

# The Great Earthquake in Nepal

1934 A.D.



Brahma Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana

# The Great Earthquake in Nepal (1934 A.D.)

Major General Brahma Shumsher  
Jung Bahadur Rana

*B.A., Prabal Gorkha Dakshin Bahu*

*Translated by*

Kesar Lall

**Ratna Pustak Bhandar**  
Kathmandu, Nepal

# **The Great Earthquake in Nepal (1934 A.D.)**

**Major General Brahma Shumsher J.B. Rana  
1st English edition: 2013**

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## DEDICATION

In remembrance of the sufferings of hundreds of thousands of my countrymen and women and in memory of those thousands who had died in the catastrophe.

*Brahma Shumsher*





# Introduction to the English Edition

The event of 1934, the Great Earthquake, is still discussed today. The versions of people who lived at that time, the devastating affects it had in their lives, and the rehabilitation in the aftermath, appear like myths today. There is an inner fear among the present generation of the occurring of the next great earthquake (though few big quakes have occurred but they were not that devastating).

This book is the first-hand account of Major General Brahma Shumsher, who was then the director of hospital management. He also had access to many first-hand reports of that year.

He gives a vivid account of the disaster and the subsequent rescue operations, treatment of the injured, rebuilding, restoration, etc.

There are reports from across the country by the officers who were sent to aid the quake victims. There are various aspects of this great earthquake, the cause, the damages done in different parts of Nepal, the areas hardest hit, etc. He also notes the roles played by the volunteers, the aid received, the list of donors, etc.

It had always been in the mind of Kesar Lall to present the Great Earthquake of Nepal to the global readers. The original book in Nepali was published in 1934, the year of the disaster. The second edition was printed in the following year Kesar Lall tried to be as faithful as possible to the original, both in letter and spirit.

We hope readers would appreciate the work of Kesar Lall who wanted to show the true Nepali spirit to size up again after such a tragic disaster. It should also give an inkling of what to expect if (God forbid) such a large scale earthquake was to occur here again.

# नेपालको महाभूकम्प

( १९९० साल )

लेखक—

श्री. प्रवल गोरखा दक्षिण बाहु मेजर जनरल  
ब्रह्मशम्शेर जङ्गबहादुर राणा बी. ए.

बबरमहल  
काठमाडौं, नेपाल

{ प्रथम संस्करण १९९१ }  
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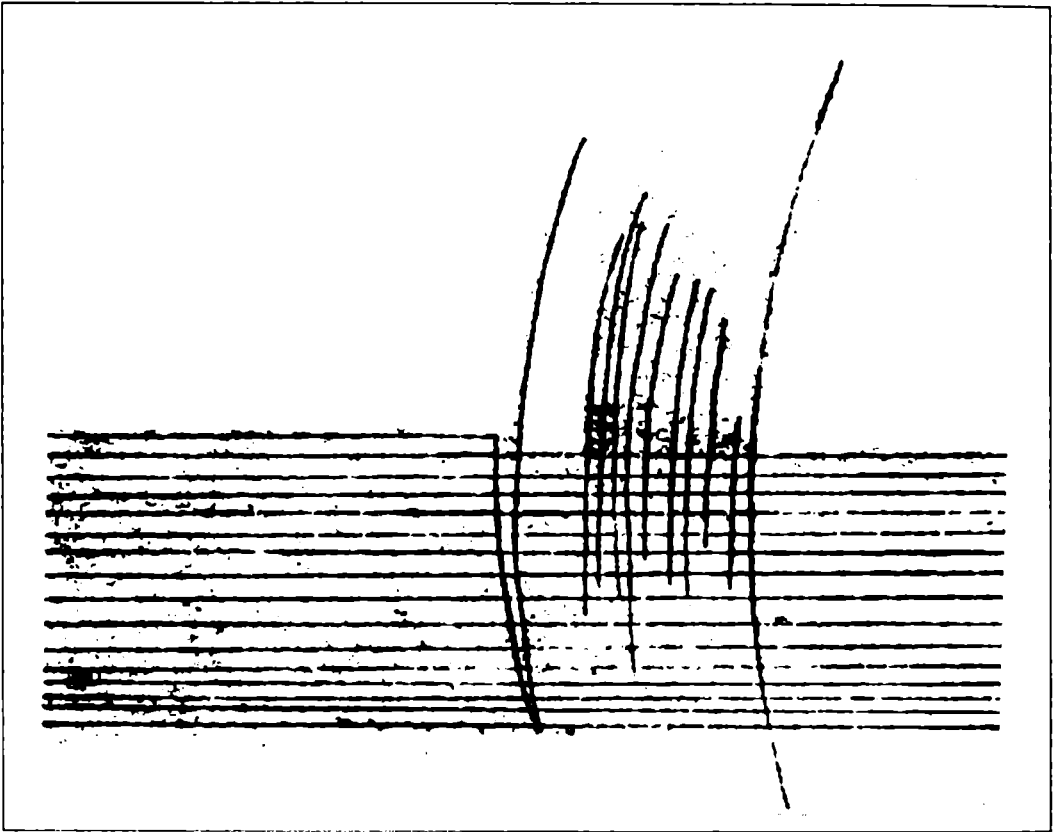
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हिन्दुस्थानलाई  
कं. रु. आठ अना







1. Major General Brahma Shumsher J.B. Rana



2. Seismic map (recorded by the seismograph in Calcutta)

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# Introduction

The January 15th, 1934 [Magh 2nd, 1990 B.S.] will be remembered for many years in the history of Nepal. What remained intact in many years of wars was destroyed in an earthquake lasting just three minutes.

Yet we must try to make the best use of the misfortune. A great earthquake had occurred in Japan in 1923 but the Japanese reaped benefit from it. This is a famous example. If the Japanese had not since then emerged more enthusiastic, more industrious, self-dependent and patriotic, how would such virtues become apparent in them? Therefore, if, at this juncture, we follow the Japanese example and for the good of the country and the people as a whole, would our country be far behind? We are also the people of a free country. Let us not be defeatist in our mind.

The arrangements made for the relief of the victims of the earthquake and the speeches given from time to time by His Highness Maharaja Jooddha Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, Prime Minister and Supreme Commander, are all included in this book. The book speaks volumes about his love of the country and its people; which is not necessary to mention



here. We have a strong belief that His Highness would be ever active in making the poor people of this beloved country, Nepal, happy and in taking the country towards progress and attaining a glorious height.

My thanks are due to Capt. Bal Krishna Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana for providing the picture of the Dharahara tower for the cover and for getting the approval for this article from the office of the Samiti.

I heartily thank Guruju Hemraj Pandit for going through the manuscript and making various suggestions. Also, I thank the Bhukampa Peditwadar Sanstha Adda (Earthquake Relief Association Office) for the report concerning its activities.

For help of all kinds in the preparation of this book and for proof-reading I wish to thank Headmaster Rudra Raj Pande and Pandit Prem Raj, Editor of the *Gorkhapatra*.

I cannot forget the work done from time to time by others, and I take the opportunity to thank them also.

I have prepared this account with the hope that the plight of the suffering people would arise sympathy and love and that there would be knowledge and information about the great earthquake for the future.

A year has passed since the earthquake. Therefore at this juncture let me present this small book to my beloved Nepalese reader. Whatever I write, I must not let the dreadful event be forgotten. I hope that our country and people would rise ever higher out of the dust of a destroyed land. I pray that the loss will bring profit.

If this book helps somewhat in fulfilling the above mentioned wishes it would not have been written in vain.

One thousand copies of this book were printed for the first edition. As the edition had been sold out, I have pleasure in presenting this second edition to my beloved countrymen.

Brahma Shumsher

Babar Mahal  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
1935 A.D.

## Preamble

This great earthquake had a greater impact on Nepal than India. In India, only the northern and central parts of Bihar were affected, which for India was a very small area. But in Nepal, the capital and half the kingdom were affected. In the number of deaths, Nepal was ahead too. Only 7188 deaths were reported in India while in Nepal 8519 deaths were reported. The extent of region compared to that of the thickly populated north Bihar (pop. 1,500,000) can easily be surmised by intelligent readers. But many people do not seem to have full knowledge about it. A brief account of the loss is given below:

<i>No. of Death</i>			<i>Destroyed</i>
Male	Female	Total	Houses, Temples and Public Shelters
3850	4669	8519	207,704

No mention is made here of the loss of property as no list has been prepared. In terms of cash, properties worth crores of rupees have been lost. Properties worth lakhs of rupees have

been destroyed in the big palatial buildings in the capital alone.

The relief work in connection with the earthquake has been divided into two phases. In the first phase immediate relief was carried out, such as supply of rice, cloths, blankets, beds, timber, grass roofing, shelters for those rendered homeless, treatment for the injured, care of the women giving birth, and the sick. In the second phase, providing aid to the public in reconstruction of houses, repair of government buildings and offices, repair of bridges (old settlements to be replaced by new, cleaner cities). The works carried out under both phases are mentioned in this book. There is still some time left to complete the work under the second phase. However what has been done so far and what needs to be done in the future are also mentioned.

According to astrological calculation, a catastrophic event has been forecast long ago due to the configuration of seven planets – the Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Saturn, Rahu (another name for the moon's ascending node) and Venus within the Makerrashi (Capricornus zodiac) at 4 o'clock on Monday, the 15th January. But who would have imagined such an earthquake?

At that time I was present here and I had to witness a great many heart-rending scenes. May I never have to see again such suffering by my beloved Nepalese brothers and sisters! However, if we take a lesson from the catastrophe and cultivate courage, unity and patriotism, the crisis itself could become a fortunate opportunity. When we can take the 15th January as a fortunate event then the picture of catastrophe will be erased from our minds as fast as clouds in a storm. It is the duty of all of us Nepalese to move in that direction – not by words alone but by deeds.

# The Great Earthquake

This great earthquake in Nepal can be compared with all the other great earthquakes that had occurred on earth.

The epicenter was at a location of about 104 miles or 167 km south-east of the capital of Nepal, Kathmandu, between Sitamarhi and Madhubani (north Bihar). The place was directly south of East No. 3 (about 70 miles from Okhaldhunga and 50 miles from Udaipurgarhi). It had greatly affected East No. 3 and East No. 4 districts.

The seismograph in India estimated the tremors in Kathmandu as eight feet per second.<sup>1</sup> However, geologists were of the opinion that the shock of the earthquake depended upon the geological formation. Therefore, while the tremors were felt in Kathmandu and Patan at the rate of eight feet per second, the scale of the same at Bhaktapur, Lubhu, Sanagaun, Bungamati and Khokana was 10 feet per second, e.g. in the scale as felt at the epicenter.

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1 [Richter scale was developed in 1935 as a mathematical device to compare the size of earthquake by Charles F. Richter.]



There is a great difference of opinion about the exact time the tremors began. However, the record shows 14 hours, 13 minutes and 22 seconds according to the Indian Standard Time. Calculations show that it occurred here in the afternoon at 24 minutes and 22 seconds past 2:00 p.m. Although many people have estimated it at 2:15 p.m., 2:24:22 must be recognized as the correct time the earthquake occurred.

It is more difficult to determine the duration of the earthquake. Calculations differ from place to place. Towards the east, the longest duration of 10-12 minutes has been calculated. However, in the capital, a clerk who happened to be in the open Tundikhel calculated it to be exactly two minutes by his watch. Considering everything else, two to three minutes seem to be the correct estimate for the duration of the earthquake.

Although the effect of the earthquake was felt in an area of 3 million square miles, only minor shocks were reported in the greater part of the area. The areas of main impact were:

- From West No. 1 to the eastern border in Nepal;
- North and central parts of Bihar and certain parts of Assam in India.

After the big quake, many small tremors were felt. There are still some tremors up to now. As there is no seismograph here, it has not been possible to keep a record of the shocks. According to the reports from India, 28 minor tremors were recorded between the 15th and 20th of January, 1934. The number of tremors here may be about the same. Of these, half the tremors were of considerable strength. Certain scientific conclusions about it are mentioned in Part 11. The opinions of geologists are also presented there.

His Highness the Maharaja was visiting Nayamuluk in the west at that time. The Chief General in attendance to His Highness was my father General Babar Shumsher (the General in the Eastern Command at present). Those in charge of hunting were General Kaiser Shumsher and the Hajuria

General Bahadur Shumsher. His Majesty King Tribhuvan was at Nagarjun. Further, generals and colonels had been deputed on inspection tours from East No. 1 to Ilam and up to West No. 4 in the hills. As the survey of Kaski and Lamjung has not been carried out for many years, two regiments – the Bhairau and Suryadal – had been sent there. Two regiments had been sent as usual to repair the road from Bhimphedi to Amlekhgung. Two full regiments had also gone with His Highness on the tour of Nayamuluk at Bagadiya under the command of General Singha Shumsher. Therefore, many officers and regiments were on deputation out of the capital (e.g. in locations least effected by the earthquake). The Mukhtiyar Rudra Shumsher J.B. Rana was functioning in the capacity of Acting Prime Minister and many generals were overburdened with additional responsibilities. With the earthquake coming at that juncture, the officers and others in the capital were overwhelmed by the event.

## A. Earthquake in the Capital

### Accounts of the Earthquake

It had rained on January 11th a few days before the 15th of January. The rainfall was about 41 inches during the day and night, resulting in an increase in the mist in the morning. As the previous day was *sankranti* (the first day of the Nepalese month of Magh), it was a day of celebration, which continued until the following day. Since it was the *aunsi* (the new moon) on a Monday, many women had taken bath and they were observing fast and undertaking religious rites. Those people who had already done with the festivities were working in their fields.

Although it was a misty morning, the sun was somewhat hotter than on other days. The temperature was about 60 degrees<sup>2</sup> yet there were many people enjoying the sunshine in their courtyards and terraces as well as in the streets. In the

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<sup>2</sup> The temperature of the water was about 57°.

*bhatis* (pubs) in the towns and villages there were crowds of the *matawali* (those who take alcohol) Newars and Bhotes (people of Tibetan origin, specially, Tamangs). As it was the month of Magh [January-February], the villagers had also come to the markets to sell the produce of their fields and the market places in the towns were also crowded. The government offices were functioning. The soldiers were drilling.

Exactly at 24 minutes and 22 seconds past 2 o'clock, suddenly a rumbling noise was heard underground, and with that came the tremor – the great earthquake of 15th January, 1934. However, due to the unusual subterranean noise, no one immediately thought that it was an earthquake. There was a movement in the land similar to that of waves in the water. It was surmised that the direction of the first shock wave of the earthquake was from the east towards the west. In the course of the second wave, the land seemed to twist and most of the buildings then toppled down. The movement was so strong that even an electric bulb was seen to eject from its socket which gave an idea of the intensity of the earthquake. The trees bent down as during a hurricane, and the top-most branches of the smaller trees seemed to touch the ground.

The water in the ponds or in pots was thrown out. In the tanks where the water was otherwise still, big waves came as in the sea. The side-walls of the houses began to open up and close like shutters in a door during a storm. As the land went up and down, houses began to tumble down. The tall structures in the top-most parts of buildings and temples also fell down. A fearful noise like that of cannon fire was heard with the destruction of houses. There was darkness because of the dust. Visibility was reduced to less than eight or 10 yards. The cloud of dust from the town covered even the spacious Tundikhel.

Everybody began to run towards open spaces. Some sought support to keep themselves on their feet, while others ran like animals with their hands on the ground. Some hid themselves on the ground floor. Yet others ran towards courtyards and gardens. Some mothers having come out into the open grounds went back for the love of their children and

were crushed to death. Although blinded by the dust everybody ran helter-skelter in a panic and called upon God. A great wail was heard along with the noise of the tumbling houses. It was a dreadful noise indeed. In the belief that it would be a religious undertaking, especially most women, instead of escaping filled jars with water or kept touching the earth. But even those men who ran away were not saved. The narrow streets and lanes in the towns became traps. Thousands of people were buried in the debris and died an untimely death and thousands of others were injured. Unable to keep standing on their feet thousands of soldiers drilling at Tundikhel flung down on the ground. In a part to the east the ground cracked open and water came out. Both the Dharahara tower and the clock tower fell down into two or three pieces as if cut off by a saw. The debris of the towers filled up the space within the surrounding walls. Other buildings were also seen tumbling down in the same way. The theory that in an earthquake the buildings were laid low intact was disapproved.

Cracks appeared in the fields and roads, from which water began to issue. All the rivers including the Bagmati and the Bishnumati had soon turned black with dirty waters at once. In some places water shot up to a height of eight to 10 cubit feet from the ground like fountains. Most fields were covered with water. It was said that hot water and sand came out of the cracks in the ground in some places. On the roads at Balaju and near Sankhamul the ground subsided up to one to two cubits. There were very few roads without cracks. Not to mention the length, the depths of the cracks were even nine to 10 cubits.

Immediately after the cessation of the earthquake, people went about searching for their near and dear ones. Some went about the streets calling for those they had not seen. Those who happened to be outside ran towards their home. As if there was an attack by an enemy the people came out carrying their valuable possessions. All at once the panic-stricken men and women filled all the open spaces. As some women had gone to celebrate the *maghe sankranti* at their maternal homes or at

their friends, it was very difficult to know the whereabouts of their relatives and friends. As a result people ran here and there. Some tried to remove the debris to rescue their relatives. Those who were helpless cried for help but as everyone was busy seeking out their own family members, help was not forthcoming to those in need. Voices of the survivors were also to be heard from beneath the debris but it was not possible to take them out. The heart-rending plight of the helpless relatives could hardly be imagined. They came to the places where the army was stationed. (In Kathmandu, they came to Tundikhel.) Soon after the earthquake had come to a stop the Commander-in-Chief the Lath Sabeab (the Second in Command) and other generals and officers were assembled at Tundikhel. The first thing done was to give support and encouragement to the soldiers present there, and then they were dispatched to different places. The news was received there of the death of two of His Majesty the King's daughters and a grand-daughter of His Highness the Maharaja. Groups of soldiers under their commanders were sent to the city and the palace to rescue the survivors under the debris. They rescued many people in the city. Those who were buried under the palace buildings were also rescued by the army. Although the soldiers were themselves worried about their homes and the safety of their families, they fulfilled their duty in the rescue work. They went wherever they were sent without a grumble – a sight that made one happy and full of pity too. The strength of the army then in the three cities was about 9,500 men. The hospitals were overflowing with the injured. Besides the injured other inhabitants of the city also crowded the hospital. Among them, some were mothers with dead babies in their hands, who came with the hope of having them examined and treated by the doctors if they were still alive. It was such a sad sight. As I was in charge of the hospital then, I was responsible for overseeing the treatment of the injured. More on the subject is mentioned in Part 6. Although some of the gentry in the city helped in taking care of the injured, most people had become panicky and helpless.

