

TOURS IN DARJEELING & SIKKIM (MAP)



**NOTES ON TOURS**  
**IN**  
**DARJEELING AND SIKKIM**  
**(WITH MAP)**



**BY**

**LIEUT.-COL. W. J. BUCHANAN, C.I.E., I.M.S.**

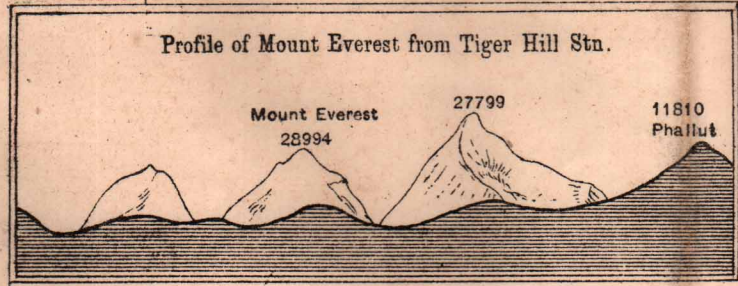


**PUBLISHED BY THE**  
**DARJEELING IMPROVEMENT FUND.**

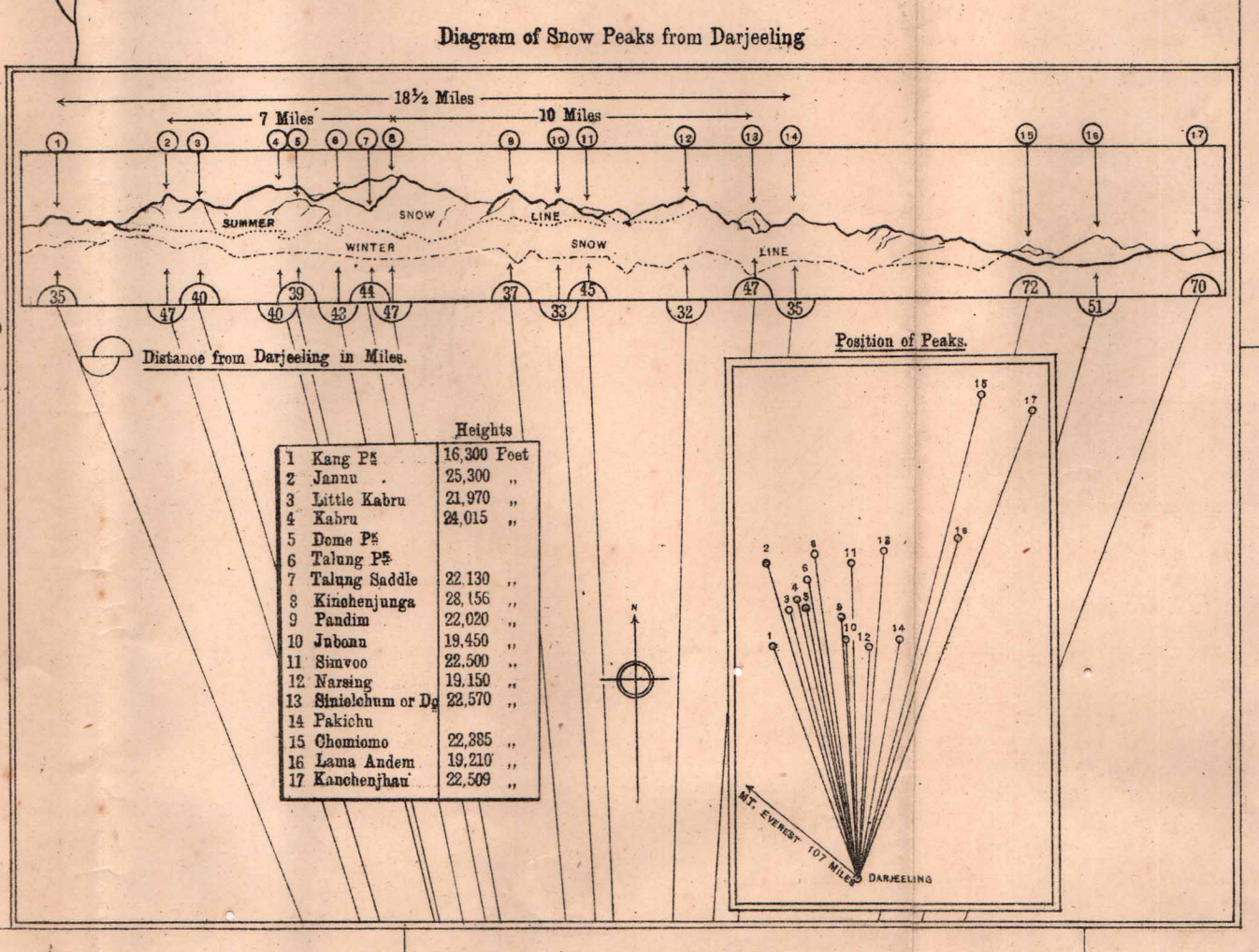
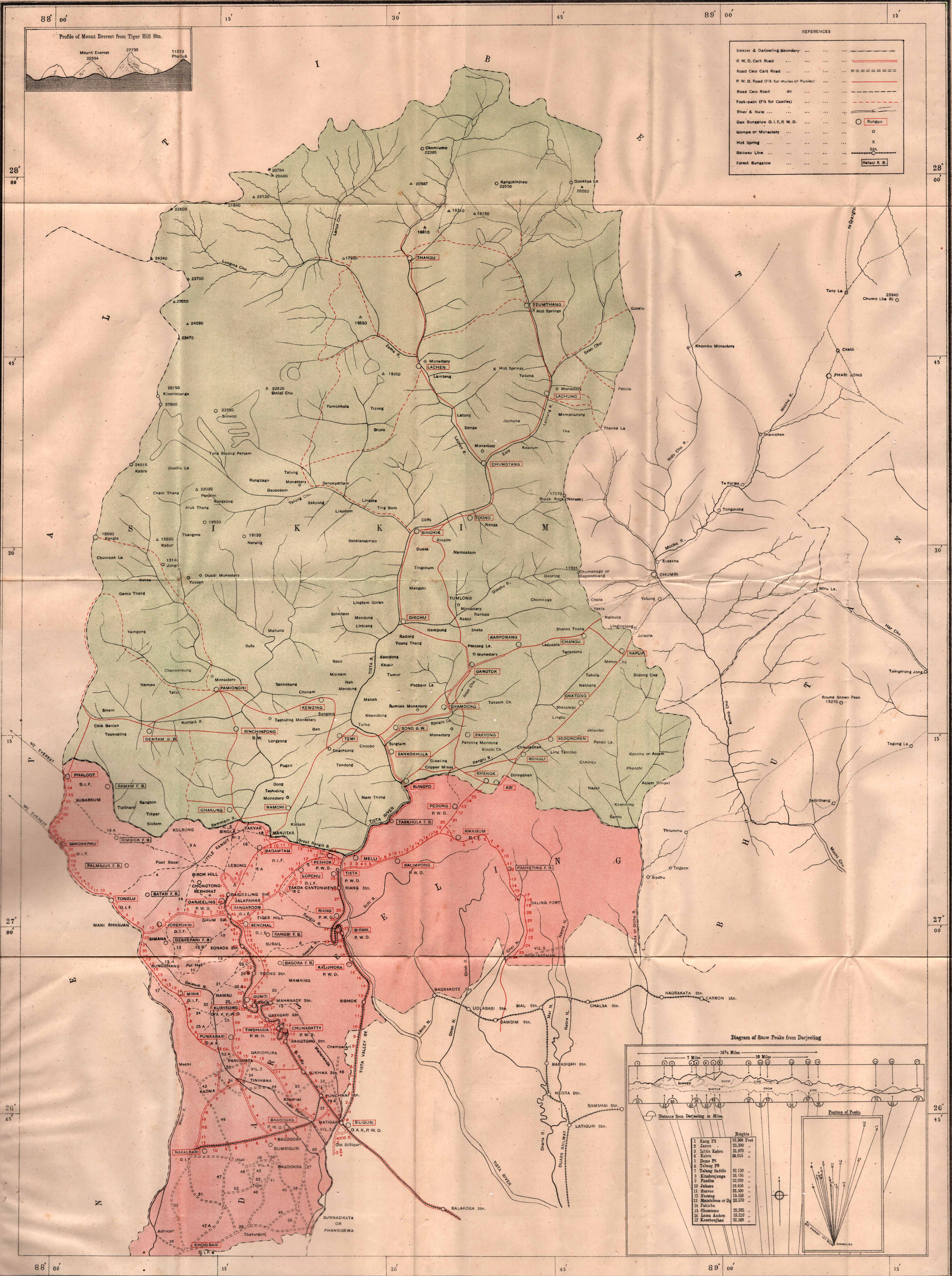
**1916.**

**[Price—Indian, Rs. 1.14 ; English, 2s. 6d.]**

# ROUTES IN SIKKIM & DARJEELING DISTRICT



REFERENCES	
Sikkim & Darjeeling Boundary	--- · · · · ·
P. W. D. Cart Road	— · · · · ·
Road Cess Cart Road	— · · · · ·
P. W. D. Road (Fit for mules or Ponies)	— · · · · ·
Road Cess Road	— · · · · ·
Foot-path (Fit for Coolies)	— · · · · ·
River & Nala	~~~~~
Dax Bungalow D. I. F. P. W. D.	○ Rungpo
Gompa or Monastery	○
Hot Spring	×
Railway Line	—+—+—+—+—+—
Forest Bungalow	□ Batasi F. B.



# NOTES ON TOURS IN SIKKIM

(WITH MAP)

---

THE following notes and lists of itineraries of trips in Sikkim are published by the Darjeeling Improvement Fund to encourage more visitors to Darjeeling to make use of the splendid opportunities for enjoying brief holidays in Sikkim.

The journeys here described are usually short and such as may be done in 10 or 15 days' leave. A few preliminary notes on the history and geography of Sikkim are first given, then a list of trips and a brief description of the most popular and best tours.

The following notice and list of bungalows is issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling, and the Political Officer, Sikkim :—

1. Europeans visiting Sikkim are required to carry a pass, and, unless provided with a pass, will not be allowed beyond the Darjeeling frontier. Passes are issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling.

2. Passes for the bungalows on this list are issued as follows :—

Nos. 1-39 by the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling.

(For bungalows 12-39 inclusive, application may, if preferred, be made to the Political Officer in Sikkim, addressing him as such, and not by name.)

Nos. 40-45 by the Executive Engineer, Darjeeling Division.

3. All applications made to the Deputy Commissioner for passes should be addressed to the Deputy Commissioner's office, Darjeeling, and not to his private residence. They should not be addressed to him by name.

# TRAVELLERS' BUNGALOWS IN DARJEELING DISTRICT AND SIKKIM.

The following Bungalows are now open, besides Dâk Bungalows at Kurseong, Punkhabari and Siliguri :—

## Passes issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Darjeeling.

No.	Place.	Distances in miles.	Height in feet above sea level.	NUMBER OF ROOMS.				Beds.	Mattresses.
				Bed.	Dining.	Sitting.	Number of—		
1.	Senchal (old)	... ..	8,000	4	1	0	4	4	
	Senchal (new)	... ..	8,000	2	1	0	4	4	
2.	Rangiroon	... ..	5,700	2	2	2	0	0	
3.	Badamtam	... ..	2,500	2	0	0	5	0	
4.	Mjrik	12 from Jorepokri	5,000	2	0	0	2	2	
5.	Lopchu	4½ " Pashoke	5,300	2	0	0	5	4	
6.	Kalimpong	viâ Pashoke and Bridle Path and 23 viâ Rungit ara Bridle Path	4,100	4	1	1	8	8	
7.	Rississum	Kalimpong, 4 from Pedong	6,410	3	1	0	4	4	
8.	Jorepokri	Darjeeling, 10 from Tonglu	7,400	2	1	0	7	6	
9.	Tonglu	Jorepokri, 14 from Sandakphu	10,074	2	1	0	7	6	
10.	Sandakphu	Tonglu, 12½ from Phalut	11,929	2	1	0	6	6	
11.	Phalut	Sandakphu, 17 from Dentan	11,811	2	1	0	7	5	
12.	Dentan	Phalut, 10 from Pamionchi	4,500	2	1	0	4	0	
13.	Pamionchi	Dentan, 10 from Rinchinpong	6,920	2	1	0	4	0	
14.	Rinchinpong	Pamionchi, 11 from Chakung	6,000	2	1	0	4	0	
15.	Chakung	Rinchinpong, 20 from Darjeeling viâ Singla Bazar and Raman-bridge, 13½ from Badamtam	5,100	2	1	0	4	0	
16.	Melli	Badamtam and 11 from Rungpo, 3 from Tista Bridge 5 from Kalimpong	800	2	1	1	4	0	
17.	Rungpo	Melli, 10 from Pakyong, 5 from Sankokhola	1,200	4	1	1	4	0	
18.	Sankokhola (Bardang)	Rungpo, 18 from Kalimpong	1,400	3	2	1	4	0	
19.	Shamdong (Middle camp)	Sankokhola, 10 from Gantok by short cut—12 by cart road	2,300	2	1	0	4	0	

