrated from Sylhet during the first one and half years of Fisher’s administration in Cachar. This resulted the increase of revenue collection with the simultaneous increase of population.

Accordingly, the revenue should be paid for all clear cultivated lands at the rate of company Rs. 5-2-0 per Kulbah, for seed (chara) lands Rs. 3-3 per Kulbah and homesteads, tanks etc. were rent free. Jungle land was settled rent free for 1000 days after which revenue at rates varing from Rs. 2-12-0 to Rs. 3-8-0 per Kulbah was demanded. The total area of the settled land taken charge of by Thomas Fisher was 6,115 hals 9 kears 1 powa 6 jait 2 raik and 2 gandas. Of this an area of 4,289 hals 7 kears 3 powas 6 jait 3 raik and 2 gandas was rent paying and bore an annual jummah of company Rs. 21,441-8-0 and the reminders of the area was Baksha, Devottara and other Lakheraj.
The land and miscellaneous revenue demand of Cachar for the year 1830-31 was amounted to Rs. 27,165\(^3\) (See Appendix – A). The increase of cultivable land by the British under Fisher led to the increase of revenue collection tremendously. The following table confirmed the same.\(^3\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Revenue</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1830-31</td>
<td>£ 2669.65</td>
<td>£ 2072.25</td>
<td>597.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834-35</td>
<td>Rs. 40,708-0-3</td>
<td>Rs. 30281-3-8</td>
<td>Rs. 10426-12-7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moreover, the Revenue Table made by Thomas Fisher indicated the gradual improvement of fiscal picture vividly and the charges was mainly for the detachment of Sylhet Light Infantry stationed in Cachar and the charge was incurred from the revenue of Cachar\(^3\) (See Appendix – B). But people were unable to cultivate land for floods in and after 1834. So, they failed to pay revenue in time which then fell into heavy arrears.\(^3\)

Thomas Fisher followed Mukhtar and Mirasdari system along with the Ryotwari system for the maximisation of revenue. Mukhtar was the revenue collector, civil and criminal judge. They collected revenue from the ryots and deposited the same to the Government. After the liquidation of khel system, land was privatised and granted pattahs to the big plot holders known as Mirasdars.\(^3\)
The owners of land directly held from British Government was called *Mirasdars*. They were divided into two groups (i) the self-made *Mirasdar* was one who had acquired that position by dint of hard labour, (ii) the second group was created by the British for their colonial interest. Fisher introduced the *Ryotwari* system in place of *Zamindari* system.

The old system of revenue collection was enforced by Thomas Fisher and it was slightly modified in 1833 through issuing Cachar Rules of April, 1833. Accordingly, *Mukhtars* of Cachar collected revenue in cash in three instalments in a year – the first becoming due on first *Survan*, second on first *Kartik*, third on first of *Fagoon* and if more than one month in arrear, interest at 12% per annum was discharged.

Fisher abolished the system of ill treatment and confinement of revenue defaulters by *Mukhtars*. The approval of Superintendent was must in confiscating the defaulters' property. The *Mukhtars* were to produce *Jamawasibaki* with the extent of collections and arrears in each *Talook* together with the name of defaulters. The expenses of the collections made by *Mukhtars* were to be realised not from collected revenue but from the *Talookdars* of the respective *Khans*. *Mukhtars* were to deposit security money at the collector's office. In case of misappropriation of any money, he was subjected to punishment by
the Faujdari Court. Fisher secured an amount of Rs. 61,000 from the annexed territory of 26,500 Kulbah of Jaintia in 1835. He also collected revenue from fisheries, ghats which were settled by Jaintia Rajah after annexation.

Thus, it can be said that Thomas Fisher was successful in maximisation of land revenue. Of course, for the great floods of 1834 and the modified Revenue Rules promulgated by Fisher in 1833, people and revenue collectors (Mukhtars) suffered heavily which created ill feeling about the British rule as well as Fisher.

Thomas Fisher also tried to enhance the economy of Cachar by levying 12% interest through the abolition of penalty except in cases of fraud in 1835. He also abolished the titles and privileges enjoyed by the people even after two years of British possession of Cachar. Of course, British Government permitted to retain the title but without any power.