His Majesty the King was then living at Nagarjun. His Majesty had come for a short visit to the Narayanhity Palace. As the bridge across the Bishnumati was broken, His Majesty returned to Nagarjun via Chhauni. As customary, there was a one-gun salute as His Majesty passed through Chhauni. As the buildings at Nagarjun were also destroyed, His Majesty stayed in a tent.

Fire broke out in some houses in the city and in the Palace, but it was limited among a few buildings and as the wind was slow, the fire was brought under control. There was fire in the oil mill at Khokana but it did not spread. As the generator at Pharping Power House automatically came to a stop in the earthquake, the supply of electricity to all places was shut off. Otherwise, there was a great possibility of fire because of broken wires. It was most fortunate that there was no fire. The situation prevailing then is easily imagined from an account given by Prem Raj as follow:

Two minutes later when I regained my sense and opened my eyes, I saw an indescribable sight that indicated the end of the world, full of wails and cries. Not to speak of people but the birds were also flying in the sky chirping all the time. Even a quick animal like the mouse failed to escape but was crushed to death.

The whole body of the son lay under the debris. He could be seen opening his mouth through small opening in the bricks, and weak calls for 'mother' could be faintly heard. There were not enough men to rescue the son by removing the bricks and timber. Picture the plight of the poor mother in such a circumstance. There were 11 members in the family; all of them were buried and lay dead. Only a five-year-old boy was left. Imagine the situation of this infant. In less than a year of her marriage, the 15-year-old Brahmin girl became a widow. Think of the heart-rending cries of the young widow. In one family somebody's head was broken, others had broken their hands while other members had disappeared. Some were brought out of the wreckage; others had already been taken for cremation. The clay pots were broken and not a grain was left. The dead body was lying in the house, but there was no shop to buy the shroud, nor any money to buy firewood. The corpse was cremated with the timber from the damaged houses. The father

had died but the son did not find a razor to shave his head. The priest had no book to read at the mourning rites. It might be buried in the debris. Not one knew where it was laying. Those who had to observe mourning had to do with old clothes as no new material was available. The whole city lay in ruins; the shops were destroyed and there was nothing to buy. During the night the winter rain could come, but there was no shelter!

As no firewood was available for cremation, many people made use of the timber from ruined houses. All the *ghats* (cremation grounds) along the riverbanks were covered with dead bodies. Those who were unable to carry proper funerary rites began to throw away the dead bodies. There can be no mention of the carcass of animals.

The only telephone line to Birgunj was broken, and as there was destruction all around there was no news from the outside world. Nor was it possible to send out the news. A man on horseback carried the news to His Highness the Maharaja. Since the road was damaged it was difficult to obtain reports from Bhaktapur and the surrounding areas. To prevent disorder and theft additional guards (see Part 4) were posted at the *kausi* (the Treasury), the jail, the arsenal and the great palaces. Patrolling during the night was enforced strictly by additional officers and soldiers. Those under detention failed to make their escapes with the timely arrival of additional guards. Being winter the days were short and the nightfall came early, but there was no electric lights. People were unable to get information about their relatives. Minor tremors were felt throughout the night. Everyone – the great and the little – stayed outdoors, in fields, gardens and open grounds. Having no shelter, thousands of people spent the night under the open sky; only some had something to eat that night. It was very cold. The temperature dropped to 28° F and water began to freeze. The night was spent as during the delirium in high fever.

Soldiers were sent the next day to different places to dig out those who were buried as well as the dead bodies. Many persons were rescued alive. The structure of the whole city was changed and as 40 to 50 persons were buried in one place,

the number of relief workers was inadequate. Some of the soldiers and officers rendered praiseworthy services. Reports began to come from the villages in the Valley and the hills near by. Officers also visited the rural areas. The news was bad from everywhere. For instance, here is a report submitted by Prem Raj.

Of all the places I visited the sight of Sanagaun and Lubhu was most heart-rending. Of the 1500 to 2000 households, there was not even four or five left. The settlement full of tile-roofed houses has now been reduced to a bare, scarred hill.

The telephone line to Birgunj was restored on the 16th January. However, there was no news beyond Raxual. The only report received was:

Birgunj has been completely destroyed. The railway line beyond Raxual has been damaged. The Light Nepal Government Railway has been destroyed. The telephone poles are broken and there is no news from India. It is surmised that there has been a great destruction across the border.

There was, therefore, no information beyond that. It was only very slowly that reports from the hills were received.

Slight tremors were felt from time to time from the day of the earthquake. There was quite a great tremor during the night of 17th January. The terrified people were frightened even more. A great cry of fear came from the people at every quake.

The tremors continued for 3 or 4 days and it lessened gradually as time passed and the people became accustomed to earthquakes. However, the small tremors were worrisome at a time when the people were faced with the problems of shelter, food, etc. Reports of destruction continued to come from the rural areas all around. But there was no news from outside world, which added to the anxiety of the people already in a state of panic.

Divisions of work were made to cope with the news situation as follows:

The Jangilath (the Mukhtiyar now) Padma Shumsher Jung took the responsibility of looking after the affairs of the



(Army) Headquarters. His hard work and devotion to duty then were really to be appreciated.

- The first phase of managing the supply of rice and other food grains were also undertaken by General Padma himself. But after 9-10 days the task was taken over by the General, Southern Command (the Jangilath now), Mohan Shumsher, with Col. Bhairab Shumsher and Col. Shumsher Bikram assisting him.
- The duty of looking after the treatment of the injured and the patients were my responsibility.
- The supply of water was the duty of General Prachand.
- Electricity and Telephone – General Krishna Shumsher with Col. Chet Shumsher and Mr. Kilbourne assisting.
- Public Security – General Padma himself was in charge of it. There were other officers to help him.
- Police – General Surya Shumsher was in charge of it.
- Army – The duties of the army was vast – from public security to many other jobs, under General Padma.
- Cleaning the city was the responsibility of the Hospital and the Municipality.

In addition to the above mentioned departments, other branches came into existence to collect data and reports from different places and supervise the collection of fuel wood and timber from the forest and hills.

## B. Conditions after the Earthquake

All were affected by the earthquake as far as shelter and food were concerned. For the next five or six days there were not even 8 or 10 persons out of 100 living in their houses. Most houses were damaged and those people whose houses were spared were afraid. As a result housing became a problem. In the Valley alone 55,739 houses were destroyed, i.e. 70 out of 100 houses were gone. For the first one or two days, people spent the night under trees. All the government land, including

Tundikhel and Bhandharkhel, became settlements. Those who had land of their own lived in the same. Government tents were set up at Tundikhel. But how these could contain everyone? The officers were provided with army tents. People were also allowed to stay in undamaged government buildings. Foreigners were especially taken care of. The foreigners and some Nepalese were allowed to stay at Tri-Chandra College and the Guest House. The Government believed it was its duty to look after the foreigners who were dependent upon it. So they were given the maximum facilities. Some people built shelters in their land for those who were rendered homeless in the city. At Jamal (the land belonging to General Pratap Shumsher north of Ranipokhari) a settlement was made for about 100 persons. The government gave permission to the people to cut firewood from the government forests, except in one or two areas. Huts were soon built in the rural areas as straw was available there. But there were some difficulties in the city – the price of straw and bamboo matting went up very high. Shelters were made of corrugated iron sheets, sheets of cotton cloth and tarpaulin. After a week or so, people began to think of their permanent residences. Those who were unable to rebuild their houses began to put up sheds or huts. Those who could began to repair their houses. But the number of such people was very few.

After shelter came the problem of food. A great quantity of grains was lost in the wreckage of buildings. There was no prospect of supply from outside and the price went very high. Since it was about the time the land tax (in kind) was due many people had kept rice paddy and maize ready to pay. And so a great deal of grain was lost in the wreckage. Those who had yet to pay the tax faced a greater problem.

Therefore, the people in the villages, in the Valley and in the hills were up to great hardship. What they had was buried under earth and they had no money to buy. What a great misfortune! If those who lived in the city and had the means had to face hardship for three or four days, what would have been the hardship of those in the villages? It can be easily imagined. Everybody began to eat less. Many in the villages

subsisted on maize and soya beans. Later they recovered some of the rice from debris and ate it. For some days the paddy in the government warehouses was dehusked and sold to the public. Officers were appointed for that and they saw to it that control was maintained in the sale of the rice, providing only as much as was required. Army officers and soldiers were dispatched to recover the food grains belonging to the merchants from the debris and sold to the public. Those who had rice hullers were permitted to work in different places. During those days of food scarcity everyone – from the children to the elderly people – began to have greater appetite. (Was the hunger due to their outdoor life or for some other reason? Only God knows.) It was a great misfortune at that time. As some merchants concealed their stock of food grains and the price went up, an official notice was given to the effect that:

Merchants should not seek greater profit at such a time. They have to sell at the usual price and food grains should not be hidden. Otherwise the merchants would be punished.

At the same time, the consumers were sold only as much as they required. Otherwise, people would have hoarded the grains and sold later at a higher price. It was most fortunate that the electric powerhouse and the ropeway were left intact. Consequently, the ropeway began to function fully after seven days and food grains began to come from the Terai plains. And for some days only food grains were transported, which eased the problem of food. The merchants were also obliged to sell at the usual rate and they could not make undue profit because of the shortage of food grains. The ropeway did a splendid job. As the ropeway was built during the rule of my grandfather, the late Highness Maharaja Chandra Shumsher, people gratefully remembered him. So much was accomplished in the course of the first week. It was only after 15 or 16 days later that it was possible to arrange for sale of food grains in rural areas. Not to speak of the hills, it was quite difficult to take the food grains by lorries due to the damaged roads. The government distributed rations to the poor in the city. The volunteers also rendered a

great service to many of the hungry poor people. However, those in the villages received ration only some days later.

As the pipes were damaged in many places in the Valley, the supply of water posed a problem. By the 17th or 18th January, the problem became acute. However, as the main reservoirs were not much damaged, repairs were soon carried out. As water was still limited, the supply was made only twice a day. People had to drink water from springs and ponds when they faced shortage at the beginning. The taps that remained intact were very crowded. After a week there was no further fear of shortage. But there seemed to be a greater problem in the villages than in the city. People used the water from canals and springs. The earthquake had damaged many springs, and the canals were buried under the debris of houses. The *dhunge dharas* (stone spouts), wherever available, were of some convenience. But where there were only springs, there was a great problem. As there were no spare tube wells, they were of no use. People had to use dirty water from the ponds to survive. It was only after two or three months when the springs and canals were repaired that the problem of water supply was solved.

As the supply of petrol was not much, the government had to pay attention to it too in order to prevent misuse during the first phase of the catastrophe.

All sorts of rumours began to circulate, forecasting events for the next few days and the people who had been in a state of panic began to believe them. It did not take long for ill tidings to impress frightened minds. Therefore it was found necessary to give assurances to the people to calm their minds. It was also necessary to give assurances to the soldiers who were naturally worried about their family and homes.

The task of assuring the soldiers was done admirably by General, Western Command (now Commander-in-Chief) Padma Shumsher J.B. Rana.

We are Gurkhali soldiers. We should not give up our duty at the time of wars and such catastrophes. We must help others. What we

do today would benefit us later. Don't throw away your prestige and glory.

Thus, he was able to raise the enthusiasm and the spirit of the soldiers. Tundikhel was the main place for meeting them. All the speeches were given from Kharikobot (oak tree) there.

The task of instilling enthusiasm among the soldiers continued daily for five or six days. Wisdom and great efforts were specially required for raising the spirit of the people at the time. Efforts were made from time to time to tell the people about the importance of racial identity and about similar sufferings of Japan, duties and dependence upon God, etc. The speeches were greatly effective in building confidence among the people.

Thefts and looting were likely in such situation. The number of thefts actually increased. Thieves became active not only in the cities but in the villages too. The public was law abiding and the thieves added to their worry. Additional guards were placed at different places and in the cities the police were put on greater alert and sent on patrols from the day of the earthquake. From the 18th of January extra security measures were taken with armed soldiers on picket duty at main thoroughfares and important places and 'martial law' was enforced for public security.

- Thieves or those suspected of theft shall not receive the usual treatment.
- From that day (18th January) the public may come out of their homes before 8 o'clock in the evening and after the cannon fire in the following morning. Those apprehended later or before shall receive severe punishment.
- The killing of a thief shall not be a crime.
- The order for the soldiers on picket duty was, 'Question any suspect three times. If no answer was given or if the person tried to flee, make an attempt to arrest him. If it was not possible to do so, he may be shot and killed.' Generals, nobles and officers who have guns in their houses are also authorized to shoot the thieves to kill.

There were altogether 72 pickets at different locations including the main crossroads in Kathmandu. Each picket consisted of four soldiers led by one officer. The number of pickets was gradually decreased. By 22nd April all the pickets were removed. In Patan and Bhaktapur the local brigades undertook the task. Additional soldiers and officers were sent to patrol there. Rana officers were also sent on night patrols and the guards at different pickets and in the palaces actually shot the thieves, but none were killed. About 20 or 30 thieves were arrested in Kathmandu alone, one of them turned out to be a soldier. The scorn heaped on him by other soldiers was notable. Many of them, including his own older brother, urged that he be given capital punishment. The thieves were generally taken to Tundikhel and whipped publicly. Although there was actually no intention of hanging the culprit, in order to serve as deterrent, an order was given 'to keep him in jail until it is time to hang him'. In view of the situation such a punishment was justified, because extraordinary measures were required at critical times. Such actions and strict security measures proved very successful, for the number of thefts was remarkably low and the public was greatly reassured. The people were much grateful to the government for the maintenance of law and order.

The number of the injured was great. As the hospital was damaged, the injured and other patients were put in tents or sheds. There was a separate arrangement for maternity cases in the Female Hospital. Doctors and compounders went on horseback to the rural areas to supply medicine. Five temporary hospitals were set up – four in the capital and one at Banepa. The army compounders were dispatched with medical supplies for first aid treatment to the villages in the neighbouring hills. Volunteers were also very helpful in providing first aid treatment. In addition to them, the 'Earthquake Volunteers' was also helpful in the field. About 14,000 people were treated in the capital.<sup>3</sup>

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3 Further details are given in Part 6.

There was the possibility and danger of an epidemic (especially cholera and typhoid) among the people then as their lives were unsettled as far as their residences and food were concerned. The danger was even greater as the people had begun to use the dirty water from the ponds in the cities and elsewhere. In order to eliminate the danger, a medicine (potash) was put into the springs and ponds. Doctors were sent on inspection in the cities to ensure proper sanitation and hygiene. Arrangements were made to put disinfectants in the public places. These were done jointly by the hospitals and municipality. If an epidemic had spread, not only many lives would have possibly been lost but the people would be really panicky. There were a few cases of sickness but there was no epidemic. We thank God for saving us from the scourge.

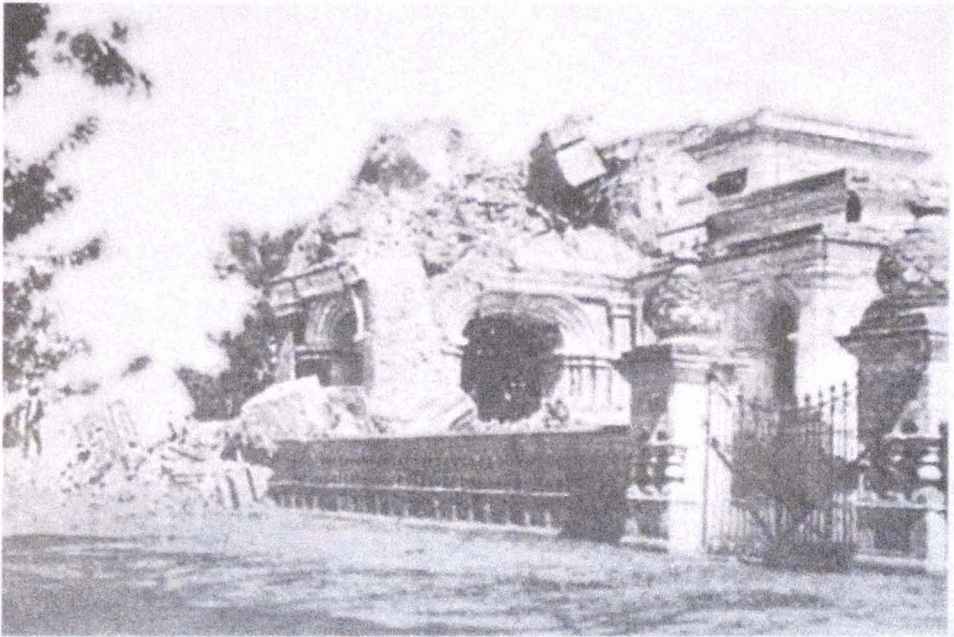
The news from the outside world was first received by wireless from Calcutta. As electric powerhouse had been spared the electrical engineer R. Kilbourne made use of his wireless set and picked up the news from India, which revealed that in the north-eastern parts of India (e.g. Muzaffarpur, Moonger, Darbhanga in the northern part of Bihar) there was a great damage. It was also an indication that the western part of Nepal was spared. It was a great reassurance. From that day on two or three reports were recorded daily by the wireless set. However, as there was no equipment to send news from here, the news of our country could not send for many days to the outside world. There was also no immediate report from the hills. Reports from the nearby No. 1 (district) were brought by men by 17th January and that of No. 3 and 4 (districts) by the 20th January. It was only on the 25th (i.e. 10 days after the earthquake) that a communication was received from His Highness the Maharaja. On the following day the Commandar-in-Chief assembled the army and civil officers and read it out to them.