20.	Gangtok	...	...	10	Shamdong by short cut—12 by cart road, 51 to 63 from Darjeeling according to route followed: quickest route via Meli Chappar Bridge and Badamtam	...	...	5,800	3	2	0	4	0
21.	Pakyong	...	...	10	Rungpo, 10 from Gangtok, 14 from Pedong	...	...	4,700	9	1	0	4	0
22.	Kewzing (Sosing)	...	...	10	Pamionchi, 10 from Rinchinpong	...	...	6,000	2	1	0	4	0
23.	Temi	...	...	10	Ke wzing, 10 from Namchi, 11 from Shamdong	...	...	5,000	2	1	0	4	0
24.	Song	...	...	11	Temi, 14 from Gantok	...	...	4,500	2	1	0	4	0
25.	Namchi	...	...	10	Badamtam, 12 from Chakung	...	...	5,200	2	1	0	4	0
26.	Ari	...	...	12	Pakyong, 8 from Pedong	...	...	4,700	3	1	0	4	0
27.	Rhenok	...	...	3	Ari, 5 from Pedong	...	...	4,800	1	1	0	4	0
27 (a).	Rongli, 4 miles from Ari	...	...	8	Sedonchen, 10 from Rungpo and 10 from Fakyong	...	...	2,700	2	1	0	4	0
28.	Sedonchen	...	...	12	Ari, 8 from Rongli	...	...	6,500	1	1	1	4	0
29.	Gnatong	...	...	5	Sedonchen	...	...	12,300	2	1	0	4	0
29 (a).	Kupup	...	...	5	Gnatong, 3 from Summit of Jelapla	...	...	13,000	2	0	0	2	0
30.	Karponang	...	...	9	Gangtok	...	...	9,500	2	1	0	4	0
31.	Changu	...	...	10	Karponang	...	...	12,600	2	0	0	4	0
32.	Dikchu (Riatdong)	...	...	13	Gangtok, 11 from Singhik	...	...	2,150	2	2	1	4	0
33.	Singhik	...	...	11	Dikchu	...	...	4,600	2	2	1	4	0
34.	Toong	...	...	9	Singhik	...	...	4,800	2	0	0	4	0
35.	Chungtang	...	...	5	Toong	...	...	5,350	2	2	1	4	0
36.	Lachen	...	...	12	Chungtang	...	...	8,800	2	2	1	4	0
37.	Lachung	...	...	10	Chungtang	...	...	8,800	2	2	0	4	0
38.	Thangu	...	...	13	Lachen	...	...	12,800	2	2	0	4	0
39.	Yemthang	...	...	9	above Lachung	...	...	13,000	2	0	2	4	2

**Passes Issued by the Executive Engineer, Darjeeling Division, Darjeeling.**

40.	Pedong	...	...	12	Kalimpong, 4 from Rississam, 5 from Rhenok	...	...	4,900	6	0	0	4	0
41.	Pashoke	...	...	17½	Darjeeling, 4½ from Lopchu, 3½ from Tista Bridge	...	...	2,600	4	0	0	6	0
42.	Tista Bridge	...	...	20	Badamtam, 5½ from Reang	...	...	710	3	0	0	3	0
43.	Reang	...	...	5½	Tista Bridge, 4½ from Berrick	...	...	625	4	0	0	4	0
44.	Berrick	...	...	10	Berrick, 16½ from Siliguri	...	...	...	2	1	0	4	0
45.	Kalijhora	...	...	5½	Berrick, 16½ from Siliguri	...	...	550	3	0	0	4	0

(a) These are new bungalows and were included in the list subsequently.

4. The bungalows are available only to persons provided with passes. A separate pass must be obtained for each occupant or party of occupants for each bungalow, whether going or returning. Persons occupying bungalows without passes will be required to pay double fees, provided accommodation be available.

I. *Fees.*—8 annas for each person for occupation during the day up to a maximum charge of 8 rupees; 1 rupee per night for each occupant :—

- (1) In the case of Senchal (old), Rangiroon and Badamtam the charge for occupation by day only is 4 annas for each person up to a maximum of 4 rupees. Special rates for day and night are charged for the new senchal bungalow.
- (2) Passes may be cancelled by the local authorities without payment of compensation.
- (3) A refund of bungalow fees is not allowed after the issue of a pass, unless it is cancelled.
- (4) Passes must be made over to the Chowkidar in charge.
- (5) Fees are payable in advance to the Political Officer in Sikkim, Deputy Commissioner or Executive Engineer on the submission of the application for the pass.
- (6) Government Officers on duty are allowed to occupy the bungalows in the Darjeeling district free of charge. In Sikkim they are charged full rates, if they occupy for more than seven days.
- (7) Out-station cheques in payment of fees should include 4 annas for every 25 rupees, as discount.

II. *Furniture, etc.*—

- (1) Beds, tables, chairs, lamps with wicks, candlesticks, crockery, glass and kitchen utensils are provided at each bungalow. Cutlery also is supplied in Sikkim bungalows, but not mattresses. See V [(ii) below].
- (2) Visitors must take their own bedding, linen, candles, oil for lamps, provisions and, in the Darjeeling district, cutlery.

III. *Provisions, etc.*—

- (1) Ordinary bazar supplies are obtainable at Jorepokri, Dentam Kalimpong, Tista Bridge, Pedong, Namchi, Pakyong, Rhenok, Rongli, Rangpo and Gangtok.
- (2) Firewood is provided free of charge on the Nepal Frontier Road bungalows. At Kalimpong and Gangtok 4 annas a maund and in Sikkim bungalows, except Gangtok, 2 annas a maund is payable before delivery of the wood.

IV. *Servants.*—

- (1) A sweeper can be hired on the spot at Kalimpong, Jorepokri, Tista Bridge, Rangpo, Sankokhola, Gangtok, Pakyong, Namchi and Rhenok.
- (2) Elsewhere travellers must take sweepers with them, and no pass will issue except on this condition.
- (3) There is no resident Khansamah at any bungalow.



V. *Situation.*—

- (i) On the Nepal Frontier Road, Nos. 8 to 11.
- (ii) In Sikkim, Nos. 12 to 39.
- (iii) On the Road from Kalimpong to the Jelap Pass, Nos. 26, 27, 28, 29 and 40.
- (iv) On the Tista Valley Road, Nos. 16, 17, 18, 42, 43, 44 and 45.
- (v) On the Road from Gangtok to the Nathu pass, Nos. 30 and 31.
- (vi) On the Road from Gangtok to the Lachen Valley, Nos. 32 to 36 and 38.
- (vii) 23, 24 and 25 are on the Darjeeling-Gangtok Road (*viâ* Rungit Bazar).
- (viii) 21 is on the Pedong Gangtok Road, as well as on the alternative Rungpo-Gangtok Road.
- (ix) 7 is on the Daling Road to the Plains.
- (x) 16 belongs to the Sikkim State, although actually in Darjeeling district.

VI. *Coolies.*—For coolie rates, *see* prescribed table of rates issued by Darjeeling Municipality: 8 annas a day in Darjeeling and 10 annas per march or stage out of Darjeeling is the usual rate.

## THE SIKKIM STATE.

Beyond the northern boundary of the district of Darjeeling the great main chain of the Himalayas throws out southwards two enormous spurs, the Singalela range and the Chola range. These lofty barriers enclose three sides of a gigantic amphitheatre, hewn as it were out of the Himalayas and sloping down to the plains on the south. The steps of this amphitheatre make up the territory known as Independent Sikkim.

It is bounded on the north-east by Tibet; as the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 17th March 1890 lays down, "the boundary shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents from the water flowing into the Tibetan Mochu and northwards into the rivers of Tibet." Bhutan bounds Sikkim on the south-east and on the south lies the British district of Darjeeling. In earlier days Sikkim included the Mochu valley of Chumbi and the Tambur river valley of Eastern Nepal.

The great river of the Sikkim is the Teesta, which flows through the country and has a course of about 90 miles in an almost straight line. The Teesta with the Mochu,\* of Chumbi and Bhutan, and the Tambur of East Nepal are the three great rivers of this portion of the Eastern Himalayas.

On or near the outer range are the great mountains of eternal snow and the great passes which lead from Sikkim into Tibet and the Chumbi Valley.† The peaks enumerated in the footnote form the great range or group of Kinchenjunga. Still further north-west are seen rows of lower snowclad and rocky peaks till we meet the great Everest group, which we shall describe fully below.‡

The pass of Chiabunjan (10,320 feet), which lies to the north of Phalut and on the north side of Mount Singalela, is the main

\* Ammo River. Chu = River.

† Commencing from the south-east the following mountains and passes are enumerated:—

*Richi La*—10,370 feet, the trijunction point of Darjeeling district, Sikkim and Bhutan.

*Lingtu*.—12,617 feet, scene of the fight with the Tibetans in 1888 (between Gnatong and Sedonchen).

*Gipmochi*.—14,523 feet, the trijunction point of Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet, easily recognized by its shape.

*Pembirigo Pass*.—14,400 feet, into the Mochu Valley.

*Jelap La*.—14,390 feet, the most frequented pass into the Mochu Valley of Chumbi (8 miles north of Gnatong).

*Nathu La*.—14,400 feet, leading direct from Gangtok into the Chumbi Valley.

*Yak La*.—14,400 feet, closed by the Nathu La.

*Cho La*.—14,550 feet. This leads more directly into Chumbi and goes direct to Phari Jong. It was formerly the main route from Sikkim to Tibet. The name "Chola" is also given to the fine range of lesser snowy heights east of the great Kinchenjunga range.

"The frosted peaks of Chola."

*Tanker La*.—16,000 feet, leading out of the Lachung Valley.

*Goro La*.—17,000 feet, also out of the Lachung Valley.

*Dongkia La*.—18,100 feet, joins the upper tracts of the Lachung and Lachen valleys.

*Kongralama Pass*.—16,000 feet, is the direct pass from Sikkim to Kambajong in Tibet.

‡ As the direction in which to look for the Everest group is not always known, the following "tip" is given. Point with the index finger of the right hand due north, or towards Kinchenjunga, the thumb, held at somewhat less than a right angle, will point in the direction of Everest.

pass from the eastern valleys of Nepal, into Sikkim. The Nepal boundary road, which runs along the ridge separating Darjeeling district from Nepal is well marked with boundary pillars. It is on this ridge that the well-known halting places, Tonglu (10,074 feet), Sandakphu (11,929 feet) and Phalut (11,811 feet) are situated. This spur or range has been variously named; Hooker called it the Singalela Range and the mountain (12,161 feet) beyond Phalut is usually called Mount Singalela.

The distances given in the table below show why some of the nearer and lower mountains look so much higher and imposing than the more distant and loftier peaks when seen from Darjeeling and neighbouring places in Sikkim, *e.g.*, Narsing in many places almost dominates the scene, yet it is really over 3,000 feet lower than the more distant Chomiomo or Kinchenjau.

We must now very briefly describe the appearances of this grand chain of snows, and for convenience we shall begin in the north-west at Kang peak and go eastwards to Kinchenjau.

*The Kang Peak.*—This is a huge ridge or mountain mass 18,300 feet (on the extreme left of the snow view as seen from Darjeeling). It is a straight-topped narrow ridge with precipitous snow-covered sides. It is very well seen from Pemionchi and from Kewsing. Beyond it are several snow peaks of about 20,000 feet, one on the extreme left is known as *Nango* (20,225 feet), which lies 16 miles beyond Kang. (*See* Hooker, Ch. XI.)

*Janu (25,294 feet).*—It is always imposing. It is well seen from Darjeeling, but from Pemionchi and from Kewsing it is hidden behind Kabru, and Little Kabru is often mistaken for it at these points. Hooker and Freshfield, who saw Janu from Chunjerma Pass, are enthusiastic about this great peak; "the most magnificent spectacle I ever beheld," wrote Hooker

Keeping in the same direction from east to west we may now enumerate the great peaks which make up "the glory of the snows:—"

Name of Peak.	Height above sea level.	Distance from Darjeeling in a straight line.
Kinchenjau ... ..	22,509 feet	70 miles.
Lama Amden (D 3) .. ..	19,210 "	51 "
Chomiomo ... ..	22,385 "	72 "
Siniolchum (D 2) ... ..	22,570 "	47 "
Narsing ... ..	19,130 "	32 "
Simvoo ... ..	22,500 "	45 "
Jubonu ... ..	19,450 "	33 "
Pandim ... ..	22,010 "	37 "
Kinchenjunga ... ..	28,146 "	47 "
Talung Saddle ... ..	22,130 "	43 "
The Dome ... ..	?	39 "
Kabru ... ..	24,002 "	40 "
Little Kabru ... ..	21,970 "	40 "
Janu ... ..	25,294 "	47 "
Kang Peak ... ..	18,300 "	35 "

(*Himalayan Journals*, Ch. XI, p. 185). "From whatever side it is viewed, it rises 9,000 feet above the general mountain mass of 16,000 feet elevation, towering like a blunt cone, with a short saddle on one side that dips in a steep cliff."