Land revenue was not only the sources of income of Fisher's Government, but miscellaneous sources of revenue like saltwells, ghats, trade etc. helped developing the economic situation of Cachar. Because, Silchar the main centre of administration, was converted as a town by Fisher. River Barak and Katakhal also helped in maintaining navigable trade with Sylhet. So, Cachar became a potential rival of Sylhet trade from 1832. This became possible due to Fisher's activities.
There was no common markets except Janiganj and Fatak Bazar during the Superintendency of Thomas Fisher. Fisher conducted trade on timber, bamboos, cane etc. with Sylhet and earned sufficient profit. He also established trade relation with China. Ghats also played a vital role in the revenue and commercial history of Cachar. There were large number of ghats during the Superintendency of Fisher. Amongst them, mentions may be made of Jirighat, Sonabarighat, Madhuraghat, Sealtekhghat. In the early years of British rule, these transit stations were leased to merchants from Bengal, who received certain commission. These ghats were brought under the direct control of the Government in 1833. All the ghats in Cachar except Sealtekh, were abolished. The Sealtekh ghat yielded a revenue of Rs. 3200 in 1832.

Fisher was also credited for the payment of labour wages per day, at 8 Anna in place of 1 Anna prevalent during Govindachandra. He also abolished the old system of Bandhan, a forcible collection of rent on special occasions like marriage and festivals on the cultivators. It helped the peasants from hardships during the Superintendency of Fisher. This exception was not available in time of princely rule as we have seen in Chapter 1.

Thus, Thomas Fisher, first Superintendent of plain Cachar, played a vital role for the economic development of Cachar. He can rightly be called as one of the first British economic diplomats in
Cachar. He took every attempt in consolidating the newly founded colony in Cachar and succeeded through his tactful policy and help of colonial masters.

**POLITICAL ACTIVITIES**

Along with his work in socio-economic progress, Thomas Fisher restored administrative order in Cachar. He dealt with the contestants for the royal throne of Cachar. They were not content about their possession made by the British earlier in protest of the wishes of Rajah Govindachandra. So, after the possession of this district by the British in 1830, Thomas Fisher, civil incharge and Superintendent of Cachar allowed Tularam Senapati to retain his early possession, North Cachar Hills. The widows and near relatives of Govindachandra were granted cash allowance and rent free grants of the total value of Rs. 3875. Gambhir Singh's proposal to farm out Cachar to him for an annual revenue of Rs. 15,000 was vehemently opposed by the British authorities in Cachar.\(^5\)

For the orderly situation restored by Fisher, people returned home fled away to Sylhet earlier during the turmoiling situation of princely regime and lived with peace and amity under his rule.\(^2\)

Fisher restored the old order of administration confirming native officers in their former positions. Of course, slight modification was
made in 1833 through providing appointment to the Europeans to run the administration of Cachar effectively.53

Thomas Fisher felt the necessity of a Cutchery in the Sadar station. So, he proposed to construct a Cutchery in 1830 and urged for land to build the same. Accordingly as per instruction from the Commissioner of Dacca, measurement of land was made for the construction of a Cutchery and in 1835, a small Cutchery was established at Silchar by Fisher.54

The Cachar jail was constructed by Fisher in 1833 at Silchar. It was situated near the present Fatak Bazar.55

Fisher, assuming the charge of Cachar affairs, recruited stipendiary forces to look after the police administration of the day.56 During his Superintendency, Cachar was divided into three Thanahs - Silchar, Hailakandi and Katigorah, each under one Darogah at a monthly salary of Rs. 7 only. The salary of Darogah was being too poor, Fisher authorised a monthly levy on the Mirasdars of three Thanahs in terms of oil and paper for official use. The tax to be levied was as follows: Hailakandi Rs. 6-11-0, Silchar Rs. 4-12-0, Katigorah Rs. 4-10-0. But it was a vexatious hardships for the Mirasdars. The Mirasdars had to expend money for the repairing of these Thanahs. Accordingly, Fisher expended Rs. 672 for police administration of Cachar.57
There existed some subordinate staff to manage the jail establishment set up by Fisher. Total 6 Barkandazes who received Rs. 4 per monsum each acted as the incharge of Cachar jail in 1833. There were also 1 jail Darogah, 3 police Darogah, some Jamadar appointed by Fisher in 1833. They served faithfully on receiving salary from the Government of Cachar led by Fisher.

