

BHUTÁN.

A State in the Eastern Himálayas, between 26° 45' and 28° N. latitude, and between 89° and 92° E. longitude, bordered on the north and east by Tibet, on the west by the Tibetan district of Chumbi and by Sikkim, and on the south by British India. Extreme length from east to west 190 miles; extreme breadth 90 miles. Area about 20,000 square miles; population estimated at 250,000.

The original inhabitants of Bhután, the Tephús, were subjugated about two centuries ago by a band of military colonists from Tibet. In 1774 the East India Company concluded a treaty with the ruler of Bhután, but since then repeated outrages on British subjects committed by the Bhután hill men have led from time to time to punitive measures, usually ending in the temporary or permanent annexation of various *dwárs* or submontane tracts with passes leading to the hills. In November 1864 the eleyen western or Bengal *dwárs* were thus annexed. A treaty was signed (November 1865) by which the rulers of Bhután receive a subsidy of Rs. 50,000, on condition of their good behaviour. This gives the Indian Government an effective control over them, while the occupation of two strong positions at Baxa and Diwángiri, within a few miles of their frontier, serves as a material guarantee against further aggression.

The form of Government in Bhután, which existed from the middle of the sixteenth century until 1907, consisted of a dual control by the clergy and the laity as represented by Dharma and Deb Rájás. In 1907 the Deb Rájá, who was also Dharma Rájá, resigned his position, and the Tongsa Penlop, Sir Ugyen Wangchuk, K.C.I.E., was elected as the first hereditary Maharaja of Bhután.

Chief towns: Punakhá, the winter capital, a place of great natural strength; Tásichozong (Tashichödzung), the summer capital, Páro, Angdúphorang (Wangdupotang), Tongsa, Taka, and Biaka.

The people are nominally Buddhists, but their religious exercises consist chiefly in the propitiation of evil spirits and the recitation of sentences from the Tibetan Scriptures. Tásichozong (Tashicödzung), the chief monastery in Bhután, contains 300 priests.

Beyond the guards for the defence of the various castles, there is nothing like a standing army.

The chief productions are rice, Indian corn, millet, lac, wax, two kinds of cloth, musk, ponies, chowries, and silk. Muzzle-loading guns and swords of highly-tempered steel are manufactured.

Imports into Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam from Bhután 22,975*l.* (1907-08) and 20,148*l.* (1908-09). Exports from those Provinces to Bhután 40,284*l.* (1907-08), and 38,556*l.* (1908-09).

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