*Little Kabru*, 21,970 feet, is next seen, nearer to the view and between Janu and the mighty Kabru.

*Kabru*, 24,015 feet.—The outline of this magnificent mountain is well known. Its ridge,\* like the slightly sagged ridge-pole of a tent, is seen from most accessible points of view. From Pemionchi Kabru easily takes first place. About a mile or so in front of it (and slightly to the right in the view) lies the great rounded mass of the *Dome* partly filling up, as it were, the great hollow of Kabru. The dome is very clearly seen from Pemionchi. Beyond Kabru and between it and the left buttress of Kinchenjunga can be seen the pointed *Talung Peak* (22,130 feet). On the left of Kabru is seen the great *Rathong Glacier*.

*Kinchenjunga*, 28,146 feet, the glorious monarch of this range and next to Mount Everest and Mount Godwin-Austin† (in North Kashmir), the highest mountain in the world, forms the majestic centre of the view as seen from Darjeeling. Three of its five peaks are visible; the peak on the left is the highest (28,146 feet), that on the right is somewhat lower (27,620 feet). "Four great glaciers radiate directly from Kinchenjunga, they are the Zemu glacier, 18 miles long, and the Talung glacier, both draining to the Teesta; the Kinchen glacier, 15 miles long, and the Yalung glacier, both draining to the Arun and the Kosi in Nepal." (Freshfield, p. 254.)

*Pandim* is some 10 miles nearer to Darjeeling than Kinchenjunga. It is 22,010 feet high. On its right can be seen Simvoo (a triple peak when seen closer to) 22,500 feet, which, however, is 8 miles farther away than Pandim. It is seen from Darjeeling as a distant round-topped mass.

*Narsing*, 19,130 feet.—This is the nearest of the great peaks to Darjeeling.—It is especially well seen from Pemionchi and from Kewsing bungalows.

*Jubonu*, 19,451 feet, is recognized by the deep grooves down its side, gouged out as it were. Between Narsing and Jubonu the round top of Simvoo can be seen, behind the two and somewhat nearer (in the view) to Narsing.

*Siniolchum* (D 2 of the Survey) 22,570 feet. It has been called by Freshfield the "Jungfrau" of the Himalayas. The most beautiful peak in the whole range. It is very well seen from Gangtok and will be described below.

*Chomiomo*.—This mountain rises to 22,385 feet; it is, however far away—72 miles from Darjeeling. It can be seen well

\* Colonel Tanner pointed out that Kabru is really a flat tableland, of which we only see one edge, the ridge, from Darjeeling.

† "We cannot state with certainty which is the higher of the two." Burrard: *High Peaks of Asia*.

to the north-east and to the left of Mount Lama Amden and Kinchenjau.

*Lama Amden*, 19,210 feet, lies between Chomiomo and Kinchenjau, but being much nearer it is more imposing than the loftier peaks on either side. We never had a better view of Lama Amden than from Temi Bungalow, where it stands due north. Its tongue-like peak swathed around its base with snowy mountain masses makes it easily recognized.

*Kinchenjau*, 22,509 feet—This hill is 70 miles off from Darjeeling, but its characteristic flat top (like a milkmaid's stool) can be seen on any clear day from Darjeeling.

Continuing the view (from Darjeeling) further east wards from Kinchenjau we see a fine row of rocky and snowclad peaks. They would be magnificent if seen elsewhere than in the immediate neighbourhood of the greater Kinchenjunga group. This range is usually called the Chola range. It runs south-east to Mount Gipmochi on the border of Bhutan and contains the great Tibet passes already mentioned.

### **The Everest Group.**

It remains to describe the great Everest group, which lies in Nepal and Tibet, north-west of the Kinchenjunga range, with which it is connected by a range of lower hills.

Outside of the forbidden lands of Nepal and Tibet the best (accessible) view of Mount Everest can be got from the rocks above the Sandakphu Bungalow (11,929 feet).

As we march along the Nepal Boundary road nothing of the Mount Everest group is seen from Tonglu; but between the 20th and 21st mileposts on the road to Sandakphu our first sight of the great group is obtained, just to the left of the Sandakphu hill. This group once seen can never be forgotten. Mount Everest is 107 miles off from Darjeeling and just 90 miles from Sandakphu. It is further away than the two great peaks which seem to guard its flanks, hence grand as it is it is less imposing than the nearer and massive Peak XIII, or *Makalu*, the "armchair" appearance of which at once arrests the attention.

The panorama as seen from Sandakphu on a clear day is as follows:—

Away to the north-west (the left of the scene as we view it from Sandakphu) we see an enormous fortress-like mass of pure snow, with lofty perpendicular sides and a long level ridge to which no name has been given, next comes a long row of sharp-pointed low snow-covered peaks, then come the great peaks which form the Everest group.

This great group of lofty mountains lies 63 miles west of the Kinchenjunga group and consists of no less than nine great peaks all over 24,000 feet. As seen from Sandakphu three of the great peaks seem close together, viz., Mount Everest 29,002

feet in the centre; Makalu 12 miles to the south-east (27,790 feet), and 16 miles W.-N.-W. of Everest another great peak (T<sup>45</sup>) with a height of 26,867 feet. The other six great peaks close by are (1) T<sup>57</sup> (25,990 feet) 13 miles W.-N.-W. of Everest; (2) B<sup>781</sup> (25,909 feet) 14 miles W.-N.-W. of Everest and 2 miles from T<sup>45</sup>; (3) T<sup>42</sup> which is 25,433 feet high and stands 20 miles W.-N.-W. of and 3 miles from T<sup>45</sup>; (4) N<sup>63</sup> (25,413 feet) 12 miles E.-S.-E. of Everest and 2 miles from Makalu; (5) B<sup>783</sup> (25,292 feet) which is 15 miles W.-N.-W. of Everest and 3 miles from T<sup>45</sup>; (6) Chamlang (XIV), which is 24,012 feet high and stands 15 miles S.-S.-E. of Everest.

Sir Sydney Burrard, R.E., writes: \* “Everest stands alone on the Tibetan side of the crest, and no other great peak is within 10 miles of it, but five great peaks are crowded together 15 miles to the W.-N.-W.” Lieutenant-Colonel Ryder, R.E., who describes Mount Everest as seen from Tibet, † 80 miles to the north of Everest, says: “It stands alone in magnificent solitude,” but from Sandakphu it seems rather behind Makalu, which stands 12 miles in front of it, and is the more conspicuous of the two. The elevation of Mount Everest, or Peak XV, was first observed in 1849, but its height was not computed till 1852. As regards its name Britishers may be well content to have this greatest of peaks called after an Englishman, Sir George Everest, a former Surveyor-General. It is a good alpine custom to retain the local names of peaks; but it is clear from Sir S. Burrard’s account that there is no local or native name for Everest. Waddell and Freshfield have favoured the name “*Chomokankar*,” but the Surveyors attached to the Tibet Frontier Mission of 1904 found no such name applied to the Great Himalayan peak, and as for the other proposed name “*Gourisankar*” (used among others by Conway), it is now certain, since the visit of Captain Wood, R.E., in 1903 to Kaulia, near Khatmandu (at Lord Curzon’s request), that the mountain locally called “*Gaurisankar*” is a quite separate peak, 30 miles away from Everest; it is a double peak (height only 23,440 feet) and is called Peak XX in the Trigonometrical Survey. ‡

As regard the height of Everest and the other great peak “all observations are liable to error, no telescope is perfect, no level is entirely trustworthy, no instrumental graduations are exact, and no observer is infallible,” so we may well agree with Colonel Burrard in using 29,002 feet as “the long adopted and well-known value” of the height of Everest.

The other great peak of the Everest group is Makalu (or Peak XIII). It is often mistaken, as above said, for Everest, as from Sandakphu, and from the golf links at Senechal it is the

\* *The High Peaks of Asia*, page 37

† For a description of Everest from Tibet, see also Captain Rawlings’ *The Great Plateau*. Captain Rawlings accompanied Lieutenant-Colonel Ryder.

‡ It is also clear that H. de Schlagintwint mistook Makalu for Everest, and in his well-known picture he certainly painted Makalu, not Everest.—Burrard; *High Peaks of Asia*, page 21.

more conspicuous object. It is easily recognized from its hollow or "armchair" appearance. This remarkable cup or hollow extends about one-third down its slope and is filled with great masses of glacier ice.

Before leaving the subject of the heights of these great peaks it may be mentioned that of the 75 great Asian peaks over 24,000 feet high, no less than 32 appear in the Nepal Himalaya and many are visible from different parts of Sikkim. Burrard and Hayden (*High Peaks of Asia*, 1907) divide the great peaks into five orders of magnitude, viz., I, those over 28,000 feet, Everest; K-2 (or Mount Godwin-Austin in Karakoram), and Kinchenjunga (Peak X) (or left); in Class II (between 27,000 feet and 28,000 feet) the right or peak 2 of Kinchenjunga and Makalu. In Class III (between 26,000 feet and 27,000 feet) there are 11 peaks, of which 6 are in the Nepal Himalayas, viz., Peak T<sup>45</sup> (26,867 feet, 16 miles W.-N.-W. of Everest); Dhaulagiri, 26,795 feet (180 miles west of Everest); Peak XXX (133 miles west of Everest); Peak XXXIX (26,492 feet) 159 miles west of Everest; Gosainthan (26,291 feet) 60 miles west of Everest; Peak XXXIV (26,041 feet) 159 miles west of Everest. In Class IV (between 25,000 feet and 26,000 feet) there are 32 known peaks, of which 13 are in the Nepal Himalaya. In Group V (between 24,000 feet and 25,000 feet) there are 27 peaks, of which nine are in the Nepal Himalaya.

In the Karakoram and Kashmir ranges of the Himalayas are many mighty peaks, of which the greatest are K-2 (or Mount Godwin-Austin), 28,250 feet; Nanga Parbat, 26,620 feet; Gasherbrum, or K-5, 26,470 feet (with 3 other peaks all over 26,000 feet); Masherbrum, two peaks, the east or higher being 25,660 feet; Rakaposhi, 25,550 feet.

We may compare these Himalayan giants, 75 of which are over 24,000 feet, with the other great mountains of the world, viz., Aconcagua, 23,393 feet (climbed by Zurbriggen in the Fitzgerald Expedition to the Andes); Chimborazo, 20,498 feet (Whymper); Cotopaxi, 19,613 feet (Whymper); Antisana, 19,335 feet, in South America. In Central Africa Killimanjaro is put at 19,715 feet; Mount Kenya at 17,200 feet. In Mexico Popocatepetl is given as 17,720 feet; in North America, Mount McKinley is put as 20,464 feet; Mount Elbruz in the Caucasus is 18,517 feet. In Europe Mount Blanc is 15,780 feet and Monte Rosa is 15,217 feet. In New Zealand Mount Cook is 12,349 feet and in the British Isles Ben Nevis 4,406 and Snowdon 3,560 feet.


It must be remembered that the imposing appearance of a peak depends upon the distance from the observer and on the amount of its slope exposed to view. No peak in Asia in this respect equals the glorious Nanga Parbat as seen from the right bank of the Indus, where no less than 23,000 feet of slope is exposed to view. In the Nepal Himalaya from Sandakphu we

can see 12,000 feet of the slope of Everest, 9,000 feet of the slope of Makalu and 16,000 feet of Kinchenjunga.

From Sandakphu, only 35 miles from Darjeeling, we therefore see the first, the third and the fourth highest mountains in the world and more than a dozen peaks higher than any others in the world.

Other lesser mountains which we meet with in our tour are *Mainon*, 10,637 feet, and *Tendong*, 8,676 feet, both conspicuous features in the landscape around Darjeeling—both of these are on the north-south ridge, which runs through Central Sikkim, separating the valley of the Great Rungeet river from that of the Teesta.

The “perpetual” snowline in Sikkim is put at 16,000 feet, but some glaciers descend about 1,000 feet lower and formerly must have descended much lower still, as, for example, Lachung (altitude 8,790 feet) stands at the foot of an immense terminal moraine.

The valleys of Sikkim are of two kinds, a few glacial valleys like Lachung and Lachen, which are “open and  shaped.” After the retreat of the glaciers the streams which took their place, under an annual rainfall of from 120 to 160 inches, cut many valleys down deeply into “V-shaped” gorges, and the striking distinction between glacial and river valleys was effaced.

### Lakes.

In this part of the Himalayas lakes are but few; we meet with only two or three in the tours here to be described.