As Hajuria Colonel Indra Bahadur sent from (His Highness the Maharaja's) camp arrived at Birgunj on the 23rd the news from the camp and en route was received. The first report from this end sent from Birgunj by bearer was received only on the 19th January by His Highness the Maharaja. At that juncture





3. The Clock Tower before the earthquake



4. The Clock Tower after the earthquake





5. The town of Lubhu

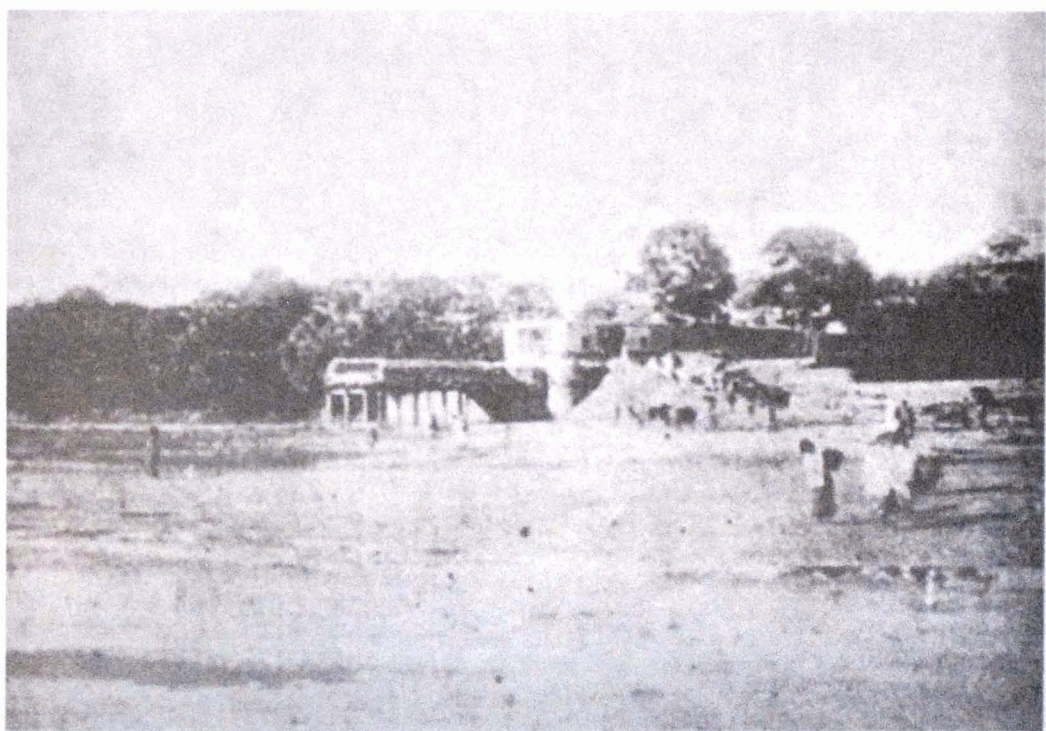


6. Kasabpur



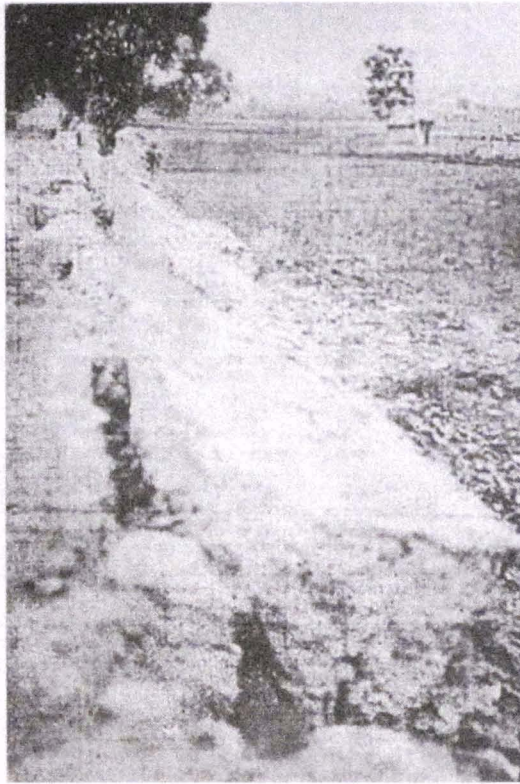


7. A street in Bhaktapur



8. The Bishnumati Bridge





9. The fissure in the road to Balaju



10. The depression at Balaju

the camp was located at Mahakali on the western border. After 28th January letters and wireless messages from and to India were exchanged as usual. The news was also received from the far-flung areas of the kingdom through the postal service.

There were cracks in the roads as a result of the earthquake. No motor-car could go to Bhaktapur, Sankhu, Chapagaon and Godavari. But, as the main bridge was only slightly damaged, the roads to Bhaktapur and Sankhu became motorable from the 19th and 22nd January respectively. The Bhimphedi-Birgunj Road was not damaged and the road continued to be serviceable. As other roads in the hills were used by men or horses only, despite landslides at different places, they did not become a problem for the people and the postal service. The roads within the three cities in the Valley were full of the debris. The job of cleaning it was done by labourers later on. Motor-cars and carriages began to run after 30 or 35 days in Kathmandu and Patan and after 50 to 60 days at Bhaktapur. As the main power house had remained intact, electric light came to some of the streets in Kathmandu on 20th January. After two or three days, men from the electricity department checked electric lines and lighted some of the houses and palaces outside the city. By the 25th of January the hospital and shops at Tundikhel also received electricity. But within the city itself electricity was not restored until one and half months later.

The volunteers also rendered much service. They raised funds and collected food grains and distributed the same among the poor. They also rendered medical treatment to the injured. There were three organizations – Earthquake Relief Workers, the Maharaja Servants' Society and Joodha-Seva Sammelan. There were both Nepalese and foreigners in these organizations but the majority were Nepalese. They did a much-needed job. Later, His Highness the Maharaja offered thanks to them.

The first phase of the earthquake was an extraordinary time – very minute was fearful. It was a time to exert oneself happily to relieve the suffering of the victims. The benefit and need for mutual cooperation was very much evident. The work

done by some of the generals, officers and gentlemen was very much to be appreciated. However, there is not enough space in this book to mention the heroic deeds of everyone. The timely efforts provided a good support to the public and they became more devoted than before. It was a moment of a great trial for the army officers and soldiers. By the grace of God they passed the test gracefully.

### C. Return of the H.H. the Maharaja

It had already been mentioned that H.H. the Maharaja was at Mahakali in the west at that time. It would not be out of place here to write about the situation prevailing there. The following is a selection of statements given by various persons who were there.

There has been a slack in the hunting since a few days before the 15th of January. Nothing happened on 13th January. Only two peacocks were shot on the maghe sankranti [Jan. 14]. On 15th (at the time of the earthquake) His Highness was out hunting. Those who were riding the elephants did not have a hint of the tremors. Those who were at the camp felt the shock. But, since it was not as great as here (capital), His Highness sent a wireless message here for information but none had even imagined the great intensity of the earthquake. One or two days later the bad news arrived from Bihar. Then people began to have doubts about the situation in Nepal. Even the sky seemed to be gloomy. In the evening of 19th January the first wireless message was received.

The 20th of January was *Sripanchami* and His Highness told the army:

There had been a great earthquake in our place with a great loss of life and property. But there is no need for panic. The railway line is also destroyed. I could make a quick journey back there but I do not want to go alone, leaving all of those who have come with me here in a state of great confusion. I shall make necessary arrangements once I'm back. Don't worry.

On 22nd January a *mandap* (ritual space) was made and 1000 cows were given in gift (to the Brahmins) at Dhakanabagh on the bank of the Mahakali, in the memory of those who had died during the earthquake as mentioned in the chapter on His Highness's message in this book.

Due to the damage in the railway and bridges in India, His Highness stayed a few days at the camp. The railway company did its best to repair the damages and provide a special railway service for a speedy return, but it was only on the 28th that the return journey was possible. The travel arrangements were made by my father General (presently the General, Eastern Command) Babar Shumsher. The following account of the return journey was published in the *Gorkhapatra*.

The news of the event of 15th January was received in the course of the hunt at Nayamuluk. His Highness visited the border at once and tried to make the return journey. However, the earthquake had also greatly affected the state of Bihar and the road to Raxual-Birjung was found completely blocked. Therefore, another railway route was chosen and His Highness crossed the Narayani in an ordinary boat disregarding the discomfort to reach our own territory at Bhiknathori. His Highness also visited Birjung en route and coming out of the car inspected each and every damaged building. His Highness gave assurances and encouragement to the local merchants and inhabitants.

After the arrival of H.H. the Maharaja at Birgunj, contacts were made by telephone. The generals and colonels who had been sent on an inspection tour in the hills and the Terai were ordered to stay one or two months more in connection with the relief work. On the 4th February H.H. arrived in the capital along with the army personnel. The public as well as the officials gave H.H. a very hearty welcome. His Highness went straight to the Kharikobot at Tundikhel and delivered the following speech:

**My Brothers,**

It is very sad that the Nepal I had left was very different from what I have found now. But what can we do? We have to face these acts of God. What He does is beyond our comprehension. This dreadful earthquake has also destroyed Motihari, Muzzaffarpur, Moonger and many other cities in the province of Bihar. As the road was destroyed at many places and the railway had come to halt, I was late in coming.

Although not to the same extent, Nepal had suffered such a catastrophe exactly 100 years ago. Thousand of houses were also destroyed then and the people had to live at Chhauni and other places. Just as the cities and settlements destroyed then were rebuilt to their former state we must not lose our heart now but take up the task of restoration with every means at our disposal so as to wipe out the loss suffered.

Great earthquakes occur here infrequently, but in Japan it comes very so often and the work of reconstruction of the old cities starts after every earthquake. In the same way, we have to take heart and march forward; we must not lag behind.

Many people have to seek shelter in tents and huts in the open grounds. Almost everybody, whether great or small, are in the same situation. Everybody must adapt to all situations.

I am doing what I have to in the present situation. Nor shall I now leave any stone unturned. Food supplies and shelter are the first priority in such a situation. As I had expected, the Commander-in-Chief, Jangilath and all my cousins and sons including the General of the Southern Command, the nobles, as well as the military and civil officers have been doing their duty as required in time. I am satisfied to hear it.

I thank you all for this.

Just as there is a tradition among our subjects of helping one another in agricultural pursuits everyone should come forward to cooperate and help at this unfortunate period.

If we work with patience, enthusiasm and cooperation, the suffering will soon come to an end. The merchants should supply the general public with goods at no increased price; the labourers, carpenters, masons and mechanics should not demand higher

wages but do their work diligently and honestly. The strong should care for the weak and help them

This is what we call cooperation. Instead of resorting to grandiose schemes, if all of us united as one and cooperate, the effect of this misfortune will not only end very soon, but this, our beloved birthplace, Nepal, will actually reach a greater height. This is a time of action, not of words. It would be appropriate for all of us to work together in the belief that this is a suffering to be shared by all of us.

Patience is needed at times of misfortunes. Be patient. Don't lose heart. God will fulfill our desire, once we work unitedly with one purpose.

When I think of those beloved subjects who met an untimely death in the catastrophe, my heart cries for them. Let me give to them whatever merit is gained by the offering of 1000 cows on the bank of the Mahakali this year, and as a result, let their souls rest in peace.

There is no special news in the west. As the earthquake left the eastern parts severely damaged, those of you in the army and civil service who come from the east must be worried about conditions in your homes. I am giving you 10 days of leave. The leave shall not be deducted from your home leave. When they return, those of the west shall also get leave similarly.

I had a great expectation of giving you, the public, great happiness by providing barracks to the soldiers, and by establishing factories and expanding the trade in the country. But, look, what can I do? '*Manasa chintitañ chanyat anyadwai daibachintanam* (Man proposes, God disposes).

It is God's wish. My wish could not be fulfilled because now I have to devote all my energy and resources as well as my people to reconstruct what has been destroyed. And I am devoting myself to the task in hand. I have great hope that if you cooperate to the best of your ability, the restoration will soon be carried out.

After the speech, His Highness the Maharaja offered thanks to the people who were involved in various tasks at the time of the earthquake. One day after his arrival, His Highness went on an inspection of the cities, Kathmandu and Patan, and



other settlements. For three or four days, discussions were held about further relief work. The blankets he had brought back with him were distributed among the poor people in the capital. He visited different areas and distributed cash and blankets. He made his cousins and sons too undertake the task of distribution of food supplies, which had been initiated a few days after the earthquake. Discussions about the loss caused by the earthquake and relief to the suffering people continued. Sheds were made at Chhauni for the homeless. Many people also built shelters in other places and gradually those who had been living at Tundikhel shifted elsewhere one by one. After 15 or 16 days only the shops were left there. Soon, there were not many people at Chhauni. Most of the sheds were unoccupied. Although some people liked to stay outdoors, they preferred to live in ground floors as they had to take care of their houses too. But for quite sometime there were many officers and soldiers on deputation on relief work which is still continuing.

The brigades at Patan and Bhaktapur were also similarly engaged. On the day of Shivaratri, the customary *feu de joie* took place. However, the soldiers were given a few rounds only and small arms and a few cannons were fired as it was feared that the resounding noise of the guns might bring down the damaged houses. As foreigners were not allowed to come to Nepal for the festival, there were no large crowds. If they were allowed, no accommodation could have been provided to them and there was a possibility of epidemics. There had been no such prohibition since many years, but it was certainly necessary to do so that year.

Letters and wires of sympathy were received from the great leaders of different countries. The English Government and foreign relief organizations expressed wish to help. All of them were given thanks and told that 'assistance is not needed at present'.

Having considered the tasks to be undertaken, it was decided to establish an office called 'Bhukampa Peditwadar Sanstha' (Earthquake Relief Organization). A suggestion was made that different departments, each under a principal officer,

were to be set up, as was done in Japan in 1923, to carry on the task of feeding the poor, providing loans, constructing houses and looking after hospitals and the municipality. However, instead of adopting the same idea, it was decided to form three main and 11 small teams in the capital. Each team was to be placed under a *talukwala* (a high officer) and he shall be responsible for all aspects of the relief work. The organization then undertook the task of earthquake relief for all areas including the hills and the Terai.

On the 1st of March an order was given to all the army and civil officers together at the Kharikobot at Tundikhel in order to inform them as well as the expectant public about the 'Relief Fund'. Those who had worked as volunteers at the time of the earthquake were also told 'to be preset' there. They were divided into two groups and allowed to stay in the front. In the first group were the students, teachers and others that I had assembled numbering about 50. The chief among them, Headmaster Rudra Raj, was also there. In the second group were 40 to 50 men – Marwaris and Nepalese merchants – assembled by Accountant Hanuman Prasad Kayastha, belonging to the Maharaja Servants' Society and 'Jooddha Sewa Samiti'.<sup>4</sup>

After the speech, His Highness called them before him and thanked them. Then he gave an order, 'keep a record of their names'. It was in the nature of His Highness to appreciate the service of the earthquake volunteers. Appreciation of the first group of volunteers would encourage them further to serve and help the poor among the people. The speech he gave them is given below:

My Brothers!

The dreadful earthquake has harmed our country a great deal. I have been engaged in finding ways and means to bring happiness to our subjects and in the promoton of industries for the development of the country. You know it. In the meanwhile, we

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4 Details are given in Part 7.

are faced with this catastrophe. And to some extent it has pushed back our efforts to industrialise. Yet, I firmly believe that we would overcome the difficulties before us and once more before long we would be able to march ahead towards our goal.

There are many people here who believe that the catastrophe was caused by the movement of the planets. Whatever may have caused it our cousins, sons, nobles, officers, armymen, doctors, traders, engineers, overseers, students and merchants have as I have wished, expected and instructed, done the right thing at the very beginning of the sudden catastrophe, to my great satisfaction. I thank everyone who has worked with sympathy in a spirit of patriotism. During a crisis, duty would be dictated by the crisis itself. Our officers, soldiers and countrymen as well as foreigners have done their duty to rescue people from the debris of buildings and walls. To those who were found alive, they have extended the tenure of their life. And for those who have died, the last rites have been performed. They have earned merit for themselves by these praiseworthy acts. At the time of such crisis they are absolved of the normal caste rules which forbid contact with a dead body or untouchables among people. Carrying out one's duty at the time of crisis brings its own reward, examples of which abound in history and in religious texts. I have much pleasure in praising those who have carried out their duty during the crisis.

At present we have set up 10 sections to look after and make necessary arrangements in the three cities and in the villages within the Valley. Further I have instructed the district officers to take care of the situation in the districts to the east. I have also sent out my cousins, sons and other officers for the same purpose. None should think that the crisis has come for him alone or for one or two men. You must think that it has befallen to the country as a whole. It is not time to engage in worthless talk. It is an opportunity to serve the Motherland to one's best capacity. Everyone should imbibe the spirit of brotherhood and cooperate with one another. I am hopeful that cooperation will be forthcoming from everyone, be he great or small.

It is not only here that an earthquake has occurred. It has come to the Bihar province, and most recently in China and America resulting in a great loss of life and property.

Restrictions on the protected forests have been lifted in the Valley, the hills and the Terai. Therefore, many people are living there in

huts, in sheds and government tents. Thus the situation at the very beginning of the crisis is being contained and it is improving. Yet everyone should still act with the future in mind. Many houses have been destroyed. These have to be rebuilt.

