

BHUTÁN.

STATE in the Eastern Himálaya, 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 Chumbí and by Sikkim, and on the south by British India. Extreme length from east to west 190 miles; extreme breadth 90 miles. Area about 18,000 square miles; population estimated at 300,000.

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 repeated outrages on British subjects committed by the Bhután hill men led from time to time to punitive measures, usually ending in the temporary or permanent annexation of various *duars* or submontane tracts with passes leading to the hills. In November, 1864, the eleven western or Bengal *duars* were thus annexed. Under a treaty signed in November, 1865, the Bhután Government was granted a subsidy of Rs. 50,000 a year on condition of good behaviour. By an amending treaty concluded in January, 1910, the British Government undertook to exercise no interference in the internal administration of Bhután. On its part the Bhutanese Government agreed to be guided by the advice of the British Government in regard to its external relations. The treaty also provided for the increase of the subsidy to Rs. 1,000,000.

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, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., was elected as the first hereditary Maharaja of Bhután. He died on August 21, 1926, and was succeeded by Maharaja Jig-me Wang-chuk, K.C.I.E.

Chief fortresses or castles: Punakha, a place of great natural strength; Tashi-Cho-dzong, Páro, Angduphodang (Wangdupotrang), Tongsa and Byaka.

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. Tashi-Cho-dzong, the chief monastery in Bhután, contains 300 priests.

Beyond the guards for the defence of the various castles, there is no standing army.

The chief productions are rice, Indian corn, millet, lac, wax, different kinds of cloth, musk, elephants, ponies, and chowries. Extensive and valuable forests abound. Muzzle-loading guns and swords of highly-tempered steel are manufactured.

His Highness keeps an Agent at Kalimpong who is also Assistant to the Political Officer in Sikkim for Bhutanese affairs.

Books of Reference concerning Bhután.

Accounts relating to the Trade by Land of British and India with Foreign Countries. Annual. Calcutta.

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A Collection of Treaties and Engagements, relating to India and neighbouring Countries. By C. U. Aitchison. Volume II. Part IV. Calcutta.

Reports of Expeditions through Bhután in 1906 and 1907. By J. C. White. London.

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