One, the *Bidentzo* (the “Biddenmere” of Colman Macaulay’s *Lay of Lachen*), 12,700 feet, 3 miles north-east of Gnatong, 6 miles by road, at the east end of that long transverse trough-like swampy valley which runs between the foot of the ascent to the Nathu La to that of the Jelap La and is described below as the Kapup Valley.

The *Bidentzo* lake is 1 mile long and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile broad. It is one of “the best instances of a glacial lake in a valley whence a glacier has recently retired.” The other lake is *Changu*, 12,600 feet, 20 miles north by road from Gangtok and about 6 miles from the foot of the ascent to Nathu La. Another small lake lies just at the beginning of the ascent to this pass.

### Forests and Vegetation.

The forests of Sikkim are very extensive, and when the world has to turn to the Himalayas for timber these forests will have to disappear. Hooker has divided the vegetation of Sikkim into three zones,—tropical, temperate and alpine. A Botanist has calculated that there must be 4,000 species of plants in Sikkim; Hooker himself collected 2,920 species.



Orchids are extensively represented by over 350 species, the most common genus being the *Dendrobium*, of which there are about forty species found. There are twenty species of bamboos, and the elevation of any place might be roughly calculated from the thickness of the stems of the bamboo. The rhododendrons have been called "the glory of Sikkim;" there are about 30 species, varying in size from *R. grande*, a tree 40 feet high, to the dwarf *R. Nivale*, only a couple of feet above the ground. Among the very numerous herbaceous plants we may mention the giant rhubarb (seen, for example, on the ascent to the Nathu La), *R. Nobile*; it grows to 3 or 4 feet high and they have been pardonably mistaken for soldiers in the distance. Firs, pines, junipers are common in many places; also maples, chestnuts, oaks and magnolias. The creepers are innumerable and wonderful.

*Butterflies*.—These insects are extremely common in Sikkim; the Entomologist is referred to the *Sikkim Gazetteer* for a detailed description of them. We meet them in great numbers on the sunny cart road from Singtam to Gangtok.

*Birds*.—Many travellers have remarked on the strange absence of birds in marches through Sikkim, but nevertheless they are profusely represented by over 500 species. (See Colonel Waddell's descriptions in the *Sikkim Gazetteer*.)

*Mammals*.—There are about 80 species, but they are seldom seen. Snakes, too, are to be found. Sikkim is a poor country for sport, for though about 14 species of game birds have been described, they can only be found by the patient and persevering sportsman. Pheasants, quails and hill partridges do exist; the woodcock is a cold weather visitor. Bears and leopards are rarely seen. Marmots are not uncommon amid the bare rocky hills above 10,000 feet, as for example, on the ascents to the Nathu and Jelap passes. The musk deer remains always at very high altitudes, and musk is a common article of trade over the passes. The *Serow*, *Gurial* and the *Burhel* are only found in flocks at very high altitudes.

## HISTORY OF SIKKIM.

The early history of Sikkim is legendary and traditional, and we need concern ourselves with nothing before the appearance of the Government of India on the scene.

The people are of various race and castes—Lepchas, Bhuteas, Limbus and many castes of Nepalis.

In olden days Sikkim was largely dependent upon Tibet; till recent years the Raja lived at Chumbi and his family has largely intermarried with Tibetan women. While Chumbi remained thus, a sort of Hanover for Sikkim, the Nepali tribes not infrequently made raids into the country and into the *terai*. At the close of the Nepal War, in 1817, the Government of India intervened in Sikkim affairs with the result that the *terai* was restored to the Sikkim Raj, and by a treaty signed at the once important station of Titalya (in the Jalpaiguri district) the Government of India obtained the position of Lord Paramount in Sikkim. In 1834 certain Lepcha malcontents, who had fled to Nepal, made a raid on the *terai*; British aid was invoked, the Lepcha refugees were sent back to Nepal, and as a reward the Sikkim Raj made over to the Governor-General the district of Darjeeling, and from that time dates the origin of Darjeeling as a summer resort and sanitorium. Fifteen years later the Political Superintendent, Dr. A. Campbell, I.M.S., and (Sir) Joseph Hooker, travelling with the permission of the Raj were treacherously seized and made captive by the Diwan Namguay (called the *Pagla Diwan*). This treachery was punished by the annexation of the *terai*, but the trouble continued and necessitated the despatch of an expedition under Colonel Gawler in 1860-61, who was accompanied by (Sir) Ashely Eden as Envoy. The troops advanced as far as the Teesta, whereupon a treaty was arranged at Tumlong in March 1861, which still regulates the relations of Sikkim with the Government of India. The Raja had to agree to live in Sikkim, free admission for travellers was given, and slavery was abolished.

In 1873-74 (Sir) John Ware Edgar visited Sikkim to better establish trade relations. In 1875 the late Raja died and the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling proclaimed the present Maharaja to be Raja of Sikkim in spite of an intrigue on the part of the pro-Tibet party to appoint a half-brother. Seven years later the question of trade relations with Tibet came to the front again; and Mr. Colman Macaulay of the Civil Service\* met the Tibetan Officials at Giagong in North Sikkim. With the consent of China a mixed scientific and political mission was proposed and even organized, but was not proceeded with, largely to allay Chinese susceptibilities, aroused over the recent annexation of Upper Burma.

---

\* The story is told in Colman Macaulay's *Lay of Lachen*, from which we have quoted above.

This forbearance on the part of the Government of India was, as usual, misinterpreted; the Monks assumed we were afraid of them; a Tibetan army actually invaded Sikkim, built a fort on the top of Mount Lingtu (12,617 feet) and occupied the village of Jeyluk, on the slope below, a dozen miles and more inside the Sikkim frontier. Then came the discovery of a secret treaty, that of Galing. Tibet became more aggressive and an expedition had to be undertaken. Sir B. Bromhead drove the Tibetans out of Jeyluk and the fort on Lingtu and Gnatong was occupied and more or less fortified. Nevertheless the Tibetans returned and actually attacked the fort at Gnatong on 22nd May 1888. They were repulsed and the British force remained at Gnatong. In September of the same year (1888) the Tibetans entered Sikkim again, advanced as far as the Taku La, just above Gnatong, and here (it is said in one night) they built a wall two miles long on the top of the pass. General Graham with the Derbyshire regiment, the 32nd Pioneers and a new Goorkha battalion soon drove them off this pass, pursued them and bivouacked that night on the Jelap La.

In 1890 the Anglo-Chinese Convention acknowledged the paramount rights of the Government of India over Sikkim and our relations have been generally satisfactory ever since.

### **Preparations for the Journey.**

At the present day Sikkim is very liberally provided with travellers' bungalows, most of them good and comfortable. In a list published by the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, for the information of travellers, no less than 44 bungalows are mentioned. The roads and paths for a State with but limited resources are good, and it must be said that the Sikkim Raj has well done its duty as regards roads and buildings.

The bungalows are sufficiently furnished; firewood is plentiful. The traveller need bring nothing beyond his bedding, his clothes and his food.

In the Sikkim valleys rice, fowls and eggs may be obtainable, but we recommend the traveller to bring such requirements with him from Darjeeling. At Gangtok mutton, fowls, bread, eggs and a few "oilman's stores" can be got. Mule transport would be excellent, but is little used. Most travellers trust to coolies. We recommend parties of not more than four persons; and for a 10 or 14-day trip of four persons six coolies per person ought to suffice; two for bedding and clothing, one personal cooly to carry camera, field glasses and thermos and three per head for the kitchen. Loads should not be too heavy, the coolies have to carry their own clothes, cooking pots and food and several of the marches are long and hot. Hill khitmatgars (Re. 1-8 each per diem), a cook (Re. 1-8 per diem) and a sweeper (Re. 1 per diem) are also needed. A hill pony is a necessity (Rs. 3 or 4 per diem). We do not recommend any

but the young and very energetic to walk all the way. To ride up hill and walk down will be found a useful division of labour between man and beast. For a party of four persons, for a 10 to 14-day trip, the cost should not exceed Rs. 14 per day, or, say, under £1 per day for each person.

As regards clothing it must be remembered that on most tours extremes of temperature may be met and on the same days' march the traveller will find himself cold on the top of a hill and an hour later hot and steamy at the bottom of a river valley. It is an excellent plan to march "in shirt sleeves" with a warm coat strapped on to the saddle to don at the higher elevations. Before leaving Darjeeling the traveller *must* book his bungalows at the office of the Deputy Commissioner and get passes for each (Re. 1 per *person* per bungalow). Two frontier passes (8 annas for each person) are needed for entering and leaving Sikkim.

## TOURS IN SIKKIM.

**A.—To Phalut, etc., to see Mount Everest and the Rhododendrons.**

**B.—To the Tibet passes.**

**C.—Routes to Gangtok.**

**D.—To Lachen and Lachong.**

**E.—To Jongri.**

**F.—Routes to Gyantse (in Tibet).**

### A.—To see Mount Everest.

I.—(4 or 6-day trip)—

To Jorepokri	...	12½ miles	from Darjeeling.*
,, Tonglu †	...	10	,,*
,, Sandakphu	...	14	,,
and back in 2 or 3 days.			

II.—(6 or 8-day trip)—

To Jorepokri	...	12½ miles	}	22½ miles.	
,, Tonglu †	...	10			,,
,, Sandakphu	...	14			,,
,, Phalut	...	12			,,
and back in 3 or 4 days.					

### To see Mount Everest and back through Sikkim.

III.—(9 days' trip)—To Phalut ‡ in 4 days as in tour A II—

Phalut to Dentam	...	17½ miles,	5th day
Dentam to Pemionchi	...	10	,, 6th ,,
Pemionchi to Rinchinpong	...	10	,, 7th ,,
Rinchinpong to Chakung	...	11	,, 8th ,,
Chakung ( <i>via</i> Singla Bazar) to Darjeeling	...	20	,, 9th ,,

IV.—(11 days' trip)—To Pemionchi as in tour A III in 6 days—

Pemionchi to Kewsing	...	10 miles,	7th day
Kewsing to Temi	...	10	,, 8th ,,
Temi to Rungpo	...	12½	,, 9th ,,
Rungpo to Peshoke	...	14½	,, 10th ,,
To Darjeeling	...	17	,, 11th ,,

\* Or in 1 day, 22½ miles.

† The journey from Darjeeling to Tonglu can be done in 1 day (8 hours' march) and so 1 day is saved.

‡ For alternative route by the Forest Bungalow, see description below.

V.—(10 days' trip)—To Kewsing as in tour A IV in 8 days—

Kewsing to Namchi	...	14 miles,	9th day
Namchi ( <i>viâ</i> Badamtam) to Darjeeling	...	17	„ 10th „

### To Phalut Pemionchi and Gangtok.

VI.—(14 days)—To Temi as in A IV (in 8 days.)

Temi to Shamdong	...	11 miles,	9th day
Shamdong to Gangtok	...	9	„ 10th „
		(by short cuts)	
Gangtok to Pakyong	...	10	„ 11th „
Pakyong to Rungpo	...	10	„ 12th „
Rungpo to Peshoke	...	14½	„ 13th „
Peshoke to Darjeeling	...	17	„ 14th „

Or

VII.—To Gangtok as above A VI—

Gangtok to Shamdong	...	9 miles,	11th day
Shamdong to Rungpo	...	12	„ 12th „
Rungpo to Peshoke	...	14	„ 13th „
Peshoke to Darjeeling	...	17	„ 14th „

Or

VIII.—To Temi as in tour A IV—

Temi to Song	...	11 miles,	9th day
Song to Gangtok	...	14	„ 10th „
and back to Darjeeling <i>viâ</i> Shamdong and Rungpo or back <i>viâ</i> Pakyong and Rungpo and Peshoke.			

### To Phalut, Pemionchi and Kalimpong.

IX.—To Pemionchi, as in tour A (in 5 or 6 days).

Pemionchi to Kewsing	...	10 miles,	7th day.
Kewsing to Temi	...	10	„ 8th „
Temi to Rungpo	...	12½	„ 9th „
Rungpo to Kalimpong <i>viâ</i> Tarkhola and shortcuts (or <i>viâ</i> Melli and short cuts 14 miles)	...	12½	„ 10th „
Kalimpong to Peshoke	...	10½	„ 11th „
Peshoke to Darjeeling	...	17	„ 12th „

### To Phalut, Pemionchi, Rongli and Kalimpong.

X.—To Rungpo as in A IX (9 days).

Rungpo to Rongli	...	10	miles,	10th	day.
Rongli to Pedong (or Rongli to Rissisum, 16 miles)	...	12	"	11th	"
Pedong to Kalimpong (or Rissisum to Kalimpong, 12 miles)	...	12	"	12th	"
Kalimpong to Peshoke	...	10½	"	13th	"
Peshoke to Darjeeling	..	17	"	14th	"

### To Phalut, Pemionchi Gangtok, Rhenok, Kalimpong.

XI.—Pemionchi as above (5 or 6 days).