Our countrymen are famous as a race leading a life of hard work, full of enthusiasm and ever industrious. They are seen to work for themselves as far as practicable in their day to day life. Those who live in the hills as well as here, when they have to build small houses, they themselves raise the walls, etc. They do the woodwork themselves making posts, rafters and beams. The members of their family including the children work as labourers. Likewise, different people here work together with the masons. If people helped one another with their knowledge and skills and all families, neighbours and friends worked together, everyone's house would soon be rebuilt and there would be a saving of some money too. There is no rule that dictates a person to stick to a specific job. Whatever skills have been acquired can come handy sometime. There is a Gurkha saying twelve thousand oilmen, twelve thousand washermen and twelve thousand barbers. Was this said of a particular community? It only means that everyone knows some skills and put these into practice. In the same way, if a mason in every home comes into use, won't it be useful for the country? It is a usual practice whenever bricks are needed to get the same by having kilns built or buying them from a kiln. If people depend not upon the kilns in existence, but build new ones the required number of bricks would be available soon.

Similarly, those whose job is to get timber should bring more of the same from different forests to the market. And the merchants should bring materials required for construction of houses - such as wood, tin sheets, nails, etc. - in sufficient quantity. They should also take greater initiative in imports and market the goods at fair price, which would ensure them some profit while the fair price would benefit the public. Thus, it would bring double benefit. In this way in whatever capacity they are engaged, people should help the public with all their hearts.

In order to make it easy and help those who are going to build houses, arrangements have been made to make hundreds of thousands of bricks as well as lime in different places. Timber of different sizes and poles are being made available too. An order worth Rs. 300,000.00 has been placed for tin and corrugated iron

sheets. As these would be available at a fair price it should be some help to those who would build their houses by themselves.

As everyone is faced with the same problem at the same time and goods and workers are scarce, it is advisable not to think of constructing big many storeyed buildings, but erect smaller structures to serve one's purpose for the time being and repairing those that can be repaired. That would provide some kind of shelter before the onset of the rainy season.

A geologist who has been sent for to test the soil has said that the upheaval created by the great earthquake will take time to gradually subside. Tremors are going on frequently. He has given the opinion that it should be better to wait for sometime yet and to erect big buildings after the rainy season. It is heard that the Japanese having experienced earthquakes often build small houses that would withstand the shocks.

It would be good for us too to take a hint from that direction. I would also like to mention that it is not a time to pick up quarrels or to go to the court with complaints against neighbours over broken walls or fallen timber. If you engage in such minor things in self-interest instead of devoting to your duty how can you be re-established soon? You have to think of seeking adequate shelter for the members of your family before the rainy season. I have dispatched officers to different places to settle disputes, if any, on the spot, after hearing both sides in the matter. If found necessary I shall depute more of them. They shall settle matters of difference as much as possible and you must accept the decision. No further complaints will be entertained.

If anyone of you who live in the city find it inconvenient or for any other reason, would like to leave the city and build a separate house according to the rules of the Municipality in a half or one ropani of land [5776 feet<sup>2</sup> or 536.80 meter<sup>2</sup>], so as to make a separate township, you may submit an application to the government stating your name and address. When the number of such people is known and the land required for such purpose ascertained. I shall think of a new planned town.

I have established a 'Bhukampa Sanstha' (Earthquake Relief Association) to provide relief to the victims and help them in their rehabilitation. An 'Earthquake Relief Fund' has also been set up under the association. I have made a donation of Rs. 300,000.00

and Maharani has contributed Rs. 100,000.00. Contributions made willingly to the Fund shall be used for the worthy cause. The name of the donors shall be published later. Almost everybody's house has been destroyed to some extent and there is some financial burden to bear for him at this time. In the circumstances, if he rebuilds his house by himself, I shall consider what he had spent as a contribution to the Fund itself.

Now I have also set aside Rs. 5,000,000.00 for an 'Earthquake Relief Credit' account. Those who live in the three cities in the Valley and find themselves without adequate means to repair or rebuild their houses shall be given interest free loans for a period extending up to four years. An evaluation and estimate for their need shall be made and their properties held in mortgage by the Government for the loan. Those who take the loan shall repay the Government within four years from the date of the loan. The loans may be paid back at once or in installments before the due date.

A century ago in 1833, a great earthquake had hit the three cities of Nepal. Although the earthquake was not of the same magnitude many houses were destroyed. History tells us that. Undismayed by the catastrophe, the people rebuilt the cities by themselves within five to seven years to their former glory. At present, I have done whatever is possible as stated above. This is a task that cannot be accomplished only by the Government. You have seen for yourselves that hundreds of thousands of rupees would be required for such buildings as the palaces, the hospitals, offices, etc. Those have to be built by the Government. Everybody, the great and the small, should have patience and work enthusiastically to rebuild as much as possible with whatever help is available. Just as people work in the agriculture sector in a spirit of mutual cooperation, they have to do so in rebuilding their homes, as friends sharing their meal and woe and helping one another in their need, without standing aloof in their vanity. In this way the villages and towns would soon be as populous as before. It is an opportunity for merchants to benefit from trade and also for those who work physically, to do their jobs with greater energy so as to improve themselves, as well as provide a home. Therefore, everyone has to take a greater initiative in whatever he is doing.

I have the hope that, if you do so, our days of suffering would give way to ease, improvement and progress.

I am pleased from the bottom of my heart to hear how the personnel in the Army, the Police and the chaprasis [guards/peons] devoted themselves heartily to the task of removing the victims buried in the debris and helping them by all means in complete disregard for their own worries about their homes and families and personal comfort, hunger and thirst. Those found dead were given the last rites and they were all attentive to the security of public property. I am giving Rs. 100,000.00 as an award for jamadars [petty officers], soldiers, police and chaprasis. The amount will be distributed among them accordingly.

A great applause came from the assembled crowd. His Highness continued the speech.

**My Brothers!**

You have now expressed your joy enthusiastically, which I take as a very positive response. Just as you feel positive you have to work in cooperation among yourselves – the great and the small, helping each other, without any ill feelings, so that the city, accidentally destroyed, is rebuilt, and you have your comfort and ease soon again. I shall also praise you from the bottom of my heart for your mutual cooperation in the name of our Motherland and thank God for it.

After the speech, the organization began its work. The Commander-in-Chief (then the Lath Saheb, Second-in-Command of the Army) and Gurujyu Hem Raj were the *talukwalas* (Heads) of the organization. Extra help for the office was made available by drawing upon men from other offices in addition to many temporary clerks. As mentioned above, teams were formed in the three cities and in the villages, in the Valley, to carry on relief works. The distribution of aid was begun from the month of Chaitra [March-April] by officers, cousins, sons, generals and colonels. Loans were also given from the month of Baishak [April-May].<sup>5</sup>

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5 An account of the aid given by the organization for reconstruction of houses in the capital as well as other help in given in Part 9, which also includes the aid given in the hills and the Terai.

A storm in the month of Jestha [May-June] gave much trouble to the people staying in huts and shelters. The work of rebuilding house began in great earnest prior to the monsoon, e.g. Chaitra to Asadh [March/April to June/July]. The lives of men were put to risk in the task of demolition of the buildings in many places. Minor tremors are still going on. However, it is regarded as quite natural that minor tremors follow for some time after a big earthquake. It has also happened in Japan. The rains in Asadh [June/July] caused the houses that had not been covered well or repaired to collapse, risking a few lives. The torrential rain destroyed even some of the houses being built.

Now, before concluding this chapter let me quote the letter of feliciation presented to His Highness the Maharaja on his 60th birthday (June 1, 1934) by the Commander-in-Chief as follows. It will enable one to understand the steps taken in brief till now since the earthquake.

Your Highness! Kindly permit me, on behalf of the nobles and the general public, to present on the auspicious occasion of your Highness's birthday, an account of the steps taken by your Highness last year for the country and to speak of our great gratitude for your benevolence.

The most praiseworthy deed done was the relief given to the victims of the earthquake. The great earthquake of the January 15th has now become historic. The arrangements that Your Highness has made to relieve the suffering will surely be written in history books. As soon as the news came, Your Highness abandoned the hunt and although the railway line was not restored, Your Highness hastened back and formed the 'Earthquake Relief Organization'. The cloth, *khar* (roofing grass) and tin brought along was then distributed among the poor people. Next Your Highness set aside Rs. 5 million to be given interest free loan for rebuilding houses. Further, with a personal contribution of Rs. 300,000.00 by Your Highness and with Rs. 100,000.00 from Her Highness the Maharani created 'Earthquake Relief Fund' for free distribution among the poor victims of the earthquake. Even a brief but separate account of the steps taken would take too much of Your Highness's valuable time. Hence, let me speak of only a few things.



The establishment of the 'Earthquake Relief Organization' in the capital city and deputation of the nobles as well to carry on the work in 11 of its branch offices and eight teams to conduct inspection and provide aid – altogether 22 offices.

Your Highness got *khar* grass, rafters and bamboo from the Terai to build sheds for shelter and provide the same to those who wished to build shelters for themselves in addition to the distribution of food grains to tide over the period until the maize is gathered. Restriction on the forest was also lifted.

Further, Your Highness made arrangements for the sale of timber in government *godowns* at the lowest price possible through contractors. The sale included 4 million bricks and corrugated iron sheets worth Rs. 250,000.00, for which the customs duty and ropeway freight were waived away so that those who needed these were able to buy easily and at the lowest possible price.

Masons and carpenters were also brought from a foreign country to work in government buildings and the house of the nobles, so that the poor public could employ the native workers in rebuilding their house.

3000 men were hired to remove debris from the towns and villages from which Rs. 150,000.00 were sent aside. Doctors, *vaidyas* (Ayurvedic doctors) and compounders were deputed to treat the injured and the sick as well as to prevent epidemics.

Funds were immediately sent to the Hakims (officers in charge) in the districts to provide seed to those who have no seed.

In the hills, land tax was exempted for those who were affected by landslides and each householder was provided freely with Rs. 25.00 to Rs. 50.00 as aid.<sup>6</sup>

The civil servants and the Army personnel from West No. 1 district to Ilam in the east as well as those of the Valley were given an advance for their salary for four months.

An award of Rs. 100,000.00 was given to the soldiers, policemen and *chaprasis* who devoted themselves whole heartedly to their duties at the time of the earthquake.

Your Highness has remembered those killed in the earthquake and offered whatever merit was to be gained by the *dana* (charity) of

1000 cows on the bank of the Mahakali river, for the peace of the soul of the departed. Keeping the future in mind Your Highness has sent for geologists and engineers for their advice.

The earthquake occurred at the time when Your Highness was undertaking various measures for the good of the country and its development. Although those measures had to be postponed for sometime, Your Highness has not lost heart, but let me mention in brief what has since been done in the country and abroad.

Your Highness has written off an amount of about Rs. 8.5 million that had remained uncleared in various offices up to the year 1928.

Installation of a new electrical power station costing Rs. 500,000.00 lakhs and extension of telephone line up to Jhapa costing Rs. 200,000.00 are being undertaken at present. If the earthquake had not stopped it, the work on the telephone line would have been completed by the last Chaitra [March/April]. Telephone lines have been extended from the Durbar (Maharaja's Palace) to the offices and the houses of officers-in-charge in order to expedite the work in the capital. The post office is also being improved.

Your Highness has awarded medals to encourage students, made arrangement to open a college for Sanskrit students, and also made arrangements for residence and jobs for the members of the Rana family.

The 'Nepal Trading Co.' has been established here and in Calcutta for which Rs. 150,000.00 has been provided. The profits from the contract on petrol and matches have been given up in order to provide greater facilities to the general public and for the promotion of trade.

Your Highness has not only earned fame within the country but also in foreign countries. Your Highness has established diplomatic relations with England at the ministerial level. Your Highness had been decorated by France with the Order of Legion d'Honneur, by Italy with G.C.S. Mariojio el Lazzaro, by British Government with G.C.I.E., Honorary. Lt. General Army, Hon. Col. of all the Gurkha Rifle Regiments, Indian Army. The Government of China has sent ambassadors to decorate Your Highness with the First Order of Paoting and the Second Order of the Army.

The Order of Ojasswirajanne has been created and the Emperors of England and Italy have accepted the decoration.

The courtesy shown to Nepalese nobles in foreign countries and the removal of disparities in the relation with the Legation has raised the prestige of the country.

This is the only free Hindu nation. Religion is the principal standard of the country. How can we describe the importance of Your Highness's kind efforts in removing the defilement that had accumulated in religion and the peaceful re-establishment of rules of law?

These actions have been appreciated in foreign newspapers. We only wish to state that Your Highness is really a Dharmamurti (Image of Righteousness). Now do oblige us by kindly accepting the title of Dharmavatar (Incarnation of Righteousness). May it please Your Highness.

We are satisfied that God will grant Your Highness a long life for the sake of this country's progress. Even at the age of 60, Your Highness is behind none in going about the business of the state on horseback. The health and longevity of Your Highness are linked with our welfare. May it please Your Highness.

## D. The Earthquake in the Mofussil and Immediate Relief

### 1. The Hills

The earthquake hit the hills from West No. 1 up to the border in the east. The mountains in the north were neither spared. There were some damages in West No. 3 and 4, and beyond that only weak temors were felt. In East No. 3 and 4, Bhojpur and Udaipurgarhi were hit hard and there were losses of lives and property. Landslides also occurred there more than elsewhere. As it was the time of day to graze cattle in the forests or to gather grass and firewood, landslides took the lives of some people. The landslides also buried small streams, thereby causing a scarcity of water. The earthquake seems to have hit the above mentioned four districts. Both the hills and forests suffered much in that area. Even two or three months after the earthquake, landslides occurred frequently. There were reports that landslides came even when men walked across the stricken

area. In the eastern hills, a total of 134,932 houses were destroyed and 3974 lives were lost; in the west, 4329 houses, and 65 lives were lost. An idea of the earthquake can be formed from the account given by a high official who had gone on a tour in the eastern hills.

#### Bhojpur (East No. 4)

A terrific earthquake lasting for about seven or eight minutes occurred at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, the 15th of January. The ground opened up and closed while landslides in the high hills filled the air with dust so that there was nothing to be seen for 20-25 minutes. When the dust settled down, the landscape changed. The green hills were all white with scars and the town of Bhojpur had been reduced to rubbles. A loud cry of fear was to be heard all over the place.

The soldiers were at the Tundikhel to drill that afternoon. They were taken to the bazar and made to rescue those buried in the debris and to dig out the dead. The office buildings including the *tahabil* (accounts office) and the jail were destroyed. Extra guards were posted to ensure security and prevent the prisoners from making their escape. Six dead bodies were taken out of the wreckage in the bazar while four persons were rescued alive, and given the best possible treatment at the dispensary. A report was submitted that same evening by mail through the Muluki Adda.

Teams of officers and soldiers were sent out on the following day to make inspection all over the districts and assess the losses and casualties.

On January 24, an order was received from Nepal (Kathmandu, the capital) for the first time with an instruction 'to lend food grains to those people who have lost their grains and properties in the earthquake at the current rate and to be repaid later. The grain in storage at the government store house and *dharmabhakari* (storage of grains for emergencies) are to be used for the purpose'. Action was taken in accordance with the order.

Action was also taken on a second order received on 9th February which sanctioned Rs. 1,500.00 for repairing the government building and Rs. 500.00 for distribution among the poor people who have left nothing to subsist on. The next order was received on 14th February. It read:

The earthquake has caused suffering to the people. Therefore, the fines imposed by the offices shall not be realised at present. A notice to that effect shall be made public and no arrests of the defaulters are to be made.

Action was taken in accordance with the order.

Beside this, some of the reports received from various places are given here to give a picture of the distress caused by the earthquake.

### *Eastern Hills*

#### a. Eastern No. 1 Kodari Chauki (Police Checkpoint)

An earthquake occurred at about 2:00 p.m. on 15th January. The *kot* (fort), godown, arsenal, Tundikhel (parade ground) and *khalanga* (palace in the hill districts where government offices are located) have been destroyed. The houses of the local people were also destroyed. Six or seven lives were lost. The loss of lives and properties has yet to be ascertained. The people are staying in the open grounds.

#### b. East No. 2

Due to the earthquake on 15th January, government buildings, including the godown, Tin Sancha (office with three keys), Due Sancha (office with two keys), the armoury, *goswara* (the Bada Hakim's office), post office, staff quarters, *chhauni* (parade ground) and *dharmabhakari*, as well as the houses of the general public were destroyed. Some people have died. The number of guards have been doubled in the Tin and Dui Sancha buildings.

## c. East No. 3

An earthquake occurred today, 15th January. The government buildings and the dwellings of the general public have been damaged. Government property – both cash and kind – have been taken to Tundikhel and placed within an enclosure guarded by soldiers and men from the Adalat (law court). The *dharmabhakari*, guard house and godown have been totally destroyed. Reports have been received of destruction in the villages and of deaths of people under the wreckage of buildings.

## d. East No. 4

An earthquake on 15th January damaged government buildings here, including the court, *dharmabhakari* and armoury. Many houses belonging to the public in the villages were destroyed. The springs overflowed. Loud noises were heard during the night in the northern region and the people were in a state of panic.

## e. Dhankuta

The earthquake has done a great deal of damage in East No. 4 Bhojpur and the Adalat (law court) in East No. 6 has suffered a great loss. The *dharmabhakari* in Dharan was destroyed. Many men have lost their lives. The ground has cracked open in different places and water came out flooding the streams and rivers. There have been landslides in many places. Of the government buildings, only the arsenal has sustained minor damages.

## f. East No. 6 Chainpur

There was a great earthquake suddenly at about 2:00 p.m. on 15th January. Public shelters, temples and houses were destroyed. The post office, Adalat and other buildings were damaged. Many prisoners were injured when the roof of the jail fell down.

## g. Ilam

The earthquake on 15th January destroyed office buildings as well as the house of the general public. Government employees and other people are living in sheds. There are rumours that there has been a great loss in Darjeeling area.

## h. Sindhuligarhi (East)

The earthquake has destroyed all the houses made of stone. The number of people who have died is not yet known. Some of the government buildings have also been damaged. The Lieutenant's daughter was injured and his son killed in the wreckage of the house in which the Hakim (officer-in-charge) used to live.