Police administration of rural area was managed by appointing one Chaukidar in every village covering 64 houses under the initiatives of Fisher. The Chaukidar received only 1 pice per month from each house under his charge. His duty was to report all heinous offences to the nearest police station and to render assistance to the police at the time of enquiry into their jurisdiction.

Thomas Fisher, first Superintendent of Cachar, was an efficient and far sighted judicial administrator of Cachar. So, he kept intact the existing system of judiciary prevalent during the princely regime with slight modifications. He dealt the Civil, Criminal and Fiscal cases through one Magisterial (Superintendent) Court, two Civil, Revenue Courts existed in Cachar in 1830-31. Of course, appeals from his court involving civil and criminal matters were to refer to Sadar Nizamat and Sadar Diwani Adalats respectively, while the jurisdiction of Session Judge at Sylhet was extended to Cachar.
Fisher favoured the establishment of a Native Court (*Chota Adalat*) or Native *Faujdari* establishment at Cachar in 1833 comprising three native judges (*Munsiffs*) of the native Government. Out of these three native judges, two belonged to Cacharis and one Bengali. He restored these native judges for their past judicial experience and knowledge of the customs and usages of the country to deal civil and criminal cases.  

Thomas Fisher also favoured Jury system having three members to deal cases pertaining local customs. But Robertson, the Agent to the Governor-General, favoured *Sadar Amins* to be more useful than the jury. Finally Superintendent was authorised to exercise discretionary power to settle these cases of local customs because, Fisher had more experience to the local condition of Cachar. The appeals from Superintendent’s Court both civil and criminal were made by Fisher to the Agent to the Governor-General of North East Frontier. *Sadar Diwani* and *Sadar Nizamat Adalats* dealt those cases filed personally at Calcutta. But poor people need not to proceed to a distant place and Fisher himself settled those cases for the benefit of people remained under poverty stricken condition.

Cachar was being a Non-Regulated Province, stamps were not used in Cachar. So, Thomas Fisher levied a non-refundable commission of Rs. 6.4 per cent on all regular cases filed in the civil
court in lieu of stamp duty. But in civil cases no commission was required during the Superintendency of Fisher. Fisher authorised the Mukhtars to deal fiscal and criminal cases. He was very judicious Superintendent of plain Cachar. He tried guilty persons by the Magisterial Superintendent Court, Civil, Revenue and Native Courts. In case of critical situation, cases were referred to the Session Court at Sylhet.

Fisher also fined the prisoners and in default of payment of fine within 10 days, the prisoners to be subjected to labour without fetters. He held out pay of judicial officers when court was first established in Cachar. He was also liberal in appointments without creating any distinction. As Muhammad Masoom was the only Muslim Amlah entertained by Thomas Fisher.

Thus, Thomas Fisher managed tactfully the socio-economic and political situation of plain Cachar. He was an efficient Superintendent of plain Cachar who acted as a Revenue Collector, Civil Judge, Magistrate, Police Officer, an Executive Engineer under the supervision of the Agent to the Governor-General. He fully consolidated the British rule in this newly acquired colony, Cachar for colonial interest. But his benevolent socio-economic and political reforms indirectly helped the local people of Cachar. So, Fisher can be called as the first
benevolent and diplomatic Superintendent of plain Cachar. He died while in service at the age of 63 in 1835.70

P Mainwarring (1835-36) assumed charge as Officiating Superintendent of plain Cachar after the death of Thomas Fisher in 1835. He was authorised by Fisher before his death to act as Magistrate and Collector of this district. Accordingly, Mainwarring as Officiating Superintendent and Civil incharge of Cachar and Jaintia, did some thing for the progress of socio-economic and political segments of Cachar.71

*Mukhtar* system followed by Fisher was being expensive and defective, P Mainwarring liquidated it and initiated *Tahsildari* system in 1836. Accordingly Cachar was divided into three *Tahsils* - Silchar, Hailakandi and Katigorah. This new establishment consisted of 4 *Moharirs* at Rs. 8 each per monsum, 1 *Poddar* and 1 English writer at Rs. 8 and Rs. 15 per monsum respectively amounting to a total monthly expenditure of Rs. 55.72 P Mainwarring repaired the Cachar Jail in 1835 for the security management of Cachar73 (See Appendix - C).