Pemionchi to Kewsing	...	10	miles,	6th	day.
Kewsing to Temi	...	10	"	7th	"
Temi to Shamdong*	...	11	"	8th	"
Shamdong to Gangtok*	...	9	"	9th	"
Gangtok to Pakyong	...	10	"	10th	"
Pakyong to Rhenok	...	14	"	11th	"
Rhenok to Rissisum (or Rhenok to Pedong, 5 miles)	...	9	"	12th	"
Rissisum to Kalimpong	...	12	"	13th	"
Kalimpong to Peshoke	...	10½	"	14th	"
Peshoke to Darjeeling	...	17	"	15th	"

### B.—To the Tibet Passes.

I.—To Peshoke	...	17½	miles,	1st	day.
Peshoke to Rungpo	...	17½	"	2nd	"
Rungpo to Gangtok (by short cuts)	...	22	"	3rd	"
Gangtok to Karponang*	...	10	"	4th	"
Karponang to Changu*	...	10	"	5th	"
Changu to Sherabtong up and down Nathu La and on to Kapup	...	15	"	6th	"
Kapup up and down Jeylap La and on to Gnatong	...	12	"	7th	"
Gnatong to Sedonchen	...	9	"	8th	"
Sedonchen to Ari	...	12	"	9th	"
Ari to Pedong (or Ari to Rissisum, 12 miles)	...	8	"	10th	"
Pedong to Kalimpong (or Rissisum to Kalimpong)	...	12	"	11th	"
Kalimpong to Peshoke	...	10½	"	12th	"
Peshoke to Darjeeling	...	17	"	13th	"

\* Or 20 miles in one day.

## II.—To Sedonchen as above B I (in 8 days)—

Sadonchen to Rongli	...	8 miles,	9th day.
Rongli to Rungpo	...	10 "	10th "
Rungpo to Peshoke	...	14 "	11th "
Peshoke to Darjeeling	...	17 "	12th "

**C.—Routes to Gangtok.**

I.—Darjeeling to Peshoke	...	17 miles,	1st day.
Peshoke to Rungpo	...	17½ "	2nd "
Rungpo to Gangtok (by short cuts)	...	21 "	3rd "

Or

Rungpo to Shamdong	...	12 miles,	3rd "
Shamdong to Gangtok	...	9 "	4th "

II.—Darjeeling to Namchi	...	17 "	1st "
Namchi to Temi	...	10 "	2nd "
Temi to Shamdong	...	11 "	3rd "
Shamdong to Gangtok	...	9 "	4th "

Or

(Temi to Gangtok 20 miles in one day).

III.—To Namchi	..	17 miles,	1st day.
Namchi to Temi	...	10 "	2nd "
Temi to Song	...	11 "	3rd "
Song to Gangtok	...	14 "	4th "

IV.—To Peshoke	...	17 "	1st "
Peshoke to Rungpo	...	14½ "	2nd "
Rungpo to Pakyong	...	10*	3rd "
Pakyong to Gangtok	...	10*	4th "

**Darjeeling to Kalimpong and Gangtok.**

V.—To Peshoke	...	17 miles,	1st day.
Peshoke to Kalimpong	...	10½ "	2nd "
Kalimpong to Rungpo ( <i>via</i> short cuts and Tarkhola)	...	12½ "	3rd "
Rungpo to Gangtok	...	21 "	4th "

\* Or 20 miles in one day.



**D.—To Lachen and Thangu (12,800 feet).**

I.—To Gangtok by any route (in 3 days)—

Gangtok to Dikchu	...	13 miles,	4th day.
Dikchu to Singhik	...	11 "	5th "
Singhik to Toong	...	9 "	6th "
Toong to Chongtang	...	5 "	7th "
Chongtang to Lachen	...	12 "	8th "
Lachen to Thangu	...	13 "	9th "

and back in 9 days—total 18 days.

**To Lachung and Yemthang (13,000 feet).**

II.—To Chungtang as in tour D I (in 7 days)—

Chungtung to Lachung	...	10 miles,	8th day.
Lachung to Yemthang	...	9 "	9th "

and back in 9 days—total 18 days.

III.—Both Lachen and Lachung can be visited from Chungtang.

**E.—To Jongri**

(8 days out and 8 days back).

To Pemionchi by shortest route *via* Chakung, 20 miles from Darjeeling, thence 11 miles to Rinchinpong and thence 10 miles to Pemionchi—

4th day	from Pemionchi to Tingling	(no bungalow).
5th "	Tingling to Yokson	(ditto).
6th "	Yokson to Camp I	(ditto).
7th "	Camp I to Camp II	(ditto).
8th "	Camp II to Jongri	(ditto).

**F.—The Routes to Gyantse in Tibet.**

As this journey has often to be made by military officers, a list of the stages from Darjeeling to Gyantse is here added.

As far as the passes into the Chumbi Valley the journey is described below—

	Miles.
Darjeeling to Peshoke	... 17½
Peshoke to Rungpo	... 17
Rungpo to Rongli	... 10
Rongli to Sedonchen	... 8

	Miles.
Sedonchen to Gnatong ...	9
Gnatong to top of Jelap La and on to Yatung ...	17* (over Jelap La, 14,300 ft.)
Yatung to Gautsa ...	12
Gautsa to Phari Jong (14,300 ft.) ...	16
Phari Jong to Tona (14,700 ft.)	17 (over Tang La, 15,200 ft.)
Tona to Dochen ...	13 (14,700 ft.)
Dochen to Kala ...	12 (14,600 ft.)
Kala to Samada ...	14
Samada to Kangma ...	14
Kangma to Saugong ...	15
Saugong to Gyantse ...	14 (13,120 ft.)

\* There is another bungalow at Kapup, 5 miles from Gnatong, where the journey may be broken.

II.—An alternative route from Peshoke to Rongli is—

Peshoke to Kalimpong ...	10½ miles.
Kalimpong to Pedong ...	12 „
Pedong to Ari ( <i>via</i> Rhenok) ...	8 „
Ari to Rongli ...	4 „
Rongli to Sedonchen (as above).	

III.—To Gyantse *via* Nathu La (as in route above). To Gangtok in 3 days—

Gangtok to Karponang ...	10 miles, 4th day.
Karponang to Changu ...	10 „ 5th „
Changu to top of Nathu La and on to Champitang ...	12 „ 6th „
Champitang to Yatung ...	11 „ 7th „
(Thence as in Route I above.)	

(There are good dāk bungalows at above mentioned places.)

The route *via* Gangtok and the Nathu La is the easier and avoids the very steep march up to Gnatong.

## The Tour to Phalut and through Sikkim.

(Tour No. A IV, 10 or 11 days.)

THIS is perhaps the finest and certainly the most popular tour in Sikkim. On this journey the traveller sees in clear weather not only the great Kinchinjunga range, but also the great Everest group.

A fine view of these ranges can be got by merely going as far as Sandakphu (alt. 11,929 ft.), which is only 35½ miles from Darjeeling, but the traveller is well advised to go on to Phalut, thence over Mount Singalela (12,161 ft.) and down into the Kulhait river valley to Dentam, Pemionchi, or we can only briefly describe this journey. If time is an object, Tonglu,

22½ miles, can be reached in one day (8 hours' march), or the traveller can go the first day to Jorepokri bungalow. Riding over Jalapahar to Ghoom, we go down to the Simana Cart Road. At the 4th mile from Ghoom we pass the well known Ghoom rock, and 7½ miles from Ghoom we reach the big village of Sukiapokri. About a mile and a half from this village up in the forest is Jorepokri bungalow (alt. 7,400 ft.: 3 rooms, 7 beds). Passing Sukiapokri we can either go on along the cart road to Simana Busti, and then by a good and steep descent go down to Manibhanjan, or we may take the forest contour road (on the right hand) and reach Manibhanjan by a shorter and rougher road through the forest on the east side of the hill.

From the neck or village of Manibhanjan the river, the small Rungeet, runs north; to the south we see the valleys sloping down to the plains.

From Manibhanjan there is a very steep zig-zag to the 13th mile-post. (Mile-posts on this road count from Ghoom or rather from Jore Bungalow bazar.) Another steep ascent is met with about 16th mile-post, and about 17th mile-post is a narrow open ridge. Soon Boundary Pillar 18 is reached and in about 20 minutes later the bungalow at *Tonglu* is reached (alt. 10,074: 3 rooms and 7 beds).

From Tonglu on a clear day a fine view is obtained of Darjeeling hills and valleys. In the Far East over the Tibet Passes can be seen the white top of Mount Chumularhi, 23,940 feet, in Tibet. Next day's march is to *Sandakphu*, 14 miles, but there are many steep ascents and descents. When the 19th mile-post is reached if the day is clear, a lookout should be kept for the top of Sandakphu easily recognisable by the three rock masses or knobs on its summit to the left of these knobs Mount Everest group may be seen. There is a long and tedious descent from the Tonglu bungalow, though seemingly interminable groves of bamboos. Near the 24th mile-post we reach a *bhangan* or neck, followed as usual by a steep ascent, 25 minutes up, to a ridge near Boundary Pillar 14. Then follow more ascents and descents till we reach a small village and pond called Kalapokri (about 4½ hours' march from Tonglu and about 5 miles from Sandakphu). Then for half an hour we ride up a steep ascent, at the top of which we see sign-posts showing the paths to Pulbazar in the valley below. Then comes a couple more ups and downs till we reach the final stiff climb, over some nasty bits of road to the bungalow at Sandakphu (alt. 11,929 feet: 3 rooms, 6 beds, 35½ miles from Darjeeling; minimum temperature in early October about 37° F.). The view from Sandakphu on a clear morning is one of the finest in the world, and from here is obtained the best accessible view of Mount Everest. We see the whole snow range from far away to the north-west in Nepal and Tibet to Bhutan in the Far East.

In May and early June the hill side is one mass of rhododendron blossoms.

The Mount Everest group is the one to look for. It can be seen from the rocks above the bungalow away to the north-west. The group cannot be mistaken,—first we see the giant Makalu (Peak XIII), then peeping over the left shoulder of Makalu is Mount Everest, 29,002 feet, the highest mountain in the world, and beyond Everest the great peak known as T<sup>45</sup>. Of the three Makalu is the nearer and most conspicuous; it is 27,790 feet high, the fourth highest mountain in the world. (Everest 29,002, K<sup>2</sup> or Mountain Godwin-Austin to north of Kashmir next, then Kinchinjunga, 28,146 feet, than Makalu.) Makalu is easily recognised by the great armchair-like hollow filled with glacier ice. It is 12 miles to south-east of Everest, and 16 miles west-north-west from Everest is another great peak T<sup>46</sup> with a height of 25,990 feet.

There are six other great peaks close by, all over 25,000 feet.

If we could see Everest from a near point of view or from the north in Tibet it would be seen that it stands “alone in magnificent solitude, but from Sandakphu it stands rather behind Makalu and is not so conspicuous as the latter.

Mount Everest in the Straight line is only 90 miles from Sandakphu, and we see 12,000 feet of its snow slopes. From Sandakphu we go on next day to Phalut (Faloot), 12½ miles, an easier journey than that of the previous day. We descend over level grassy slopes. We still see the Everest group on the north-west, Kinchinjunga, etc., to the north. Soon we pass through Alpine glades of pines and firs, and rhododendrons, then follow ascents and descents till near 41st mile-post. We reach a base top marked by sign-posts—from here we can see the Phalut Bungalow, 4½ miles away, to be reached by a steep fenced road, and then up up to the bungalow (alt. 11,811 ft.: 3 rooms 7 beds). The 46 mile-post from Jore Bungalow is just beyond the bungalow.

The journey from Sandakphu usually takes about 5 hours. (Minimum temperature about 37° in early October.)

The views from Phalut are practically the same as from Sandakphu. Half a mile or so beyond the bungalow is a fine *mendong* near Boundary Pillar No. 1, where the three “kingdoms” of British Darjeeling, Nepal and Sikkim meet.

Mount Singalela stands up a black mass in front of our path. Next day we should start early for the long march, 17 miles to Dentam.

In under two hours we reach the foot of Mount SINGALELA, we ride up the steep zig-zags getting glimpses still of Mount Everest on one side and of Kinchinjunga on the other. We pass mile-post 48 quite near the top. A cairn (*dubong*) has been erected at the top (alt. 12,161 ft.). We gladly sit down here and enjoy the same great view of the snows to north-west and north—of the first, third and fourth highest mountains in the world.

Then comes a steep and rough descent, through rhododendrons, etc., then we cross a huge grassy slope and note several huge vertical rock masses, then round a corner we met a rough log-strewn "courderry" road—past the 50th mile-post, then soon after passing mile-post 51 we come to the open grassy ridge of CHIABHUNJAN, and now by the ruins of an old stone bungalow.