*Western Hills*

## a. West No. 1

Cracks have appeared all around in the building of the Bhairabnath Temple and the upper portion has tilted. The roof on both sides to the north of the public shelter of Bhairabnath [temple], where the *mal-adda* (revenue office) is located has collapsed. The building cannot be used now. The building of the Budhidevi Temple has also tilted a little. The top part of the seven-storeyed building has fallen down and cracks have appeared in two to three storeys.

## b. Gorkha, West No. 2

The great earthquake today, January 15th, has damaged the upper *darbar* (palace) in which is housed the shrine of Kalika Devi. On the northern side of the building, the roof, 30 cubits in length and three cubits in width, has collapsed. In the western side the roof, 14 cubits in length and three cubits in width, has fallen down. There are cracks in the pillars too. Cracks, about two-finger length in width, have appeared in the large rock

above the cave of Gorakhnath and in the *peti* adjoining the building. The roof, about 20 cubits in length, of the lower *durbar* on the western side has fallen down. The wall in the southern wing has cracked.

### c. West No. 3

At the time of the earthquake on 15th January a noise was heard that sounded like that made by a motor-car when it is started. There were landslides in different part of Kaski. One house was destroyed at Pokhara. No life was lost.

Cracks appeared in 50-60 houses at Bandipur, which has become risky for habitation, and 10-11 houses were totally destroyed. There is no loss of life. The government houses are also damaged and it is feared that they will collapse in the monsoon.

### d. Palpa

One house was destroyed at Ridi. One old house collapsed at Tansen. There is no other loss.

### e. Chisapanigarhi

The earthquake has damaged the staff quarters, the temple of Batuk Bhairab, the customs office, some arms and ammunition and the new bungalow. Houses at Bhimphedi, Simaltar, Markhu, Chitlang, Tistung and Palung were damaged. Many people lost their lives. Landslides have been reported from many places.

## 2. Northern Mountains

### a. North No. 1 – Sindhupalchowk

Tremors were felt in the mountains in this area on January 15th. There were landslides. Almost all the houses of the general public were either totally destroyed or cracks appeared



in them. Therefore, all the people have made shelters of bamboo, matting and planks in the open areas in the premises or in the meadows. The salt godown at Tatopani and the millet godown at Kodari *chauki* have been destroyed. Everyone, including the Hakim (officer-in-charge) and clerks have made sheds to live. There were 133 houses at the village of Palchok Chapagaun; all of them were destroyed. All the houses at Tauthalikot were also destroyed.

### b. Rasuwagarhi

When the earthquake hit at about 2:30 p.m. on January 15th, a large rock that 60-70 men would hardly be able to lift came crashing down as the result of a landslide and hit some of the houses. Many other houses were destroyed by the earthquake. Government houses, the police checkpoint, salt godown and millet godown were damaged. Many people were injured.<sup>7</sup>

Many people lost the food grains stored in their houses. They are now faced with a great problem. Although many people have suffered a loss of their houses, they were able to build sheds for themselves quickly as the government has opened the nearby forests and they were able to get the necessary timber.

Orders were given to the inspection teams and the Bada Hakims in different districts to provide immediate relief to the victims of the earthquake, as follows:

- If food grains and properties of the general public were found lying under the wreckage, recover the same with the help of the local people and the personnel of the army.
- If dead bodies are lying around, provide necessary help to carry the last rites.
- If anyone is faced with hunger because his personal effects are lying under the wreckage and it has not been

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<sup>7</sup> An account provided by a student who had gone to study the effects of earthquake in the area is also given in Part 11.

- possible to salvage the same, procure food for him from the rich men of the locality at the rate current in the area.
- If the supply of grains was not possible in the village, arrange a loan of a reasonable quantity of food grains from the *dharmabhakari*, to be replaced at a later date.
  - As public shelters, bridges, roads, etc, have been damaged, try to convince people coming from Bhotenibal (Bhutan), except the traders, who have come for pilgrimage or to meet friends and relatives and make them go back to Bhotenibal.
  - Let the *goswaras* (district headquarters) feed people who have lost their food grains under the debris of their house. They are to be given one *mana* (pound) of maize per day until the maize crop is gathered.
  - Do not try to realise government dues, fines, etc. at present.
  - With the exception of persons involved in old cases concerning the misappropriation of government funds, political cases, murder, theft and robbery, there is no need to arrest persons in connection with fines, punishment and government dues at present.
  - Make arrangements to cut trees in nearby forests so that the people could rebuild their houses, but take care that it does not result in deforestation.

Further to the above mentioned orders, instructions were sent to inquire and report, as follows:

- Prepare a list of persons and their possessions in kind in the villages and *maujas* (estates) and report along with names.
- Prepare a list of persons who are beyond medical care as well as of those who have nothing to wear or sleep on.
- Prepare a list of those who have not been able to rebuild their houses until or unless government provides some assistance.
- Prepare a list of those who are unable to pay land tax.

These inspection teams were provided with an amount (about Rs. 12,000.00) for immediate relief to the poor among the earthquake victims.

Two or three months later about Rs. 25,000.00 was provided to the people in the eastern hills as grant for building houses and sheds.<sup>8</sup>

As the catastrophe hit everyone at the same time, the people in the hills found it especially hard to rebuild their houses. The sufferings brought by the earthquake to our brethren in the hills, who in the best of times had to seek employment to survive, were very great indeed.

### 3. The Terai

The earthquake affected region from the eastern border to Chitwan. The tremors were very strong in the districts of Jaleshwar and Hanumannagar, which may be said to lie within the epicenter. Even if it was not so, they were not very far from the epicenter. All the *pukki* (brick built) houses were destroyed. At Birgunj, the Murali Durbar, the Bada Hakim's house as well as many of the houses belonging to the Sahebjis (distant relatives of the King) were destroyed. The Bada Hakim was hurt when his house was destroyed. His brother, General Punnya Shumsher, was severely injured by the destruction of another building. The towns in eastern Terai suffered much. In some places the buildings were destroyed and 184 lives were lost, most of them in the towns. In the rural areas not many lives were lost nor property destroyed as most of the houses were made of bamboo and grass.

The land was split wide open in many places – especially at Hanumannagar and Jaleshwar. Some people lost their goods

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8 An account about the grant to those unable to rebuild their houses is given in Part 9. Fresh arrangements made in Paush [Dec./Jan.] and Magh [Jan./Feb.] are also mentioned in Part 9, i.e. Rs. 210,000.00 has been spent in the hills upto now. Details of the expenditure is also mentioned in Part 9 – 'Earthquake Relief Fund'.

in these holes. Water gushed out of these holes and inundated the fields and pathways for two or three days. In some places the cracks were three to four yards wide and as deep as the two to three bamboos. Some of the fields were covered with sand. Cracks in the bullock cart tracks and motor roads prevented the movement of transport. The government railway from Amlekhgunj to Raxual was damaged in many places.

Some other reports received from different places are given below in brief.

#### a. Birgunj

It is learnt that many big buildings in Birgunj were destroyed and many lives were lost due to the earthquake on January 15th. The railway is closed from both sides. The ground opened up in many places and water came out of the holes. The house of General Bikram Shumsher was destroyed and General Punnya Shumsher and his wife were severely injured. A girl was lost in the debris. The Bada Hakim was injured when the residence collapsed. His wife was hurt in the head and lost consciousness for a whole day. 10 or 12 people were killed when a house belonging to a Suku Vaidya collapsed, including his sister, son and son-in-law. An estimate of the loss due to destruction of public and government building would come to about three to four hundred thousand of rupees.

#### b. Mohattari

Due to the earthquake on January 15th, cracks appeared in the Bada Hakim's house, and the house of the Assistant Subba was destroyed to the foundation. The temples of Ramchandra and Janaki at Janakpur were intact. The houses of the *mahants* (priests) were destroyed to the foundation and four or five persons were buried in the debris but no personal harm was done. Five women and children were killed in the wreckage of *pukki* buildings at Janakpur. When the jail broke down, two

prisoners escaped and could not be tracked upto now. A report was made about the escapade on January 18th.

### c. Morang Biratnagar

In Biratnagar the government house in which the Bada Hakim lived fell down in the earthquake of January 15th. Six persons including the *subedar* (a petty officer) of the guards were injured. One of them is still unconscious. The jail was damaged and one or two persons were injured but none of the prisoners were hurt. The wall in various buildings, including that of the Chief of Forests, Revenue Office, the Assistant Auditor and Overseer were damaged and rendered useless. The *dharmabhakari* was also rendered useless. The ground opened up at many places while the tremors were going on. Water gushed out for about 20 minutes from some of the holes. Across the border in India, the railway station and the rest house were destroyed. The telegraph and railway have stopped, it is learnt. The report was submitted on January 15th.

### d. Jhapa

The earthquake of January 15th did not cause any loss in houses or of people as there were no *pukki* houses in this district. All the houses had stood pillars and roofed with tin or grass. The ground at Jhapa Bazar and in the estates opened up to a width of a cubit and half to two and caused some loss. The wells were destroyed and covered with sand. Drinking water is a problem.

### e. Butwal

The earthquake on January 15th did not damage Butwal Bazar and the orphangage. None were injured.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> An additional account given by a student who had gone there to inspect the situation is given in Part 11.

Amounts, as mentioned below, were sanctioned soon after the earthquake to repair government buildings, *dharma-bhakar*is and wells as well as to provide relief to the poor people in the Terai.<sup>10</sup>

1.	Birjunj	10,100.00
2.	Saptari Siraha	10,100.00
3.	Mahottari Sarlahi	17,700.00
4.	Morang Biratnagar	5,100.00
5.	Jhapa	1,600.00
6.	Palhi	1,600.00
7.	Khajani Syuraj	3,100.00
8.	Banke Bardia	1,600.00
9.	Kailali Kanchanpur	1,600.00
10.	Chitwan	225.00
	Total	52725.00

There were not many *pukki* and stone built houses in the Terai, as in the Valley and in the hills. Most of the houses were *kachhi* and therefore they were saved, and there was no problem in finding shelter. There was no shortage of food. The rice was about to be harvested and there was little risk of grains being covered with earth in the houses made of grass. However, there was scarcity of water as the wells were buried and drinking water became a problem in some places. It is said that cultivation in the fields covered with sand would be difficult for one more year. Although there were no great heaps of sand as in Bihar, whatever sand is there and the cracks in the ground would be a problem for cultivation.

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10 The arrangements made later for the Terai are mentioned in Part 9.



# The Psychological Effect of the Earthquake on the People

Natural catastrophes also have a great effect upon the human mind as was evidenced by the recent earthquake. The object of this chapter is to inform readers about the psychological effect of the earthquake upon the minds of the inhabitants of Nepal especially in the capital. People came to the conclusion about the causes of the earthquake in different ways. There were three main conclusions as follows:

- Since the seven planets were to come closer within a *rasi* (zodiac) on 15th January, people had suspected the occurrence of a catastrophe such as an earthquake or a war. With the earthquake on the day, many people believed that it was the effect of the seven planets coming close. As the forecast came true, many people came to believe the astrologers, and the public naturally believed in rumours originating in astrology.
- As the general public has a traditional belief that with an increase in sin on earth, God, some say it is a serpent or fish, on whose shoulders rest the earth, unable to bear the burden of sin any longer, shifts the earth on another shoulder. Hence an earthquake occurs during the



movement from one shoulder to another, according to some people.

- The Europeans had flown the aeroplane over Mt. Everest, the highest peak this year.<sup>1</sup> Those people who believe that the peak is the seat of Lord Shiva attributed the earthquake to the sacrilege. Some foreign newspapers also wrote that the Nepalese believed in it.

The different ideas of the people have been described above. There seems to be few people who take earthquake as natural phenomena. Let me now describe the immediate effect of the earthquake.

- For the first four or five days some people believed that the world had come to an end. And since it is the end they thought they would indulge in a great last supper and put on their best clothes.  
This was especially the inclination among women. It is said that a similar tendency was seen in Japan after the earthquake of 1923. Therefore it must be concluded that it is but a natural tendency among the uneducated.
- There was another group who remained quiet and inactive, as if the shock of the earthquake had disabled them. They seemed to have lost self-confidence and they were unwilling to come to the aid of others. There were quite a number of them.
- Thirdly, a group was deeply moved by the earthquake. They came to help the poor people, and served them without consideration of their own interest. But the number of such people was quite few. In brief it can be said that there was an increase in virtues of the good men and in the wickedness of the bad people.
- A positive aspect of the earthquake was the feeling of self-dependence seen among some people. The catas-

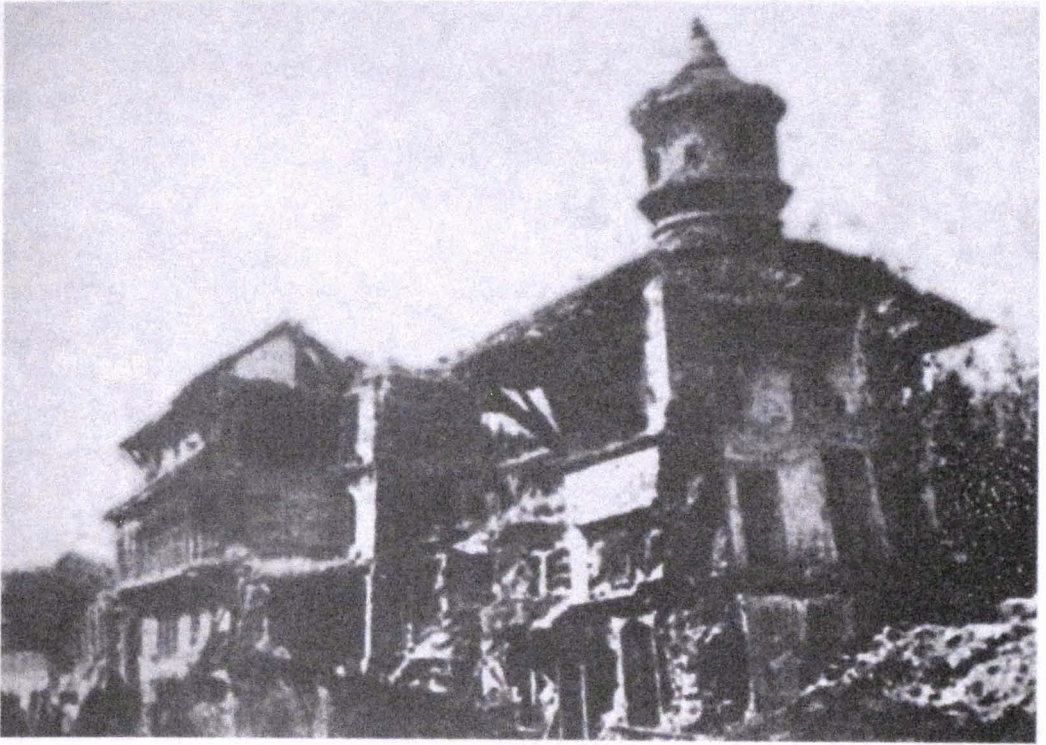
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1 [On 3rd April, 1933, Douglas-Himilton and David Fowler MacIntyre of Scotland had flown a biplane just over the summit.]

trophe also taught people how dependence on other countries create scarcity of materials and problems under such conditions. As a consequence, some people seem to have become interested in home products. Thus the interest seen now and in the future among our countrymen in home products must be regarded as a positive contribution of the earthquake.

It is possible that people could have different opinions about the matters discussed in this chapter, but I have mentioned what was on my mind.





