

priests, or any sort of people already accustomed to travel and with sufficient intelligence to read and write, as native explorers, who should map out the trans-frontier tracts now closed to British officers. In conclusion, he urged that a closer connection should be established between the Survey and Intelligence Branches with a view to mutual assistance and to improvement in the quality of the work which more properly belongs to one or the other.

**The Burma-Manipur Frontier Survey.**—We glean from a communication in the Allahabad *Pioneer* some interesting details regarding the measures taken last season to define the boundary line between Manipur and Upper Burma, a step rendered necessary by the raids of the Chins or Kukis, a tribe who have lately settled in the country north of the Kobo valley.—When the Kobo valley was retransferred from Manipur to Burma, the boundary was laid down in 1834 by Captains Grant and Pember-ton, in concert with an official from Ava, but as the tracts north of the Kobo valley were uninhabited, and the neighbouring hill-tribes savage and unruly, these were left unsurveyed, and an approximate boundary drawn north up to a range called Sheriferar. It had become necessary to decide exactly how this line ran in order to know on whom would fall the responsibility of keeping the Chins in order in future. The demarcation party was composed of Colonel Johnstone, c.s.i., Boundary Commissioner, Mr. R. Phayre, Major Badgley, and Mr. Ogle of the Survey Department, Dr. Watt, medical officer and botanist, two other officers and a geologist, and 250 men of the 12th Khelat-i-Ghilzai Regiment and Frontier Police.—The party arrived in Manipur by the end of November. Manipur covers a large area of ground, each house having a separate compound. The city proper, or inner city, occupied by the rajah and his attendants; is quadrangular, and surrounded by moat and rampart like Mandalay. The people are like the Burmese in feature, but the male dress is the dress of the native of India, and they are strictly orthodox Hindus in religion. Two survey parties under Major Badgley and Mr. Ogle were despatched by southerly and northerly routes respectively, while the main party under Colonel Johnstone made its way to Kongal-thanna at the head of the Kobo valley, where the return of the survey parties was awaited. Mandalay having declined to send a representative, the task of defining the boundary was performed *ex parte*, with assistance from the Burmese frontier officials. The Kobo valley, as seen from the Yoma range, presented the aspect of a vast expanse of primeval *sal* forest, with clearances here and there, as it did to Penuberton, nearly 50 years ago. The large Burmese armies formerly stationed here to invade Manipur have given place to small villages of Shans, cultivating rice and manufacturing salt. The Shans of the Kobo valley are descendants of an ancient race whose records go back as far as the 80th year of the Christian era, and whose territory once extended from the Assam valley to the 22nd parallel, and from the Yoma range to Yunnan.

Outlying provinces were made over to princes of the blood royal, and these have given place to Tsaw-bwas, or petty rajahs, some of whom exist to this day, and are tributary to Burma.—In the survey of the Kabo valley observations were taken from both sides of the valley, but an attempt to place survey parties on the Ungochin hills, bounding it on the east, was opposed by armed retainers of the Thoung-thwoot Tsaw-bwa. The *rencontre* of Burmese and Manipuris, with the pent-up hatred of more than a century, was fortunately prevented from developing into a conflict by the presence of Colonel Johnstone's troops. The Colonel, wisely determining to avoid a rupture, despatched Mr. Phayre with Major Badgley to endeavour to come to an understanding with the Tsaw-bwa, and obtain permission for the survey party to take observations from the Ungochin hills. From their summit Mr. Phayre obtained a good view of the Chin-dwin valley (Namionai, or Kyen-dwen, in the most recent Indian Survey map). North and east are the Shan districts of Wintho, Mein-gein, Mein-nyoung, and in the far distance, overlooking the Irawadi, Mo-goung. North are the amber mines and serpentine quarries of Kanti, and east and south are the auriferous streams flowing into the Chin-dwin river. East of the same river are the teak forests now worked under a lease by the Bombay Burma Company. Tea grows abundantly, but the leaf is pickled and eaten with a mixture of oil, garlic, and assafœtida. It is not used as a beverage.—Mr. Phayre duly arrived at Thoung-thwoot, on the banks of the Chin-dwin, and had a formal interview with the Tsaw-bwa, who came in state attire with an imposing procession of priests, [ministers, secretaries, troops, and retainers. This authority was however unable, in the absence of orders from Mandalay, to permit any survey parties to enter Burmese territory. Mr. Phayre accordingly went on to Tamcoo to interview the Woon, a sort of frontier commissioner on the upper Chin-dwin, with extensive jurisdiction, with the hope that he would make proper representations at Mandalay, but] this step was equally ineffectual.—In passing through the southern part of the Kabo valley Mr. Phayre found that several districts and villages have been depopulated by the raids of the Chins, which are increasing in boldness and frequency every year. In 1879 a Burmese Woondonk, with 1500 troops, was sent up the Chin-dwin in a royal steamer, but rocks and boulders were hurled on his soldiers, who fled precipitately. In 1856 the Manipuris organised an expedition against the Chins, which failed disastrously, owing to defective commissariat arrangements. The British expedition against the Lushais is the only successful one on record.—The survey arrangements were concluded, and the party returned to Manipur by the end of January, work having been not a little facilitated by the steady and manly bearing of the 12th Khelat-i-Ghilzai troops under Lieutenant Angelo.