From here one road runs north, and may be used by those who wish to go (with tents) to Jongri or near the Gurcha La. The road to Dentam is steep downhill for many miles; we pass a new set of mile-posts (65, etc.), and after mile-post 61 we descend steeply to the bed of the Kulhait river, pass over a huge boulder strewn talus and ride for 40 minutes along the river bank till we climb up to the pretty bungalow at DENTAM. (Alt. 4,500 ft. : 3 rooms, 4 beds). The 58th mile-post is near the bungalow.

The Kulhait river joins the great Rungeet. From Dentam the traveller may return to Darjeeling in three marches, 10 miles to Richinpong, thence 11 miles to Chakoong and 20 more *viâ* Singla Bazar to Darjeeling, a long and hot march.

It is better, however, to go next day from Dentam to PEMIONCHI. We go down to the river, cross a bridge and ride up and up along the flank of the hill. The journey to Pemionchi is only 10 miles. Pemionchi bungalow (alt. 6,920 ft. : 3 rooms and 4 beds) commands a glorious view of the Kinchinjunga Range. Kabru is in the centre and splendidly magnificent; a black ridge hides much of Kinchinjunga. Narsing towers aloft above our heads.

The large monastery is less than half an hour's walk uphill above the bungalow; it is the largest in Sikhim and well deserves a visit.

From Pemionchi a road to the north leads to Tongling and Yoksun, on the rough road to JONGRI. Our way is towards KEWSING. Half an hour below Pemionchi bungalow we reach the village of Geysing (or Kaysing) celebrated for its wonderful *mondong*, which runs down the hill for 200 yards. It is 200 yards long, about 10 feet high and 6 to 8 feet broad. It is built of flat slaty stones, and on the sides are some 700 inscribed stones, chiefly of the well known prayer "*Om Mane Padme Hum*;" a tall 9 feet monolith with a couple of chortens stand at the lower end of the long *mondong*.

From here the road runs steeply down to the river which we cross near the junction of the Kulhait and the great Rungeet. The bridge is a fine suspension one, after crossing which we ride up through beautiful forest, with occasional glimpses of the snows, till we reach KEWSING bungalow (alt. 6,000 ft. : 3 rooms and 4 beds).

The views from Kewsing are very good. The great snow peaks are well seen; Narsing commands the scene, and Jobonu and Pandim are fine; Kinchinjunga is partly hidden by a black

ridge, but Kabru and Kang stand out well; Janu is hidden behind Kabru.

Seven important monasteries are to be seen on and around the holy valley, viz., Pemionchi, Changachellung, Raklang, Dubdi, Sunook and Dholing, and below on a conical hill rising out of the valley Tassiding.

From Kewsing to TEMI the road is but 10 miles; a good view of the snows is to be looked for as we reach the top of the hill. We descend the sunny eastern side of the hill, getting glimpses of Darjeeling and of the Nepal Boundary ridges. In about 7 miles from Kewsing we reach cross roads at DAMTHONG, a tiny village. Leeches are in rainy weather very numerous and troublesome on this march. The signboards at Damthong show the way to the south to Namchi and Darjeeling, and we keep on down hill to the left for 3 miles to Temi, passing a luxurious house of a Scots missionary just before we reach the TEMI Bungalow (alt. 5,000 ft.: 3 rooms 4 beds) overlooking the valley of the Tista.

Due north from Temi we may see the fine peak *Lama Amden* (D 3), 19,210 feet.

Leaving Temi we descend by a long road or by short cuts, and in about 1½ hours we reach a small bridge over a fine gorge and thence on for another hour till we reach a fine suspension bridge over the Tista. Across the bridge we find one road uphill goes on to SONG bungalow (alt. 4,500 ft.: 3 rooms 4 beds) 11 miles from Temi, and 14 miles from Gangtok). If we keep to the road along and above the river till we reach the bazaar of Singtam in under the hour. From Singtam the cart-road to GANGTOK is a good one; Shandong bungalow is over 5 miles from Singtam, and Gangtok is 10 miles further on by the short cuts (for a good 12 miles by the cart-road).

If we do not wish to go to Gangtok we cross the bridge at the back of Singtam bazaar and keep along the Tista, passing the bungalow of Sankukhola (1,400 ft.: 6 rooms and 4 beds) the road rising and falling till we pass the disused copper mines and see the big village of RUNGPO.

The bungalow is beautifully situated, high above the river and the village (alt. 1,200 ft.: 6 rooms 4 beds). Mosquito curtains are certainly needed. From Rungpo one road runs up to Pakyong bungalow (alt. 4,700 ft.: 3 rooms 4 beds), 10 miles off, and thence 10 miles more to Gangtok.

We will follow the road down the Tista valley. It is up and down in places, but mostly level. Five miles along we met the village of TARKHOLA

From Tarkhola a short cut runs up to Kalimpong 8½ miles off. This short cut is very rough and extremely steep for a couple of miles, to the top of a ridge from which a good road runs on and emerges to the north of Kalimpong high above the Kalimpong bazar. If we follow the road past Tarkhola we keep near the Tista river till 11 miles from Rungpo we reach the

village of Melli, where there is a small bungalow on the roadside (alt. 800 ft.: 4 small rooms and 4 beds). From Melli another steep short cut goes up the hill to the Kalimpong bazar, and across the river Tista a road runs up the Rungeet river to Manjitar bridge and Badamtam (11 miles from Melli and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  more to Darjeeling *via* Lebong).

Soon we come to the celebrated "*meeting of the waters*" of the Tista and the great Rangeet, and one notices the marked difference in the colour of the water of the two rivers. A couple of miles below the meeting of the waters we pass the cart road up to Kalimpong and soon reach the big bridge across the Tista, at Tista Bazar. This is a fine suspension bridge and the rivers up and down are splendid. It is hot here (alt. only 700 ft.). There is a Public Works Department bungalow above the bazar (3 rooms and 3 beds).

### **The Tista Valley Railway.**

The railway terminus of the Tista Valley Railway is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles below the bridge; from thence we can go down to Siliguri by rail and so join the Eastern Bengal Railway. This railway journey is well worth doing. the views of the Tista are splendid, and very picturesque spots are Riag station and Kalijhora (Public Works Department bungalows at both places) and that at Kalijhora is beautifully situated on a high cliff above the river. From Riag a road runs up to tea gardens and to the Cinchona Plantations at Mungpo.

To reach Darjeeling from the Tista Bridge we cross the bridge, ride up its southern bank till we come to a small bridge and gorge; and then the road ascends sharply for 3 miles passing about 2 miles up a "summer-house," from which can be again seen the "meeting of the waters" in the deep valley below. In another 15 minutes we reach the excellent Public Works Department bungalow at PASHOKE (alt. 2,600 feet.),  $17\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Darjeeling,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  from Tista, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  on further to Lopchu, 4 rooms and 6 beds. From here due south is seen a splendid view of the winding river Tista. From Pashoke to Darjeeling the road consists of a steep climb upwards to LOPCHU bungalow,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Pashoke (alt. 5,300 feet.: 2 rooms and 5 beds). Then we ride on over a good road through fine forest, till we reach the road leading off to the new Goorkha cantonment of *Takda* (12 miles from Darjeeling), thence runs a good cart-road on the south side of the ridge till at *three-mile busti* we cross to the north side of the ridge—are in sight of Darjeeling. This *busti* or village is 3 miles from Jore Bungalow bazar and just over 6 miles from Darjeeling by the Jalapahar road. At Lopchu on a clear day a very bright view is seen of the bed of the Rungeet river and the top of Kinchinjunga, a vertical mass of over 27,000 feet.

### The Forest Roads to Phalut.

By the kindness of Sir H. A. Farrington, Conservator of Forests, the following roads and bungalows between Ghoom and Phalut are given. They afford alternative ways of going to or returning from Phalut.

On the cart-road from Ghoom to Simana before we reach the village of Sukeapokri a road leads off on the right to the north-east (or Darjeeling side of the hills). Here is a forest bungalow (visible from Darjeeling) called LEPTAJAGGAT next from Manibhanjan (at the foot of the descent from Simana *busti* we find a road leading in about 3 miles to the Forest bungalow of BATASSI). From there another path leads to the Forest bungalow called PALMAJUA (6 miles from Batassi). From Palmajua to Rimbick is 9 miles and thence to the next Forest bungalow at RAMAN is 12 miles. Raman bungalow is 15 miles from Sandakphu.

Therefore the traveller (say) returning from Phalut if he wishes to avoid going over the same road may go from Phalut to Raman Forest bungalow 10 miles, thence 12 miles to Rimbick and on from Rimbick to PALMAJUA (9 miles); thence Palmajua to BATASSI 6 miles and on to Jorepokri or Lepla Jaggat and thence to Darjeeling.

The distances are as follow :—

	Miles.
Manibhanjan to Batassi Forest bungalow (about)	3
Batassi to Palmajua Forest bungalow	... 9
Palmajua to Rimbic Forest bungalow	... 12
Rimbick to Raman Forest bungalow	... 12
Phalut Dâk bungalow to Sandakphu Dâk bungalow	13
Sandakphu Dâk bungalow to Tonglu Dâk bungalow	12
Tonglu Dâk bungalow to Batassi Forest bungalow	6
Rimbick Forest bungalow to Sandakphu Dâk bungalow.	13
Raman Forest bungalow to Sandakphu Dâk bungalow	15
Tonglu Dâk bungalow to Rimbick Forest bungalow	12
Phalut Dâk bungalow to Raman Forest bungalow	... 10

This journey would therefore be Darjeeling to Tonglu, Sandakphu, Phalut and return by Raman, Rimbick, Palmajua, Batassi, then to Manibhanjan and back to Darjeeling *viâ* Simana, Sukeapokri and Ghoom.

Permission to use the forest bungalows must be obtained from the Conservator of Forests, Darjeeling.



## The Circular Tour to the Tibet Passes.

### (Tours B I and II.)

This is next to the Phalut trip, the finest in Sikkim. It can be done in 12 or 13 days from Darjeeling. *See* Itinerary B I and II.

The traveller should get to GANGTOK on the third day (*see* Tours C I and II). There is plenty to see and do at Gangtok, and some stores, fresh bread, etc., are obtainable there.

Gangtok, the present capital of Sikkim, is admirably situated on a high ridge at an elevation of about 5,800 feet. The Dāk bungalow is not worthy of the capital (5 rooms and 4 beds). The Post Office and the Dispensary are near by. The bazar shops are on a long ridge, and some European stores are obtainable. The town also contains the Maharaja's palace, the beautiful residence of the Political Officer in Sikkim, lines and quarters for officers and men of a double company of Indian Infantry, a Jail, and a Telegraph Station, run by European military signallers.

The Gangtok view of the snows has been well described by Freshfield (*Round Kinchinjunga*, page 69):—“A superb view. Nearest on the left rose Narsing, a rocky crest of only 19,150 feet, which yet owing to its comparative proximity makes a fine show. The massive cupola of Pandim, supported by grey granite cliffs, next detained our eyes. In the gap between it and Kinchinjunga a long curve of pure snow rising gently at either end was identified as the topmost ridge of the twin-crested Kabru. In the centre the soaring line of Kinchinjunga sprang up high above its attendant summits. On its southern precipice the horseshoe band of rock, conspicuous in all photographs from Darjeeling, was distinguishable. The two peaks are connected by a rock ridge with a deep notch in it. . . . Siimvovonchin (Siimvoo), 22,300 feet, came next, a tame mountain composed of three snowy eminences offering a tempting prey to the explorer. East of it spreads a broad névé sending down an icefall to join a trunk glacier in the Passandam glen, a branch of the Talung valley . . . . The saddle at the head of this névé leads to the Zemu glacier . . . . out of the névé just mentioned springs a tremendous cliff capped by rock needles and columns, the buttresses of Siniolchum. The peak itself (22,570 feet) tilts against the sky, lifting as it were its silver spearhead to catch the first gleam of early dawn. Round about its base great granite crags are thrown up against spotless snowfields, as the Chamonix Aigulles are against Mont Blanc in the view from the Col de Balme. Siniolchum is, and is likely to remain, the Jungfrau or virgin of the Sikkim Highlands. . . . The traveller who has gazed up at its crest from the east or north will not readily forget the lovely apparition, and its almost

incredibly perfect grace of form. . . . At Gangtok a long waving crest of forest a few miles off arrests the eyes and forms the base from which the great snow peaks sprung . . . . The peaks stand in a line, each separate and showing itself to the fullest advantage, but they do not compose a group."

The next tour to be described to the *Gates of Tibet* is one of the most interesting. It can be done within the limits of a fortnight's leave from Calcutta.\*

In view of the importance in recent years of the China-Tibetan question, this journey becomes additionally interesting. The route over the Jalap, thence to Darjeeling and Calcutta and by sea to China is now the quickest way to get from Lhasa to Peking. As to the best time of year is must be remembered that the rainfall is heavy both at Gangtok and at Gnatong. The best time for the tour is therefore either early in May or early in October; later on in October snow will surely be met with on the passes or in the Kapup valley.