11. Bhotahity Tole



12. Makhan Tole



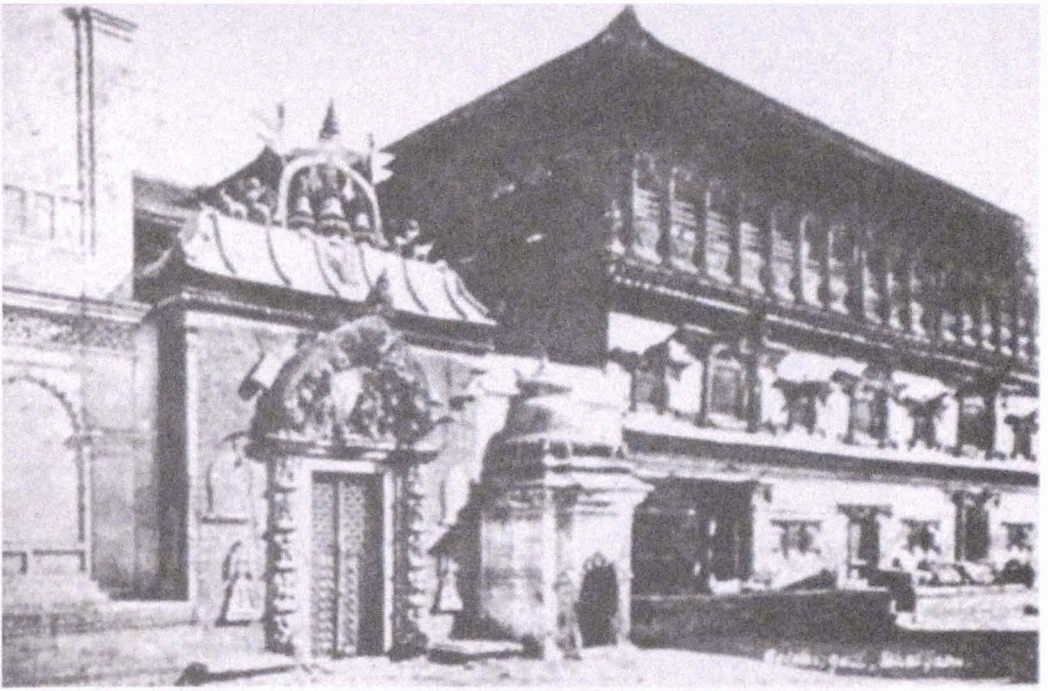


13. Shelters after the earthquake at Tundikhel

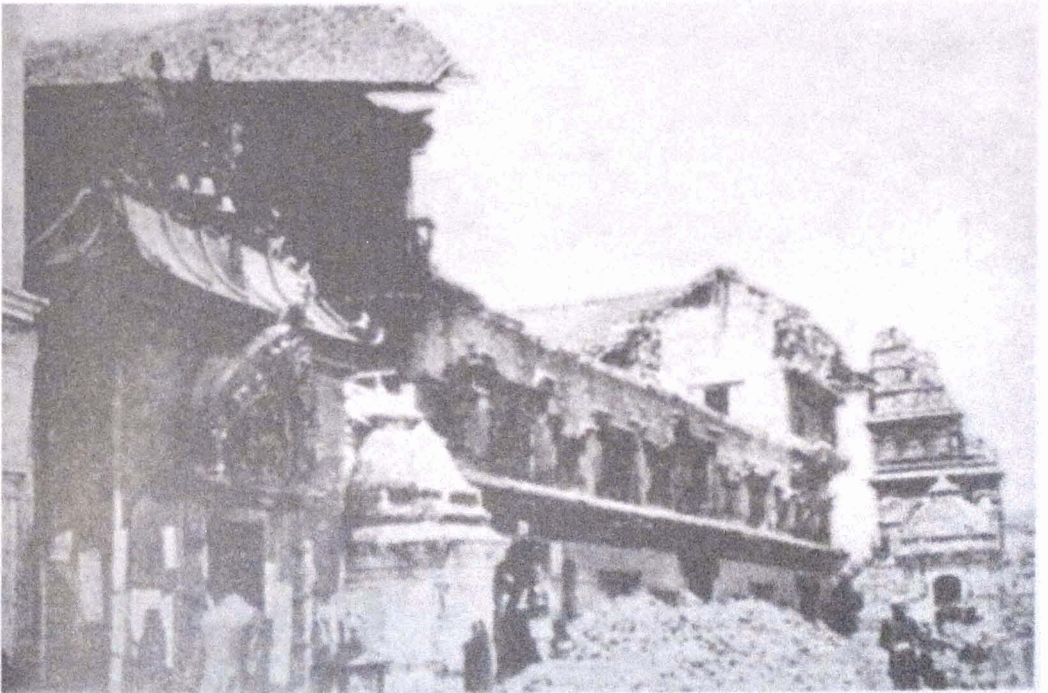


14. Shelters at Tundikhel





15. The palace of 55 windows before the earthquake, Bhaktapur



16. The palace of 55 windows after the earthquake





17. The Chyasing Temple, Patan



18. The Machhendranath Temple, Patan

# The Death Toll

A total of 8,519 people had lost their lives throughout the Kingdom due to the earthquake. The loss of lives in India (Bihar) was only 7188 according to press reports. Despite the fact that ours is a mountainous country the loss of lives was greater than in India. The casualty in our country is given by areas as follows.<sup>1</sup>

## Death

1. The Valley	Male	Female	Total
Kathmandu city	254	225	479
Kathmandu suburb	79	166	245
Patan city	250	297	547
Patan suburb	871	826	1697
Bhaktapur city	433	739	1172
Bhaktapur suburb	65	91	156
<b>TOTAL</b>	1952	2344	4296

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1 The loss of cattle and other animals was not available; hence it is not mentioned here.



<b>2. Eastern Hills</b>	Male	Female	Total
East No. 1	163	193	356
East No. 2	52	43	95
East No. 3	330	527	857
East No. 4	698	899	1597
Dhankuta	162	154	316
Ilam	41	51	92
Udayagarhi	295	257	552
Sindhuligarhi	51	58	109
<b>TOTAL</b>	1792	2182	3974

<b>3. Western Hills</b>	Male	Female	Total
West No. 1	4	6	10
West No. 2	-	1	1
West No. 3	-	1	1
West No. 4	-	1	1
Chisapanigarhi	25	27	52
<b>TOTAL</b>	29	36	65

<b>4. The Terai (East)</b>	Male	Female	Total
Birgunj	16	28	44
Mahottari Sarlahi	31	20	51
Saptari Siraha	17	23	40
Birtanagar	13	36	49
Jhapa	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	77	107	184

<b>5. The Terai (West)</b>	Male	Female	Total
West Terai	-	-	-

<b>Total throughout the Kingdom</b>	<b>3850</b>	<b>4669</b>	<b>8519</b>
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However the loss cannot be estimated from the casualty list alone, because in comparison to the loss of property, the number

of the dead persons was less. There are three reasons why the casualty was not so great.

- The first reason is farming in our country is carried out in the open and houses are small. The people were able to escape and some of those who were caught in the wreckage were able to survive. As the population in the cities is dense most people died there.
- As the earthquake came at about 2:00 p.m. it was a time when most people were working in the field. If it had occurred at night, the casualty would have been much higher, especially in the densely populated areas where the casualty could have gone up 10 to 22 times. The number of death could have gone up to 60 or 70 thousand.
- As the earthquake lasted for about three minutes, people were able to make their escape to open places. However, the women did not try to run out of their houses in the belief that during an earthquake, they have to fill up their grain bin or keep touching the earth. These women must have become victims or were injured. Those who follow superstition blindly should ponder it, hopefully, so that they do not become victims again in the future.

## 1. The Capital (The Valley)

Within the Valley there were more casualties in the south-east parts, i.e. Bhaktapur, Lubhu, Harisiddhi, Bungamati and Khokana. There was another reason why the number of casualties in the three cities was somewhat less. As 14th January was a holiday all the soldiers in the three cities were present for the afternoon parade and they were drilling when the earthquake occurred. Therefore, only five or six soldiers were killed. In addition to that they were immediately sent out to dig out those who were buried in the wreckage and many were taken out alive – especially in Kathmandu city. It was not only on that day, but on the following three or four days people were rescued alive daily. Even seven days later two men were

rescued alive from a shop at Makhan Tole in the city. They were saved with great ingenuity by means of a pipe through which milk and medicines were conveyed to them by the Earthquake Volunteers and soldiers. Many people rescued in this manner may be said to have been given a second birth. Although help could not be made available in the villages at that time, some of the people who lay buried in the wreckage of the small houses were rescued by their own relatives.

The notable deaths that occurred due to the destruction of palaces and mansions are as follows:

- Two of H.M. the King's daughters (10 and eight year olds) and six maid-servants;
- His Highness the Maharaja's grand daughter (Col. Bikram's eight-year old daughter);
- Maj. Capt. Hasta's wife and one son and one daughter;
- Sahebju Mohan Bikram and his wife.

Considering the loss of these big palaces, it is amazing that there were few deaths. It was heard from many that they were saved due to divine protection. Many people from the aged to the minors were of this opinion.

As people who were unable to cremate threw the dead bodies of their relatives into the rivers, the cremation were done by the government along with those of the unclaimed bodies.

About 100 dead bodies laying in Bungamati were cremated by the soldiers. The soldiers were also of a great help in rescuing those lying buried and in taking care of the volunteers in this task. The corpses were recovered after one month in Kathmandu and Patan and after two-three months in Bhaktapur.

## 2. Hills

In the hills, most lives were lost in the East No. 3 and 4 districts. Many people were out in the woods to graze their cattle or to gather grass and collect firewood at the time of the earthquake.

Many of them lost their lives due to landslides, especially in East No. 3 and 4. The landslides also blocked the streams and rivers. Reports were received from some places where the people were unable to remove the dead bodies from under the rocks and they had to carry out the last rites on the rock itself. It is difficult to arrive at a correct figure of the deaths due to landslides in the hills. Let me give the following accounts in order to give an idea of the situation:

- There was a big cave on the bank of the Arun that separated the district of Dhankuta in East No. 4. People travelling on the route with loads on their backs used to rest in the cave. On 15th January an estimated 40 to 50 men and women returning from a pilgrimage to Bahrachhetra were in the cave. The catastrophic tremors hit the areas and led to the collapse of the cave and all the people were trapped.
- A small stream flowed between two hills at Hatuathum. The earthquake caused landslides and blocked the stream for nine days. A large lake was formed inundating the nearby villages. After nine days the water overflowed over the hills. The big lake was to be seen even after two months of the earthquake.
- A mother and her son were on their way from Dilathum to the law court in East No. 4. The path they were walking had been carved out of the rocky hill. When the earthquake occurred cracks appeared all over the ground. The son fell into a crack and disappeared while the mother was saved.

There were probably many other incidences elsewhere. Therefore, it won't be a mistake to surmise that there must be many more casualties than those reported. The number of 4000 deaths in the eastern hills, where there were no big cities or thickly populated settlements, was not a trifle.

### 3. The Terai

Although the earthquake hit the Terai hard, the losses of lives were fortunately low. The reason is that 90 percent of the houses were small and made of wood or bamboo. These houses did not collapse like those made of bricks or stone. The losses

were comparatively low. There was also no danger of landslides. Only in Biratnagar and Sarlahi the brick houses, had some effect of the earthquake. There were greater casualties in those towns than in the villages. There were therefore only 184 deaths in the Terai.

I pray to God that the souls of thousands of brothers and sisters throughout the country who met an untimely death may rest in peace.

## Material Loss

A large number of houses, public shelters and temples were damaged in the Kingdom from the eastern border Mechi to West No. 1.

The list<sup>1</sup> of the loss throughout the Kingdom is given below:

<i>Kathmandu Valley</i>	<i>No. of houses completely damaged</i>	<i>Much damaged</i>	<i>Less damaged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Temples, Public shelters</i>
Kathmandu city	725	3735	4146	8606	40
Suburb	2892	4062	4267	11221	16
Patan City	1000	4170	3860	9030	229
Suburb	3977	9442	1598	15017	30
Bhaktapur city	2359	2263	1425	6047	177
Suburb	1444	1986	5388	5818	-
Total	12397	25658	17684	55739	492

1 List supplied by the Earthquake Relief Office.

<i>Hills (East)</i>	<i>No. of houses completely damaged</i>	<i>Much damaged</i>	<i>Less damaged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Temples, Public shelters*</i>
East No. 1	9628	19391	-	29019	-
East No. 2	4687	10738	-	15425	-
East No. 3	21107	15548	-	36655	-
East No. 4	15048	5	-	15053	-
Dhankuta	6623	15120	-	21743	-
Ilam	2316	3112	-	5428	-
Udaipurgarhi	1052	3917	-	4969	-
Sindhuligarhi	3486	3154	-	6640	-
Total	63947	70985	-	134932	-

\* The temples and public shelters were also included in the list of houses.

<i>Hills (West)</i>	<i>No. of houses completely damaged</i>	<i>Much damaged</i>	<i>Less damaged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Temples, Public shelters*</i>
West No. 1	582	1720	-	2302	-
West No. 2	186	461	-	647	-
West No. 3	19	65	-	84	-
West No. 4	8	1	-	9	-
Chisapanigarhi	-	18	1266	1284	-
Palpa	-	3	-	3	-
Doti, Baitadi	-	-	-	-	-
Dailakh					
Jumla					
Pyuthan					
Total	795	2268	1266	4329	-

\* No damage as the tremors were slight.

<i>Terai (East)</i>	<i>No. of houses completely damaged</i>	<i>Much damaged</i>	<i>Less damaged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Temples, Public shelters*</i>
Birgunj	3658	854	2546	7054	-
Mahottari Sarlahi	-	4323	268	4591	-
Saptari Siraha	87	428	-	515	-
Biratnagar	13	1	64	78	-
Jhapa	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3754</b>	<b>5606</b>	<b>2878</b>	<b>12238</b>	<b>-</b>

\* The temples and public shelters were also included in the list of houses.

<i>Terai (West)</i>	<i>No. of houses completely damaged*</i>	<i>Much damaged</i>	<i>Less damaged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Temples, Public shelters*</i>
Palhimajhkhand	-	4	6	10	-
Chitwan	-	-	-	-	-
Khajahani, Syuraj	-	-	-	-	-
Banke Bardiya	-	-	-	-	-
Kailali, Kanchanpur	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>

\* No loss of property

<i>Summary</i>	<i>No. of houses completely damaged</i>	<i>Much damaged</i>	<i>Less damaged</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Temples, Public shelters*</i>
1. Kathmandu Valley (the 3 cities and villages)	12397	25658	17684	55739	492
2. The Hills (East & West)	64742	73253	1266	139261	-



3. The Terai (East & West)	3754	5610	2884	12248	
<b>Grand Total</b>	80893	104521	21834	207248	492

\* The public shelters and temples were included, as mentioned, in the list of houses except for that of the Valley.

Although the number of totally destroyed houses appeared to be small, those with cracks could not be repaired but had to be demolished before reconstruction. Therefore the owners of such houses had to spend twice as much. It is also possible that those houses that need but minor repairs are not included in the above list.

It is estimated that about 70 percent of the houses in the Valley were destroyed. The south-east part of the Valley, i.e. Lubhu, Sanagoan, Harisiddhi, Khokhana and Bungamati, suffered a greater loss. The city of Bhaktapur was also much destroyed, but not to the same extent as the above mentioned five villages. The destruction in these five villages was 99 percent. These villages were reduced to heaps of earth. Patan and Kathmandu came next in the order of destruction. The destruction in Kirtipur was not even five percent.

As Kirtipur and the northern part of the Valley (Gokarna, Sunderijal, Gaucharan, etc.) suffered less it appeared that the loss was only 70 percent in the Valley.

In the hills, the Eastern No. 3 and 4 districts suffered the greatest loss in property. In the Terai, Hanumannagar, Jaleswar and Birjunj suffered. However, as most houses were built of bamboo or wood, with thatch roofs, the losses were not great. But most of the houses built with bricks were destroyed.

The houses with but one or two storeys in the Valley withstood the earthquake better than the tall buildings. The earthquake has shown the result of constructing houses without the benefit of strong material, skilful engineers and good land. A glaring example was the Topkhana in Kathmandu. The three-storeyed building was built only one or two years before and was destroyed while a 80-90 years old building is still standing.

In some places, the sturdy buildings were destroyed while old, dilapidated houses (that needed demolishing to be rebuilt) were left unscathed by the earthquake. The reason for this must be that the tremors were strong where the sturdy houses were located but weak where the old houses stood.

According to geologists, the effect of the earthquake is not uniform everywhere. Greater tremors are felt in sandy places than in rocky land. The theory has been tested here. Although Kirtipur was located atop a hill there was no great loss because it was a rocky place. However, Panga located about 1371 meters away was hit very hard because it stood in soft land. The same was true in the hills too.

The names of some of the palaces, houses and temples in the Valley that were destroyed are given below. Most of the big palatial buildings were damaged.

### A. Palatial Buildings

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	H.M. the King's Narayanhity Durbar	Severely damaged
2.	Jawalakhel Durbar, Jawalakhel	Severely damaged
3.	Bishalnagar, Bhatbhateni	Severely damaged
4.	Laxmi Niwas, Maharajgunj	Severely damaged
5.	Shital Niwas, Maharajgunj	Severely damaged
6.	Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk	Severely damaged
7.	Tangal Durbar, Madigaon	Severely damaged
8.	Charburja, Thamel	Severely damaged
9.	Singha Durbar (H.H. the Maharaja's Palace)	Damaged in several places
10.	Babar Mahal, Kuriyagaun	Severely damaged
11.	Singha Mahal, Thapathali	Severely damaged
12.	Gol Baithak, Thapathali	Completely damaged

In addition to the palaces, government buildings and offices were damaged. If an account is taken of the destruction throughout the kingdom the loss would come to (tens of millions)

of rupees. The buildings in the capital that were destroyed were as follow:

### B. Government Buildings, Offices, etc.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Dharahara (Tower near Sundhara built by Bhimsen Thapa)	Half of the upper portion fell down
2.	Bir Ghantaghar (Cock Tower, Raniphokari)	Completely damaged
3.	Chhalaghar, Chauni (tannery)	Completely damaged. Some Army properties were also destroyed.
4.	Topkhana (arsenal)	Damaged in several places. 10-12 cannons were also damaged.
5.	Thimi Gatthaghar (factory)	Great loss
6.	Military Hospital, Kathmandu	Cracks in many places
7.	Female Hospital, Kathmandu	Damaged
8.	Male Hospital, Kathmandu	Damaged
9.	Central Medical Store, Kathmandu	Many medicinal bottles broken
10.	Press, Naxal	Damaged
11.	Durbar School, Kathmandu	Damaged
12.	Bhaktapur School, Bhaktapur	Severely damaged
13.	Bhaktapur Hospital and Doctors' Residence	Severely damaged
14.	Bhaktapur Brigade Residence	Severely damaged
15.	Guthi Tahasil Office	Completely damaged
16.	Dilli Bazar Office, Kathmandu	Slightly damaged

There was a great loss among the old temples and the palaces of the Newar Kings that were the glory of the cities of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan. Many of the ancient Nepalese works of art were lost. It was a matter of great sorrow that many of the artistic buildings that had gained fame in foreign countries were destroyed within a few moments. Houses

and palaces could be raised again with money, but these works of ancient artists are lost forever. Therefore, His Highness the Maharaja ordered the repair of these monuments as far as possible. It is a matter of wonder and pleasure that some of the famous temples were spared. Some of those that survived the 1934 earthquake are still standing. For example, although the Taleju temple of Patan was completely destroyed no damage was done to the Krishna temple. In Bhaktapur the lowly temple of Bhairab was completely destroyed but only the roofs of the Nyatapola (Five-storeyed temple) located but 27 meters away fell down. In Kathmandu while the Mahabishnu temple in Hanumandhoka was destroyed, only the *gajur* (pinnacle) of the Taleju tilted to one side. The names of some of the damaged old temples in the three cities are given below.