Thomas Fisher conducted the administration of plain Cachar with the assistance of a number of subordinate native and European staff. So, Cachar under Thomas Fisher made certain changes which were done mainly for perpetuating the British rule. But it went towards the change of socio-economic-political life of the people.
Everywhere there was the touch of fact of Thomas Fisher what was lacking in princely rule as we have seen in Chapter 1.

NOTES AND REFERENCES


   "Thomas Fisher enjoyed the post of Superintendent of Survey in Sylhet till 1830. He was by profession a Civil Engineer and had expert knowledge in mensuration. He showed his proficiency as a highly qualified executive officer. He had sufficient local knowledge and experience about the Cachar affairs as a survey officer which position he held till 1830." (1835, BPG, File No. 336, Letter No. 255 of 1835 and Letters Received from Govt. (Duplicate copy), Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August).


   "In 1831, Govindachandra, at the instigation of Gambhir Singh, was murdered in his own house and by his own guards and lying without issue his kingdom lapsed to the British Government." (Letter No. 50 of 1857, DCRRS).


Activities of Thomas Fisher


7. *CR.*, No. 64 of 1837.
   Jayanta Bhusan Bhattacharjee, *op. cit.*, p. 73.


9. *CR.*, No. 91 of 1837

   *Letter No. 50 of 1857 (DCRBS)*

   B C Allen, *op. cit.*, pp. 48-49.

   *Letters Received from Govt. (Duplicate copy), Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August.*


12. "With regard to teachers there are none in Cachar, viz., the natives of this Zillah capable of this task, but competent men can be had from Sylhet where there is a pandit whom Captain Fisher proposed employing should schools ever be established here." (CR., No. 140 of 1838).


   D Datta, *op. cit.*, p. 25.


17. CR., No. 77 of 1837.

18. Letters Received from Govt., Duplicate Copy, Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August.

19. R B Pemberton, op. cit., Table 3.


21. "There exists for a great portion of the distance between Sylhet and Budderpore the remains of an embankment of considerable dimensions which Liett. Fisher informs us was erected for the protection of the southern bank of Soormah from inundations. There can not be a doubt that the repairs of the existing bund is most desirable and not only with a view to facilitating eventual military operations in and beyond Cachar but adverting to the effect that all improvement in the communications between our old possessions and lately acquired have in promoting the improvement. With regard to the importance of a road from Sylhet to Budderpore applie still more strongly to a road from Budderpore to Banskandee. The roads under construction would take the usual stages from Sylhet to Banskandee and the former line selected by Lieutt. Fisher for the advance of General Shuldhams division." (Letters Received from Govt., Duplicate Copy, Vol. 8(B), 1832, January-August.)


23. ASP, File No. 636 CO of 1872, p. 5.

   Jayanta Bhusan Bhattacharjee, op. cit., p. 76.


25. ASP, File No. 636 CO of 1872, p. 5.

   B C Allen, op. cit., p. 43.


27. Suhas Chatterjee, op. cit., p. 149.

29. CR., No. 91, 100, of 1837.

Thomas Fisher stated: "Cachar is now divided into three unequal districts the amount of population in each of which is very uncertain. The division under my charge which comprehends the most valuable part of Cachar contained probably at the death of the late Rajah about 50,000 inhabitants chiefly Mussalmans of Bengally origin inclusive of Nagahs and Kookees among the hills south of the Jatingah River who may be estimated at full 10,000 more since that event (or within the last eighteen months) the population of the low lands has received very considerable occupations from all quarters the amount of which cannot be enquired into minutely without exciting uneasiness in the minds of the people but there is reason to think that it may not fall short of 12,000 souls and that looking to the anxiety displayed by natives of Sylhet for grants of land in Cachar and the density of the population in that district a much greater increase." (Letters Received from Govt., Duplicate Copy, Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August).