It will be remembered that in 1903-04 Sir Ranald Macdonald led a large force of troops accompanying General Young-husband's mission over these lofty passes and on to Lhasa, a military feat which has put in the shade the historic crossings of the Alps by Hannibal and by Napoleon.

On this wonderful expedition, which reached Lhasa on 4th August 1904, there have been many books written, but the descriptions of the difficulties of the roads up to these passes in these books do not *now* apply; the roads (specially that of the Yaglap La) have been greatly improved by the Public Works Department of Bengal.

Let us, however, start. The way to Gangtok has been fully described above; from Gangtok a good road leads uphill for some 5 miles on the way; from thence the road is less good. It lies through primæval forest; about the 8th mile the path is narrow and high, cut out of the cliff and fenced on the *khul* side. Indeed the road continues to be bad and steep, till beyond the 9th mile, we see the bungalow of KARPONANG, perched on a steep hillside (al. 9,500 ft.: 3 rooms and 4 beds). If time is not important, the travellers may halt here, but it is quite possible to get to Changu in one day from Gangtok (over 22 miles). From Karponang the road is uphill, and is rough and steep. The 10th mile-post is passed in about 10 minutes after leaving Karponang. We go up and then down, we pass a fine waterfall and a huge horseshoe bend of the road, then zig-zag up through blasted and dead pine trees. At the 11th mile another bit of rock-cut road meets us, and near the 12th mile-post we meet the old road over the Yaglap Pass. We pass another waterfall, turn round a corner and enter the

---

\* This description is taken from Lieut.-Colonel W. J. Buchanan's account in *The Calcutta Review*, April 1914.

Changu valley. As we turn this corner, behind us we may still see Karponang. In about 20 minutes' fair going from this corner we come upon the remains of an old camp (a relic of the 1903-04 expedition). Before we meet the 14th mile-post the valley divides; we keep up the main valley, seen to be closed at the top and over which water is seen to flow. We zig-zag up the flank of this long and wild valley, passing flocks of yacks grazing amid the rocks; on and up we go till we reach the end of the valley and suddenly there bursts upon us the sight of a splendid lake and at its further end a small bungalow, our destination for the day, **CHANGU BUNGALOW** (alt. 12,600 ft.: 2 rooms and 4 beds). The road to the bungalow runs along the left side of this lake, which is a large one, about 1 mile long and about 600 yards broad. On the side opposite from the road it is bounded by a lofty hill, covered with dwarf rhododendrons, and those who have seen it in its glory in May say that it surpasses even Sandakphu in the beauty of the rhododendron flowers.

The bungalow is cold, and a bit draughty, and built of wood.

If at this point it is desired to visit the Yak Pass, the path lies over the hill behind and above the Changu Bungalow, then through a long valley to the foot of the ascent. It can be done and back in one day from Changu.

To get, however, to the more famous passes we climb the hill amid rhododendrons to its top, 20 minutes from the bungalow. Here fine views of the snowy peaks can be got. We then pass along a bare grassy slope with, it may be, some tents of yak herdsman, then the path winds round a huge open amphitheatre (taking 40 minutes to get round) till we turn a corner, and before us lies an enormous deep wooded gorge leading up to the foot of the Nathu Pass, the road to which can be seen winding in zig-zags to the top.

Keeping along the north side of this great gorge for a couple of miles over a tolerable road we at last descend, for a few minutes, to a beautiful little lake (alt. 12,400 ft.: two hours from Changu). This spot is sometimes called *Sharab*.

The path from this lake to the top of the Nathu La is not really difficult. We first climb up to a huge rock which marks the path leading on to the huge traverse known as the Kapup valley. We pass this big rock and follow a rough path straight up the hill, while our baggage coolies strike off at once across the huge depression leading to the Kapup valley. There are the remains of a longer and good cart-road up to the pass; it is now broken and blocked with rocks, but it could easily be repaired.

The short cut, however, is not bad for either walking or riding. Half way up we come to another huge depression, with a couple of dark forbidding lakes or tarns. We note the giant rhubarb (*R Nobile* growing amid the rocks; we may

probably see a marmot darting in and out of the stones. Above the road becomes narrow and some projecting rocks make it a bit unpleasant; these, however, are soon passed, and the way to the top is clear and easy (one hour from the small lake below, including short halts).

On our visits to the Nathu Pass, early in October, on two occasions we were favoured by fine clear weather; indeed we had been on the top for some time before the fresh cold breeze reminded us that we were standing "in shirt sleeves" at 14,400 feet altitude.

The view is superb; behind us lie the hills and valleys down to the plains which—

*"Gleam like a praying carpet at the foot  
Of these divinest altars."*\*

In front, Tibet and the Chumbi valley, with Phari Fort in the distance, and rising magnificently behind it the great Sacred Mountain of Tibet, Chumolarhi (23,940 ft). In the foreground below our feet a road similar to that we had come up winded down and down to the Chumbi valley and the Mo Chu.

The grand valley of Chumbi had been rarely visited by Europeans previous to the expeditions of 1888-1890 and of 1904. In the eighteenth century Warren Hastings' emissaries, Bogle in 1773 and Turner in 1783, had passed through it *en route* to Lhasa.

There have been many who urged that at the close of the Lhasa Expedition of 1904 this fine valley should have been acquired by the Government of India. Its rainfall is far less than that of Sikkim and of Darjeeling. The summer climate is good and from many points of view it would make a fine summer Sanatorium.

The great river of Chumbi, the Mo (or Ammo) Chu (Hooker's Mochu), runs down through Bhutan, becomes the Torsha river in Bengal, and finally joins the Brahmaputra.

Having been unable to obtain passes to enter Tibet we perforce had to return and descend the hill in 35 minutes, till we struck a path which led us into the long traverse between the Nathu and Jelap passes—the Kapup valley.† There is no road in this broad valley, though the State Engineer has outlined one. We steer for a stream which is seen to wind through the centre. We struggle alongside this, now in black sticky mud, now in the stream itself, making for some huts seen at the end of this valley. We reach these in about an hour, and from there descend a deep wooded gorge, which crosses the Kapup, traverse right angles, catching a glimpse of

\* *Light of Asia.*

† This is the "open marshy plain, chiefly of peat moss" described by W. T. Blanford in his journey in 1870. See J. A. S. B., Vol. XI. pt. 2 for 1871, p. 369, etc.

a fine lake\* on the right. We clamber and stumble down the sides of these rough gorge, cross the stream over a couple of logs and toil painfully up the other side, till we meet another smaller gorge entering the large one at right angles. We keep on up the left side of this small gorge, till we cross it and reach more level land. The way is still rough and stony, but soon we see the white road leading from the Kapup Bungalow to the Jelap, with the familiar telegraph wire to our isolated garrison at Gyañtse in Tibet, and we soon reach the small and new bungalow of Kapup (alt. 13,000 ft.: 2 rooms and 2 beds only; minimum temperature on 1st October 37° F.) A good road or path would make this defile easily crossed; it took us 2½ hours on one occasion, and nearly 4 hours on another to get through it, though it cannot be more than 4 miles long. A party which followed us in 1911, ten days later, were badly caught in a snow blizzard and much delayed.

To visit the Jelap La the best plan is to halt at Kapup Bungalow for the night, in spite of the 2 beds only, going up to the pass in the early morning, and returning to Kapup for breakfast, having sent on the coolies and heavy baggage direct to Gnatong (6 miles).

For the first half mile or so the road to the Jelap is good, the real ascent begins at some rocky zig-zags up to the first ridge. It is steep but not seriously so, and one should reach the cairn at the top in about one hour from Kapup. The top of the pass is level and larger than that at the Nathu; big bare lofty rocks tower up on either side. The pass is reckoned as 14,390 feet altitude, or about the same as the Nathu La. The view is much the same as that from the neighbouring Nathu; Chumolarhi Mountain, Pahri and several Chumbi villages are seen. At our feet the road winds down to the valley and a little lake lies some hundred feet below us. The grand snowy mass of Chumolarhi, with its sugarloaf-like great peak rising high above, is well worth watching. Beyond it are the great lofty plains of once unknown Tibet.

An hour's walk brings us back to Kapup Bungalow and breakfast. After breakfast we examined the fine glacial lake, the Bidentzo, already described. Then turning our backs on the great pass we ride steadily up the path to the top of the Nim La (about 13,000 ft.), from which again we descend across a broad open valley, mostly bare of trees, till we come to the

---

\* We did not catch another glimpse of this fine lake. It is almost certainly the Nemi Tso, mentioned by Blanford (*loc. cit.*). This lake and several others in the region of the Chola range were picturesquely described by the late Sir Richard Temple, G.C.S.I. (*Proc. of Royal Geographical Society*, Vol. III., new series 1881). Sir Richard's article is illustrated by sketches. He omits to mention the fine Changn Lake 20 miles beyond Gantok. I am not sure that Sir Richard Temple's description of the lakes and the pass he calls the Yak La does not refer to the Nathu La. The name Nathu (or Gnathu La) is not mentioned by Temple, in his text or on his excellent Map, and the description of the ascent to the pass he calls the Yak La with a lake at the foot and two others half way up is exactly what we find on the Nathu ascent. Curiously also Blanford twice refers to a small lake at the foot of the Jelap La, there is none there, but the description otherwise corresponds to the one at the foot of the Nathu. The Bidentzo is about 1 mile from the foot of the ascent to the Jelap, and it is separately and well described by Blanford. The only lake close by the Jelap is one on the Tibet side and this is shown in Temple's Map (*loc. cit.*).

ascent to the Taku La, the pass of the fight with the Tibetans in September 1888. No remains can now be seen of the once famous wall built by the Tibetan invaders the night before the battle and their defeat and flight. Having reached this pass, over 13,300 feet, we realize how absolutely it commands Gnatong in the hollow saucerlike depression, a thousand feet below. We descend the steep hillside, called the "Derby Downs" after the Derbyshire Regiment which helped to drive the Tibetan invaders from the pass above. It takes a good 45 minutes' walk to reach the stream at the foot, from which a short steep path leads up to GNATONG and its bungalow (alt. 12,300 ft. : 3 rooms and 4 beds).

GNATONG *fruit*, its glory has departed, it was, however, temporarily revived during the Tibetan Expedition of 1903-04. It is nevertheless an important village and must be so, as the first halting place on the Sikkim side of the passes. The village consists of about 40 houses and a good rest-house for Indian travellers. The old fort has gone to pieces; only a small portion of the north bastion looking up towards the Taku La remains, but many wooden barracks still stand in a more or less "tumble-down" condition, the best of these being used as the Dāk Bungalow. There is, however, a good house for the three lonely military signallers at the Telegraph Office. Once a lake existed in the hollow, an artificial one, but nothing but a swampy stream now remains. On a high knoll beyond the bazar is the Gnatong Cemetery, where may be seen about 13 graves, some nameless, some named, one of which is to the memory of Major A. Bean, Superintendent of Field Post Offices, "who died between Kapup and Gnatong on 3rd March 1904." The officers and men of the Connaught Rangers have recently (in 1909) erected a solid masonry obelisk to the memory of their comrades "who died during the occupation of Gnatong between January 1889 and October 1890." Some wooden crosses over the graves are worn and fallen, some gravestones have never been put in site. It is a lonely spot.

From Gnatong to the south we see Darjeeling and the hills and valleys between.

From Gnatong during the next three marches we go mainly downhill till we reach an elevation of about 2,000 feet at the river Rische, which divides Sikkim from British Bhutan, below Pedong. It is a descent of over 10,000 feet in about 24 miles, and as this has to be ascended by the traveller from Kalimpong to Chumbi, the wonder is that this route is so much frequented. We shall return to this question below.

From Gnatong to the next halting place, Sedonchen, is called 9 miles, but as we shall see it is a wearying journey all down a steep hill.

A walk of 20 minutes brings us to a cold windy corner of the road, well above Gnatong, from which splendid views are obtainable of the Kinchinjunga range as seen from nearly due

east; Kinchinjunga, Kabru and Siniolchum being especially clear and fine. We are now near milestone 50. From here the road descends till we come to a hollow containing the remains of an old camp, from which a splendid view on three sides is obtained; right in front we see a path going up to the top of Mount Lingtu (12,617 ft.) on which (as we have said) the Tibetans built a fort in 1888 and from which they were driven by Sir Benjamin Bromhead; to the north we see grandly the Kinchinjunga group and to the east and south the great hill Gipmochi (14,532 ft.), the trijunction point of Tibet, Bhutan and Sikkim, on the other side of which lies the great Mo Chu valley, running through Bhutan to the plains below, the destined route for the locomotive, if ever in the future a railway to Tibet is needed.