## C. Old Temples and Palaces

### 1. Kathmandu

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Year Built</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Taleju	1564 A.D. (King Mahendra Malla)	Only the <i>gajur</i> tilted
2.	Stone pillar in front of the Degutale	1671 A.D. (King Pratap Malla)	Completely damaged
3.	Mahadev Temple east of the Kot	1564 A.D. (King Mahendra Malla)	Completely damaged
4.	Mahabishnu Temple south of the Kot	Between 1638 and 1668 A.D. (Jagajya Malla)	Completely damaged
5.	Basantapur Tower	1770 A.D. (King Prithvi Narayan Shah)	Severely damaged
6.	Stone statue of King Pratap Malla on elephant south of Ranipokhari	1671 A.D. (King Pratap Malla)	Completely damaged

## 2. Patan

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Year Built</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Degutale	1636 A.D. Renovated after a fire in 1661 A.D. (King Shrinivas Malla)	Completely damaged
2.	Chyasin Temple	1723 A.D. (King Yoganarendra Malla)	Severely damaged
3.	Mahaboudha Temple (copy of Buddha Gaya temple)	1553 A.D.	Only the lowest portion had remained
4.	Bishweshwar Mahadeva Temple (Bhaideval)	1627 A.D. (King Siddhinarasingha Malla)	Completely damaged
5.	Kumbheshwar	1392 A.D. (the original)	Completely damaged
6.	Machhendranath Temple	1622 A.D. (restored after the earthquake of 1833 A.D.)	Completely damaged

## 3. Bhaktapur

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Year Built</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1.	Old Palace of Bhaktapur	1464 A.D. (King Yakshya Malla) renovated in 1678 A.D.	Heavily damaged
2.	Palace of 55 Windows	1700 A.D. (King Bhupendra Malla)	Heavily damaged
3.	Krishna Temple	1676 A.D. (King Bhupatindra Malla)	Heavily damaged

4.	Bishnu Temple	1658 A.D. (King Jagat Pratap Malla)	Totally destroyed
5.	Shiva Temple	1461 A.D. (King Yakshya Malla)	Totally destroyed
6.	Bhairab Temple	1686 A.D. (King Bhupendra Malla)	Totally destroyed
7.	Barahi Temple	1673 A.D. (repaired in 1862 A.D.)	Totally destroyed

The temple of Pashupatinath was not damaged in the least. Although the houses and hospitals in the surrounding areas were badly damaged, the Mahankal temple in Tundikhel which appeared frail was not affected. Very little damages were done at Swayambhu and Boudha. It was not strange that people's devotion was strengthened by the fact that the great temples were saved.

#### D. Bridges, Roads, Public Rest Houses, etc.

There were minor damages to the bridges. These did not hinder the movements of people because the main bridges remained intact. Even if there were damages they were of minor nature. It is fortunate that the bridges on the motorable road between Bhimphedi and Birgunj did not collapse. But there was much damage to the Nepal Government's Light Railway lines and this prevented its operation for some time.

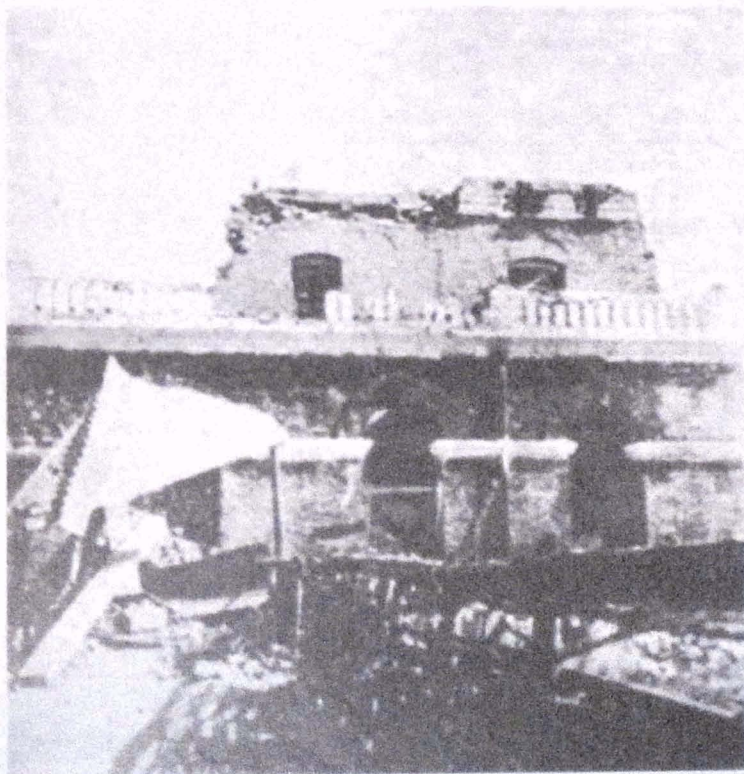
Within the capital, two or three bridges on the way to Bhaktapur suffered minor damages only and they were repaired within five to six days. The two bridges on the Bishnumati were completely destroyed but as the other bridges remained intact, there was not much hindrance. Two bridges on the eastern hills were damaged. There were cracks on the roads in many places. In some places they became useable only after repairs.

But there were much damages to the public rest houses. Due to the lack of funds, it looks like the chances of renovating or rebuilding these places by the trust are slim. The damages to these at the temple premises have caused much distress to the pilgrims. The crisis is acute in the hilly areas.

In the hills, actually at the northern Himalayan regions, are two-three reputed monasteries. They are specially regarded by the Buddhist-learned people. The lamas there are highly respected by the people (including the Bhotas) of the regions. The monastery [Tenboche] at Namche Bazar is most famous. But the collapses of these monasteries have caused huge losses to the ancient [valuable] texts and hand-written manuscripts – this is very unfortunate. Luckily, the old hand-written manuscripts collected by the Government in the capital are safe. As these books are very old and rare, many foreign intellectuals come to study them time and again. Therefore this library (Bir Library) is very popular among these scholars. And this indeed is a gratifying incident.



19. Major General Bikram Shumsher's house, Birgunj

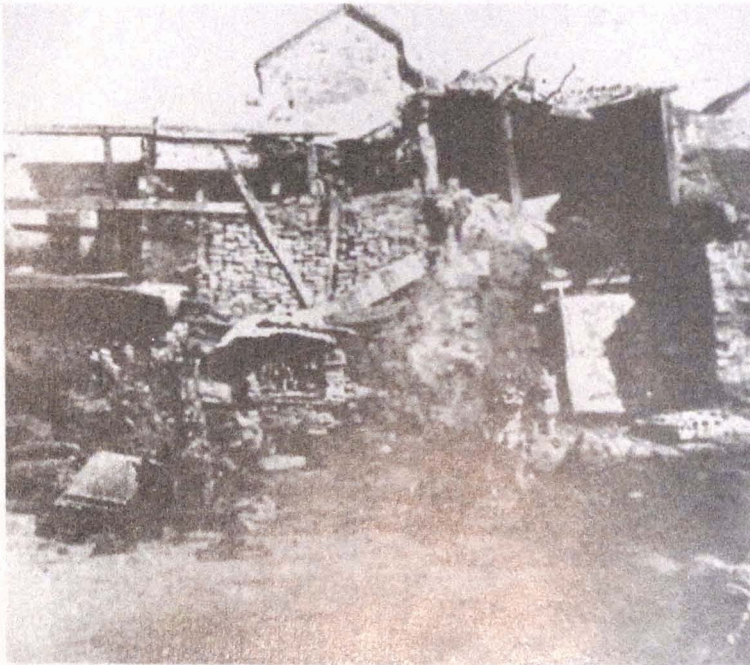


20. Bada Hakim's house, Morang

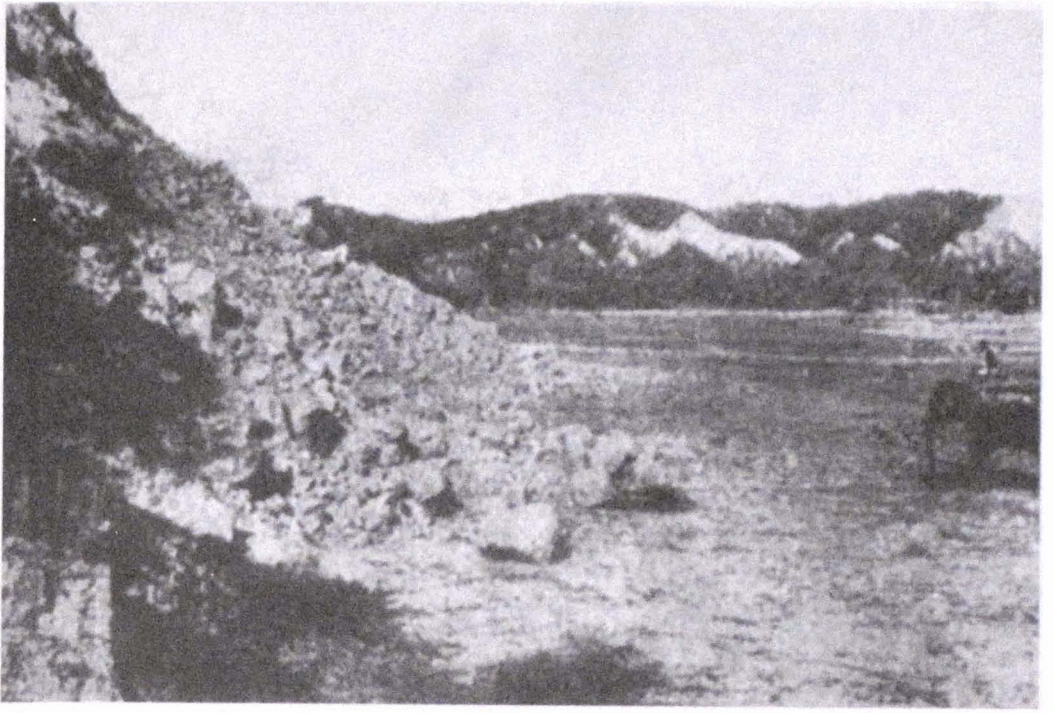




21. The Bairab Temple, Bhaktapur, before the earthquake



22. The Bairab Temple after the earthquake



23. South Udaipurgarhi



24. Land nearby Udaipurgarhi





25. Gol Baithak before the earthquake



26. Gol Baithak after the earthquake

## Arrangement of Medical Relief

The injured were to be found everywhere from the big cities to the smallest villages. As thousands of people were injured, the hospitals were over crowded. The hospital buildings and the medical stores were also damaged. As a result, there were some problems in the care of the patients and medication. In addition to these problems, there was a great need to send medical teams to the villages. It was difficult to cope with the large number of patients in the hospitals, and doctors and compounders could be scarcely spared for the fields. Therefore it was found very difficult to find personnel to carry on first aid treatments in the villages. I was the acting director of the hospitals and the medical department. Let me give a brief account of the work done then in the Valley, hills and the Terai.<sup>1</sup>

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1 A list of those who received treatment is given in the Appendix 1.

## 1. In the Valley

Many buildings of the five hospitals in the Valley were damaged. Medicines were lost, surgical instruments and other medical supplies were damaged. Two patients were killed in the wreckage of the Male and Female Hospitals. Other patients were fortunately saved.

A patient with a broken leg in the Tri-Chandra Military Hospital ran out of the ward into the open ground with the casting in a panic when the earthquake occurred. It was a very strange matter that gave one an idea of the panic created by the earthquake.

The hospitals began to be very crowded soon after the earthquake. The men came with serious injuries. The few doctors and compounders could scarcely cope with the flow of the patients. As the number of injured was very large, the Tri-Chandra Military Hospital (where only the army men were treated) had to be opened for the general public. However, as the panic-stricken citizens covered the hospital grounds the doctors were hampered in their works. Government tents were put up on the right and left sides of the Mahankal temple at Tundikhel for the injured. Minor injuries were treated out in the open. The crowds of patients were very large during the first two or three days after the earthquake. Some of the severely injured stayed in their home and were [only] brought for treatment in the hospitals. Therefore, the number of patients admitted to the hospital did not seem to be great.

As women giving birth had a very hard time, a separate place was made for them in the Female Hospital. The Patan Hospital had no facility for indoor patients. But due to the conditions created by the earthquake, arrangements were made to admit 20 patients. The Bhaktapur Hospital was destroyed. Therefore, sheds were made for the patients. A total of 361 injured were admitted in these five hospitals. Of those about 25 patients died in the hospitals. The number of outpatients who came to the hospitals for treatment was very large. The number of such patients in these five hospitals reached 8,300. Some of

the earthquake volunteers were helpful in dressing and other tasks in the hospitals. Hence, some of the doctors and compounders could be spared for the rural areas.

Doctors, compounders and the military medical compounders were provided with first aid kits and sent to the villages. In addition to them, some of the earthquake volunteers worked very well in this field. As the roads were damaged everywhere, these first aid workers had to go on horsebacks. The military compounders were sent to the No. 1 and 2 districts in the hills. But as many of the military compounders had gone with the regiments out of the Valley, there were very few of them stationed in the Valley at that time. The number of patients treated by the government employees in the Valley were 2700 and by the volunteers 1900.

The Ayurvedic and Unani clinics were also helpful in treating the patients. As some people thought the Ayurvedic treatment more effective, 26 unemployed  *vaidyas*  were sent to the villages conveniently located for them. About 2900 individuals received Ayurvedic medicines.

As some of the villages (especially Bungamati, Lubhu, Panga) were very far from the hospitals of Kathmandu and Patan the number of injured was high for four temporary hospitals set up within the Valley and one at Banepa (East No. 1). The temporary hospitals located within the Valley at Kisipidi, Lubhu, Sanugaon, Bungamati, Khokana and Panga treated about 1500 patients. These hospitals had to be maintained for nearly two months. Those who had received severe injuries were brought to Kathmandu or Patan hospitals. However, as those people living in the villages were very much afraid of the hospitals, lorries and stretchers were sent out but only about 40 persons were brought to the hospitals. This service was rendered by the earthquake volunteers. Some of the people lost their lives because they concealed themselves and did not get treated when the doctors arrived. This was matter of great sorrow. It was very difficult to treat such people. The number of such people – especially in the villages – was high indeed.

There was a great danger of epidemic as the people did not care at all about hygienics and sanitation. Vaccines against cholera, typhoid and small pox were imported from foreign countries. Doctors went to inspect the conditions of people living in the cities. For the first three or four days drinking water was very scarce and people were compelled to use the dirty water from the ponds. Therefore the volunteers went to various places and put medicine into the water. The Municipality also played its role in this task. Fortunately, there was no epidemic, thanks to God. If there was any epidemic, the result could not be predicted. The doctors and compounders were given instructions as follows:

- To report the sanitary condition and disease in their departments;
- To suggest ideas in order to prevent epidemic;
- To make an immediate report as soon as a case of epidemic is detected.

Some people sent milk, rugs, tents and beds to the hospitals. The contributions were of great help.

## 2. Mofussil (Hills)

The hospitals and clinics in the mofussil also suffered a great loss. None were spared though they were small buildings. The number of clinics in the hills was less than in the Terai. However, the number of the injured in the hills was much higher and the hospitals were faced with acute problems. The army compounders were sent to the places near the capital itself. They rendered first aid to 340 persons. In Banepa (East No. 1) a temporary hospital was run for about one and half months by a skilled compounder, who treated about 150 people. The *vaidyas* were also sent there. In the hills, 376 persons were treated in the hospital and clinics. About 1032 persons were treated in these medicals centers and by those sent from the capital. There were very few injured in the west, and the

hospitals there were not hard pressed at all. It is learnt that barbers and faith-healers also treated many people in the hills. It was impossible to keep a record for the people who were treated by them.

### 3. The Terai

In the Terai, as the number of the dead and the injured was low, even the damaged hospitals were able to provide treatment. About 300 injured were treated in the eastern Terai. The missionary hospital in Raxual was helpful in the treatment of the injured in Birgunj. Reports were received from the hospitals in Birgunj and Bhimphedi within two or three days of the earthquake. However, reports were received late from other places. As it was no use waiting for reports, the government sent instructions a few days after the earthquake to the *mal adda* (revenue offices) in different places to provide certain amounts to almost all the hospitals in the kingdom for urgent expenses and to instruct that the patients receive care. However, although the messages were sent by wire, they did not reach the destinations soon enough as the wires were broken.

It is estimated that 16,500 persons (including those who received first aid) were treated throughout the kingdom.<sup>2</sup>

The work done by some of the doctors and volunteers in the capital was to be highly appreciated. Before closing this part I would like to thank those gentlemen who helped me in the above-mentioned task and who visited different places to serve the injured, despite the troubles and discomfort.

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<sup>2</sup> The details are given in Appendix 1.





## The Volunteers

Some well wishers and loyalists devoted themselves to the service of the poor and suffering people. Seeing the interest taken by those good men and realizing their need during these days a 'Bhukampa Sevak Dal' (Earthquake Volunteers Group) was formed. I consider myself fortunate to have the opportunity of being the Director of these volunteers. The chief of the volunteers was Headmaster Rudra Raj. Due to the encouragement and timely help received from General, Western Command (presently the Chief) Padma Shumsher and General Surya Shumsher and the full support of the volunteers, it was possible to render some services to the poor suffering people. The number of these volunteers had reached 150. Although no one had been trained in such work, they did not fall behind in services of the poor people and they did a splendid job.

The first task undertaken by the earthquake volunteers was to help in the hospitals and the inspection of shelters. They took lorries and stretchers to carry the injured. In some places there were sick mothers and their babies were dying of hunger. Somewhere else medicine was available but there

was no diet for the patient. In the month of Magh [Jan./Feb.], the women in childbirth had nothing to wear. The volunteers took milk, rice and clothes to give to the needy. Those who knew something about medicine visited every nook and corner in towns, villages, suburbs, etc. carrying medical bags with them. They also went to help in the clinics where regular treatments were given. They put medicine in springs and wells in order to make the water safe for drinking. They also helped in the police stations, hospitals, telephone offices and in the post offices.

They were also engaged in finding facts, such as the different needs of people, security arrangements, market rates, sanitation, etc. and then reporting it to the government. Further, they collected data about the dead, the missing, the injured, those without food supplies, the conditions of houses, etc. and submitted reports to the municipality and the police station. The volunteers also found out about the temples destroyed by the earthquake in different places and informed the municipality and the police in addition to listing people facing hunger. Some people sent money, clothes, cloths and milk to the group of volunteers. The services rendered by the earthquake volunteers are mentioned here briefly.