30. ASP, File No. 636, CO of 1872, p. 5

D Datta, op. cit., p. 208.

31. Ibid., "But in the statement showing the demand and realisation of revenue of Cachar since it was assumed by Govt. is not same with cited figure" (D Datta, op. cit., p. 43.).


Jayanta Bhusan Bhattacharjee, op. cit., p. 183.


34. ASP, File No. 636, CO of 1872, p. 5.


38. ASP, File No. 636, CO of 1872, p. 16.
   CR., No. 42 of 1837.

39. Ibid.

40. ASP, File No. 636 CO of 1872, p. 16.
   BRP, No. 185 of 1858.


42. ASP, File No. 636, CO of 1872, p. 5.

43. CR., No. 54 of 1837.

44. Ibid., No. 36 of 1850.

45. Suhas Chatterjee, *op. cit.*, p. 163.

46. Ibid., pp. 178-81.
   ASP, File No. 636, CO of 1872, p. 2.
   *Letters Received from Govt., Duplicate Copy, Vol. No. 8(B), 1832, January-August.*


49. Ibid., p. 169.
   CR, No. 23 of 1837.
   ASP, File No. 636 CO of 1872, p. 23.

50. Suhas Chatterjee, *op. cit.*, p. 142, 162.

52. Suhas Chatterjee, *op. cit.*, p. 115.

   
   Jayanta Bhusan Bhattacharjee, *op. cit.*, p. 76.

54. *CR., No. 16 of 1837*.
   
   "When Captain Fisher first came to Silchar he sent in a statement of the quantity of land that would be required for public buildings including his own house and the bazar but received for answer that he must settle for his own house ground with the proprietors and send a measurement of the ground actually required for his Kutchery, Treasury and Jail and for the lines of the Detachment of the Sylhet Light Infantry. This measurement was accordingly made and an English translation prepared and supposed to have been sent by him but no copy of any letter that may have accompanied or any answer that may have been received could after most diligent search be found in this office." (CR., No. 212 of 1839).

   "it is assumed that a small Cutchery was established in 1835 by Fisher at Silchar on payment of compensation for the required lands for such public buildings" (*ASP, File No. 636 CO of 1872*, p. 2).

55. *CR., Nos. 212 of 1839, 254 of 1841*.


   "The Cachar Jail was constructed by Fisher in 1833 near the present Fatak Bazar. It was made up of mats, bamboo, wood posts, Jull} Bate etc. So, it was not secured at all." (CR., No. 177 of 1838).

   "Captain Fisher had to pay compensation for about two hats of lands occupied for public buildings like Cutchery, Jail and other Government buildings instructed by the Government." (*ASP, File No. 636, CO of 1872, p. 2.)*
57. CR., No. 181 of 1841.

"The Burkundazas are divided into parties of 4 each who take the duties by rotation 3 months at a time. Each party having 4 koolbas of Bukshu lands in lieu of pay. Their officers denominated Huzarees and jumadars have, the former 3 and the latter 2½ Koolbas of Bukshu lands" (CR., No. 62 of 1837).

58. Ibid., No. 118 of 1848.


   CR., No. 64 of 1837.

62. Ibid., Nos. 84 of 1837, 55 of 1853.

   "The salary of native judges were Rs. 10 for one Bar Bhandari, Rs. 5 for two Bitrodolois each per month. Brajaram Barman was the first Bar Bhandari and the Bitrodolois were Krishnaram Deb and Krishnanath Dutta." (CR., Nos. 144 of 1838, 51 of 1839).

63. Ibid., No. 64 of 1837.

   Jayanta Bhusan Bhattacharjee, op. cit., p. 86.

64. Ibid., No. 284 of 1838.


66. Ibid., pp. 85-87.

67. CR., No. 12 of 1839.

68. Ibid., No. 4 of 1839.

69. Ibid., No. 593 of 1842.

70. C E Buckland, op. cit., p. 146.

Suhas Chatterjee, *op. cit.*, p. 221.