Passing the old camp we keep to the road on the right or north side of Mount Lingtu. It is level or nearly so for about a mile, then we pass a couple of huts and the descent begins, not to end till we reach the bed of the river Rische (some 10,000 feet below). On the face of a steep mountain like Lingtu no better road can well be expected, and no other road would so well stand the rain that every monsoon beats against this height. It is not so much a road as a steeply inclined causeway of big flat stones. It is tiring to go down; it must be much worse to ascend, and we can well understand the feelings of the soldier who toiled up it, when he said that "he had heard that Tibet was a tableland; if so, this road must be one of its legs." In about half an hour down this ladder of stones we meet a tiny village and a big black rock on which are carved the letters "C.I.N.R.A. 21-3-88;"—a puzzle it would take another Mr. Pickwick to solve. It took us nearly 3 hours from Gnatong to reach this spot.

The road continues down for a short bit easy, then the causeway begins again and in an hour we reach the village of Jeyluk, which, as said above, was occupied by the Tibetan forces in 1888. From this village for a few hundred yards the road is level and good, but the remorseless stone causeway soon begins again, then we catch a sight of the bungalow below, it is still, however, 2 miles off. The 42nd mile-post is close by the bungalow. The so-called nine miles took us 5 hours on one occasion and four and-a-half hours on another, from Gnatong to Sedonchen, which only shows that marches in the hills should be reckoned by time and not by distance.

The *Sedonchen* Bungalow is quaint; it has a comfortable raised verandah and porch (alt. 6,500 ft. 3 rooms and 4 beds; mean temperature 4th October, 59° F.). There is a village just below. We get fine views of Sikkim valleys and of Darjeeling and also of the Tonglu-Phalut ridge.

The next day's march is to Ari, 12 good miles up and down hill. The road continues to descend and more of the long causeway is met. In an hour we cross a log bridge into a

village, where a bit of level road is welcome; then we meet a bigger village, Lintang, on an open grassy slope with lofty hills behind. An hour later we pass through another village, where our coolies tell us strange stories of men being poisoned. The coolies did not even stop in the village nor permit us to buy rather green oranges (at a penny a dozen). The road then runs along the gorge of the torrential Rongli river. When we passed this road in 1910 and in 1911 we counted no less than a dozen landslips, great and small, in a two hours' tramp, many of them under repair and all passable. Near the above-mentioned poison village is the new bungalow of RONGLI (4 miles from ARI, 8 from Sedonchen, 10 from Rungpo, 10 from Pakyong (alt. 2,700 ft.: 3 rooms and 4 beds).

Crossing this bridge we ride up a stiff ascent, and it takes nearly two hours to get to the top, where we see two *chortens* and a small village. The ARI Bungalow is just down the slope beyond the *chortens*. It is a fine house, in a large grassy compound (alt. 4,709 ft.: 4 rooms and 4 beds) and commands a fine view of the most cultivated valleys of Sikkim and British Bhutan.

The important village of RHENOCK is but 3 miles off down the hill, and as there is a post and telegraph office at Rhenock, it is convenient to arrange for letters and papers to await the travellers there. From Ari to Rhenock the road runs downhill; in about 20 minutes we pass a small railed-in enclosure, which looks like a small cemetery. The road then becomes broad and almost level in places. Near mile-post 29 we pass the handsome house of a local Tikidar, quaintly called "D. T. Prodan Cottage." Rhenock Post Office is reached 10 minutes later.

Rhenock is an important centre and roads lead from there to Gnatong and to Pedong, north-west to Gangtok (*via* Pakyong) and north-east to Gnatong. The bungalow (alt. 4,300 ft.: 2 rooms and 4 beds) is in the bazar and is little used. From Rhenock our road runs rapidly down to the Rische river; it is steep and stony but shady. In half an hour the bridge is reached at the 26th mile-post; we cross over and enter British Bhutan or Kalimpong district.

Here we leave Sikkim and ride up afar from good road (in charge of the Public Works Department) towards PEDONG. The bazar of Pedong is reached in about 1½ hours from the river below, including 15 minutes' halt to rest the pumped horses.

We pass the house of the R. C. Mission, and the good Public Works Department bungalow is half a mile further on (alt. 4,900 ft.: 6 rooms and 4 beds; cutlery is not provided, but all else is comfortable).

On one occasion we halted at Pedong; on another we pushed on 4 miles further to the prettily situated bungalow at Rissisum in the forest (alt. 6,410 ft.: 4 rooms and 4 beds).



The road from Pedong to KALIMPONG is through fine forest, but we found it rough and neglected. In half an hour we reach mile-post 20, and 10 minutes later the sign-post showing the way to Rissisum.

The main road to Kalimpong leads to a small gap near a biggish village (19th mile-post) called "Pyung Argara," 9 miles from Kalimpong. From this village a road also leads down to Jalpaiguri in the plains *via* Dandim. The road through deep forest to Rissisum is very picturesque, and from Rissisum the road to Kalimpong joins the Pedong one at the just mentioned village Pyung Argara.

From this village the road rapidly improves; near the 17th mile-post we see a notice showing the way to the New Cinchona Plantations at Munsong (5½ miles off); in less than half an hour we reach a village Jelapshin, whose tea-shops

prove a *capua* for our thirsty coolies. At mile-post 13 (T. 13) (R. 13)

we are half way through British Bhutan, 13 miles from the Teesta on one side and from the Rische river on the other. Near mile-post 14 we catch a site of Kalimpong, which, however, is still some 4 miles away.

KALIMPONG was gay with prayer flags as we entered the bazar and pushed on to the Post Office, and the comfortable Dâk Bungalow (alt. 4,100 ft.: 6 rooms and 8 beds). The afternoon can be well spent in a visit to the Colonial Homes, run by Dr. Graham, C.I.E., of the Scots Mission.

It is contemplated to make Kalimpong the headquarters of a subdivision of Darjeeling district, and it will surely become one of the most popular subdivisions for officers who have little good in that way in the present Presidency of Bengal.

From Kalimpong a fine cart-road (30 miles) runs down in a good gradient to the Teesta bridge below; and the same place is comfortably reached in about 6 miles by the use of excellent short cuts.

Teesta bridge we have already described. From Kalimpong to Pashoke is about 10 miles and thence to Darjeeling 17 more.

### **E.— The trip to JONGRI (8 days out and 8 back).**

There are two ways of reaching Jongri, one *via* Phalut and thence over Singalela to Chiabunjan. There is no bungalow beyond Phalut and tents must be taken. The road runs on a northerly direction to YAMPANG, thence to Gamethang (near three lakes) past Bokta and thence to Jhongri.

A shorter and more satisfactory route will be here described (from notes by Mr. A. Scholfield, who did the journey in October 1915).

As far as PEMIONCHI the roads are good and there are bungalows. The marches to Pemionchi are as follows:—

1st day to Badamtam.

2nd „ to Chakung.

3rd „ to Rinchinpong.

4th „ to Pemionchi.

or 1st day to Chakung 20 miles (*via* Sengla bazar).

2nd „ to Rinchinpong, 10 miles.

3rd „ to Pemionchi, 10 miles.

On the fourth day the traveller leaves Pemionchi, having sent on tents and coolies.

The road or path runs downhill for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 hours till the river Rongbi is reached; from thence there is a stiff climb for about an hour, then comes a more or less level stretch for another hour, then the path descends to a small stream over which there may or may not be a bridge (5 hours out from Pemionchi), then follows a steep path for another hour till a small plateau is reached, where a few huts constitute the village of TINGLING. The hut of the Lambardar, or another hut may be available for the travellers (six hours from Pemionchi).

#### 5th day—TINGLING to YOKSAN.

The path goes downhill and in about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours a small bridged stream, the Ratong, is reached; the path is small and often scarce visible. From this stream there is a long steady climb over a fair path for several hours till Yoksan is reached (march about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 hours).

At Yoksan care should be taken to visit the Dubdi monastery, which stands about 500 feet above Yoksan, half an hour's march. The view from Dubdi is magnificent. The seven monasteries or Gumpas (seen from Kewsing) can be made out.

#### 6th day—YOKSAN to CAMP I.

For the first half hour the track is fair, then come ups and downs through brambles and over sippery rocks till 2 hours from the start a stream with a small bridge is reached. From here there is a steep 40 and 50 minutes' climb up to a ridge, then down goes the path again till 2 hours later the top of a ridge is reached and camping place is found under a large overhanging rock (5 hours' march from Yoksan).

## 7th day—CAMP I to CAMP II.

The march begins with a rough track and then a sudden and very steep descent, followed almost immediately by an almost perpendicular ascent. An hour later a small open spot is reached with grass covered rocks; from here looking back Dubdi monastery can be seen. Then follow 2 hours more march till a small *maidan* is reached and across a torrent spanned by a small *katcha* bridge small camping ground, which, however is shut in and damp (Camp II).

## 8th Day—From CAMP II to JONGRI.

A steady ascent all day. In about an hour from the start a small leech-infected *maidan* is reached named Bakhim (*see* Freshfield's *Round Kinchinjunga*, page 245). In about 3½ to 4 hours from the start a big overhanging rock is met, which cannot be missed; halting here for 20 minutes, the traveller goes on through rhododendrons till (about 4½ or 5 hours from the start) another small *maidan* is met; then the path goes up hill again for an hour and a half till about 6 hours from the start; the traveller emerges from the jungle and reaches a moor, then in about an hour reaches Jongri.

The only shelter at Jongri is a dirty stone cowshed. The views from Jongri are magnificent. Pandim, Jubrin to the north, to the South Darjeeling.

For a description of the views from Jongri the traveller is referred to Chapter XI of Freshfield's "*Round Kinchinjunga*" (page 216, etc.). Freshfield, also gives a picture of the two huts and the camping ground, and describes his march towards the Gincha La and to ALUKTHANG.

## LITERATURE ON SIKKIM.

The *Sikkim Gazetteer* is old, but good for history and geology, etc., and for a very detailed account of Lamaism (the latter by Colonel L. A. Waddell).

*Himalayan Journals* by the late Sir J. D. Hooker (1 vol., Ed. Ward, Locke & Co., 1905) was first published in 1854, and, though 60 years old is still far and away the best guide-book to Sikkim.

*Among the Himalayas* by Colonel L. A. Waddell, C.B., C.I.E., I.M.S. (retired) (Constable & Co., 1898) is a valuable and delightful guide to Sikkim, but is now out of print.

D. W. Freshfield's book (Ed. Arnold, 1903) is the best modern book. It is entitled "*Round Kinchinjunga.*"

Claude White's book *Sikkim and Bhotan* is admirably illustrated, but (considering the writer's great opportunities) a bit disappointing.

*The Geography and Geology of the Himalaya Mountains and Tibet* (1907) by Colonel Burrard, R.E., and H. H. Hayden (Director, Geological Survey), is the best and most authoritative book on the great peaks. It is in three parts, and Part I, *The High Peaks of Asia*, is especially valuable. It is obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, Calcutta.

For an account of Mount Everest from the north the reader is referred to Lieutenant-Colonel Ryder's paper in Vol. 26 of the *Geographical Journal*, or in a more accessible form to Captain Rawlings' book *The Great Plateau*, as the author accompanied Lieutenant-Colonel Ryder on his journey through Tibet at the close of the Lhasa Expedition of 1904.

## Corrigenda.

1. Page 6, line 12 of footnote, *for* "closed" *read* "close".
2. Page 20, lines 8 and 31, *for* "Rongpo" *read* "Rungpo".
3. Page 21, lines 6 and 17, *for* "Chongtang" *read* "Chungtong".
4. Page 22, second line from bottom, *omit* "or" and *read* ". We".
5. Page 24, line 12, *for* "than" *read* "then".
6. Page 24, line 14, *for* "will" *read* "with".
7. Page 24, line 29, after milepost, *omit* fullstop, and *read* "till near 41st milepost we reach, etc.".
8. Page 24, line 30, *for* "base" *read* "bare".
9. Page 25, line 6, *for* "now" *read* "near".
10. Page 25, line 9, *for* "Gurcha" *read* "Guicha La".
11. Page 26, line 3, *for* "on" *read* "in".
12. Page 26, line 31, *for* "for" *read* "or".
13. Page 27, line 13, *for* "rivers" *read* "views".
14. Page 27, third line from bottom of page, *for* "bright" *read* "unique".
15. Page 28, lines 9, 10, the sentence (at the foot of the descent from Simana *busti*) should be *in brackets* and remove bracket after word *Batassi* in line 10.
16. Page 28, line 20, *read* "Leptajaggat" (not as printed).
17. Page 31, line 7, *for* "yacks" *read* "yaks".
18. Page 33, line 30, *for* "Palri" *read* "Phari".
19. Page 35, sixth line from bottom of page, *for* "mean" *read* "min.".
20. Page 37, line 16, *for* "capua" *read* "Capua".
21. Page 38, line 5 from bottom of page, *for* "and" *read* "to".
22. Page 39, line 7 from bottom of page, *for* "Jubrin" *read* "Jubonu".
23. Page 39, last line, *for* "Gincha" *read* "Guicha".