- To help in the hospital;
- To render first-aid to the injured;
- To inspect sanitary conditions and put potash in the spring;
- To carry the injured from different places to the hospital;
- To conduct market surveys;
- To make a list of temples destroyed in the earthquake;
- To help the police in preparing reports;
- To distribute clothes, milk and rice among the victims;
- To remove dead bodies from the debris;
- To help the Telephone and Post Offices;
- To inspect settlements; and
- To make a list of the poor, suffering victims.

These volunteers kept their own family members in shelters, in fields or open grounds, because their own houses were destroyed, and devoted themselves without the least self interest to the cause of the earthquake victims and in the meanwhile they forgot their own thirst and hunger.

The exemplary service had taken place before His Highness the Maharaja's return from the Terai. His Highness appreciated their services on the very day of his return. On 1st March, His Highness summoned all the earthquake volunteers at Tundikhel and thanked them. It can be hoped from now on that the appreciation of His Highness for the good work done would encourage everyone to undertake such services.

Many of these earthquake volunteers were teachers and students.<sup>1</sup>

There were also some other people. It is not intended to mention here all the works done by them. A whole book could be written about that. A full appreciation could not be written by my hand, nor such selfless workers seek appreciation for what they do. I can only often thank these good sons of our country who helped me to the full extent.

In addition to the above-mentioned 'Earthquake Volunteers Group', other groups of volunteers also came into existence. Their names are given below.

#### a. Maharaja Servants' Society

There were about 50 members in it, both the native and foreigners. The head of the group was a Hanuman Prasad Kayastha. The Marwari merchants and other people gave rice, milk, money to it for the victims. The services rendered by this group are as follows:

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1 Some of them had to sit for their examination conducted by Patna University. As I was the head of the Education Department, I had to correspond with the university. There was a great loss in Patna as well. Therefore, the date of the examination was extended by four months.

- To distribute clothes, rice, milk, etc. to the poor victims;
- To render medical aid to the injured; and
- To remove the victims, dead or alive from the debris.

#### b. Jooddha Seva Sangh

The number of members in this group was small, yet they helped much in removing those buried, dead or alive, from the wreckage. Further, they took care of the injured, in addition to other services, as the situation demanded. From 2nd February all the services being rendered by these volunteers were shouldered by the government.

Who would not want to appreciate the services rendered by the volunteers to the victims of the earthquake?

## The Earthquake Relief Fund and Sympathies of Foreigners

As soon as the news of the earthquake became known, messages of sympathies began to come to the Nepal Government. The messages came from England and other countries. The wireless messages came from the poet Rabindranath Tagore and Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and others from India. The Indian Medical Society and Marwari Relief Society sent wires saying, 'If necessary, we are ready to help.' Replies were sent to all expressing thanks and gratitude. A reply was sent to the Marwari Relief Society as follows:

Thanks for the wire. Aid is not required at present.

In addition to this, a message was also sent in reply to the offer of aid by the Government of India as follows:

As there has also been a loss in your country, we do not wish to accept aid. When there is suffering in both countries, it is necessary to resort to self help.

According to a report in the newspaper *Vishwamitra*, this reply was appreciated in an English newspaper on 25 February

1934 wrote. There were also reports in the month of Magh 1990 [Jan./Feb., 1934 A.D.] that England was also much worried about Nepal.

Within a few days of the earthquake, two or three volunteer groups were formed. They raised funds among themselves and began to help the poor. Some gave money, some clothes and others, rice described in Part 7. The Government also undertook a similar task. The readers would note that it has been mentioned elsewhere. By a speech given on 1st March as given below, His Highness established the 'Bhukampa Pidotwadar Fund' (Earthquake Relief Fund):

We have created a Bhukampa Pidotwadar Sanstha (Earthquake Relief Association) in order to help and provide relief to the victims of this catastrophe through a Bhukampa Pidotwadar Fund (Earthquake Relief Fund). I have donated Rs. 300,000.00 and the Maharani Rs. 100,000.00, a total of Rs. 400,000.00 to the fund. Contribution given to it by people of their own free will be used for the purpose of welfare by the association. The name of the donors will also be published.

Arrangements were made to spend the amount contributed by the Earthquake Relief Association. As of now the amount received by the fund has totalled Rs. 26,200.00 in Indian Currency in coins and notes and Rs. 1,075,000.00 in Nepalese rupees. A total of Rs. 1,050,000.00 was contributed by His Highness and eight or nine nobles. An amount of about Indian Currency (notes and coins) Rs. 22,000.00 and Nepalese Rs. 21,000.00 was received from foreign lands. Of this amount Indian Currency (in notes) Rs. 2,800.00 was received from England, (in notes) Rs. 8,900.00 from Japan and Indian Currency (in notes) Rs. 10,500.00 and Nepalese Rs 21,000.00 from India. The names of donors are given in Appendix 3. The contributions could be sent by mail or deposited personally at Mulukikhana. Foreigners sent their contributions to His Highness through the British Minister. The money thus received was deposited in the Fund's account in the Mulukikhana. However, as contributions were still coming on

while this report was being prepared, it was expected that some thousands of rupees might be added before the Fund was closed. It was spent or being spent as follows:

- To give as grants to those who could not rebuild their houses;
- To provide food for those who could not subsist themselves;
- The construction of a new road;
- To clean the debris from the roads and wreckage of buildings and payment of salary to the workers employed for the purpose;
- To purchase and distribute seeds for those in the eastern hills who could not buy the same; and
- Government officers and clerks have been deputed to the Fund to disburse lands and undertake other activities. As there was a need for additional staff, temporary clerks were hired. Payment of salaries to those clerks was made out of the contributions.

The income and expenditure of the Earthquake Relief Fund as of February/March 1935 are as follows:

#### Income

<i>Nepalese Rs.</i>	<i>Indian Currency</i>	
	<i>Coins</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1,075,104.65	1472.00	24,800.00

#### Expenditure

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Expenditure by different section</i>	<i>Expenditure to be made</i>
1.	Kathmandu city	60,210.00	17,300.00
2.	Patan city	22,090.00	19,050.00
3.	Bhaktapur city	16,390.00	36,00.00
4.	Villages in the Valley	77,250.00	64,00.00
5.	Hills (reconstruction of houses)	14,550.00	193,900.00



6.	Hills (distribution of seeds)	20,000.00	.
7.	Feeding the poor (in the capital)	62,000.00	
8.	Feeding the poor (in the hills)	10,000.00	.
9.	Salaries for workers and clearance of debris	82,556.00	105,000.00
10.	Officers and clerks	17,300.00	
	Total	382,346.00	345,250.00

# Management of Reconstruction of Residences and Aid

## 1. In the Kathmandu Valley

The roads were filled up with the debris of the destroyed houses. It was very difficult to move from one place to another. Priority had to be given to remove the debris from the roads so that people could move about. The task was begun a few days after the earthquake. In the beginning, the soldiers did the work but as more manpower was required, a notice was sent to some of the district headquarters to 'recruit men' to do the job. The number of recruits was very high as they were told that they would be taken into the army whenever vacancies occur. The salary per month was eight to 10 rupees. In addition to the debris in the three cities, the recruits were employed in clearing the villages in the Valley. Thousands of other men had an opportunity to work for the families of the nobles and the general public. Many people from West No. 1 and as far away as East No. 2 came. The hill men found much to do in the Valley.

As the bridges were not heavily damaged, the main ones were repaired within one week. Even if some of the bridges

were broken, none of them proved a hindrance to the movement of people from one place to another. It is a matter of good fortune. The roads to Bhaktapur and Sankhu became good enough for motor-cars within four and seven days respectively. But the motor-road in Chapagaon was not ready for use until after two months (because there were other villages en route). Besides these, the damages to other roads were negligible. It is the streets in the towns rather than roads in the suburbs that took longer to clear. The reason is clear enough. The main streets in the city were completely cleared only after some months. It took about two months in Kathmandu, two and half months in Patan and four months in Bhaktapur to do the job. In the villages the job continued up to five or six months. The heaps of earth and bricks were being cleared until March-April of 1935.

Although some began to repair their houses simultaneously as the roads were cleared, it was not until 25 or 30 days later, i.e. from the month of Chaitra [March/April] that most people began reconstructions. The rainy season was approaching and unless repaired there would be more damages to the houses. Therefore, everyone applied the task from the same month. But, while the financial resources were low, the price of timber and bricks went up.

The main problem proved to be the masons and carpenters. Due to the great demand for their services, they raised their wages much higher than before. The number of these skilled workers was less than needed, and people began to pay them higher wages and provide them with lunches, as otherwise they would not be available. Therefore, the rate of wages could not be maintained.

If the reconstructions were possible in a systematic order or a greater number of skilled workers were available, the work could have been done by native workers and the money paid to them as wages would have remained in the country itself. As all had to rebuild their houses at the same time, there was not even 10 percent of the required number of skilled workers. So, workers had to be brought from a foreign country. Arrangements



27. Singha Durbar (the southwing)



28. The Garden house, Singha Durbar



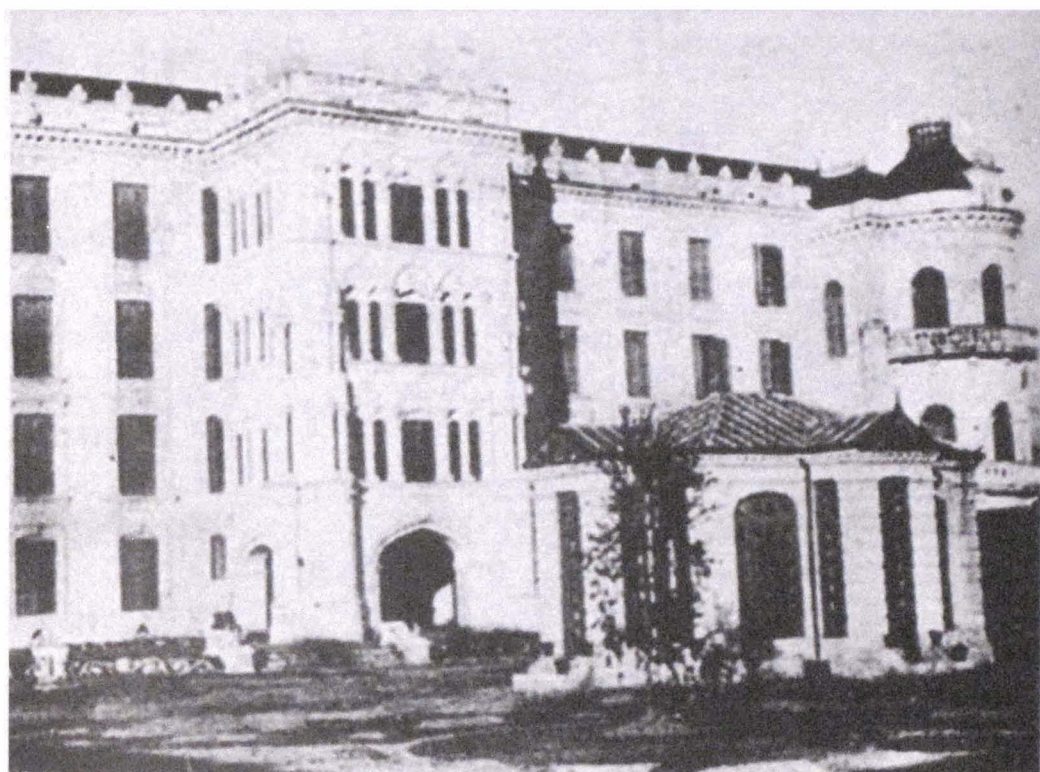


29. His Majesty the King's Narayanhity palace after the earthquake



30. H.H. the Maharaja's palace after the earthquake

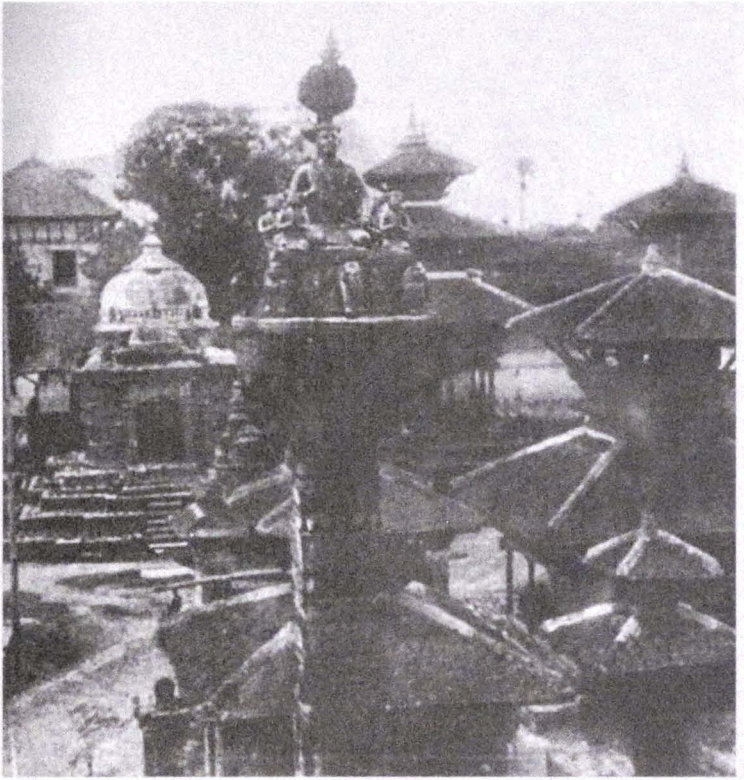




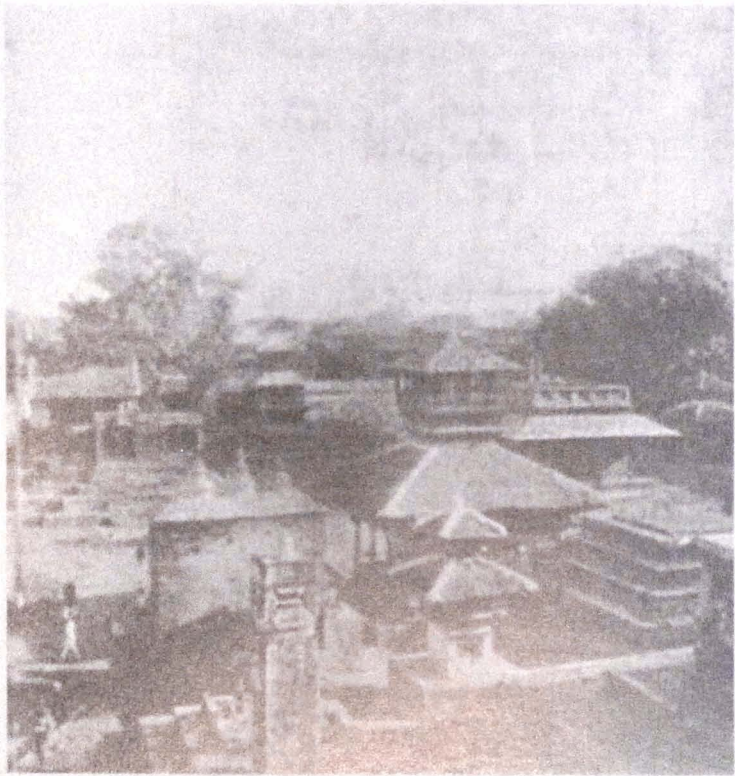
31. The Shital Niwas, Maharajgung, before the earthquake



32. The Shital Niwas after the earthquake



33. The temples in front of Hanuman Dhoka Palace  
before the earthquake



34. The Hanuman Dhoka Estate after the earthquake



were made by the government to bring as many men as required by the public. However, the public did not like it and they preferred to wait until native workers were available. Therefore, no more foreign workers were brought in. The government and the nobles brought masons, carpenters and stone cutters from the Terai and India. Most of these men came from Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Banaras, Allahabad, Gorakhpur and the Punjab. They were about 2000 in number.

Due to the arrival of Indian masons and carpenters, the public was able to employ the local men to some extent, but the problem still remained. Most masons and carpenters took the opportunity of demanding higher wages. As a result, everybody had to face an increase in the cost of reconstructions. Despite the cost, higher by two or three times the normal rate, most men decided to rebuild their houses. They began the reconstructions of only the ground floors in order to live. There were few people who had enough money to do the job. Only a very few were able to obtain loans for the purpose.

In the rural areas, people built their houses in cooperation and by turn. But in the cities there was almost no such example.

Many of those, whose houses were completely destroyed or didn't have any resources, lived in sheds or in rented places. Most of them were of the middle class. Many great men including the Chief lived in bungalows or sheds. There were few people who moved back to their regular quarters. However, it is expected that all the nobles and the public as well would have their places of residence.

The poor people of the capital – those apparently unable to repay after being carefully scrutinized – have so far received aid from the 'Relief Fund' as given below. The loan was given from the month of Chaitra [March/April]. The loan given in the Valley amounted to Rs. 206,500.00 i.e. Rs. 67,500.00 in the Kathmandu city, Rs. 35,000.00 in Patan and Rs. 20,000.00 in Bhaktapur and about Rs. 84,000.00 in the villages.



The conditions for aid were as follows:

- Aid to be given only to those who, after inspection, were found incapable of paying back the amount given to them;
- Aid to be given at the rate of Rs. 5.00 to 200.00 in three cities and up to Rs. 100.00 in the villages. Any amount above that had to be sanctioned by the 'Earthquake Relief Organization'.

The 20 teams consisting of officers, clerks, etc. were formed in order to carry the above-mentioned tasks – four for Kathmandu city, two for Patan city, two for Bhaktapur city, two for the villages in the suburbs for Kathmandu, six for the villages in the suburbs of Patan, two for the villages in the suburbs of Bhaktapur, one for Pharping and one for Banepa.

His Highness the Maharaja had set aside Rs. 5 million on account of 'Earthquake Relief Aid/Loan' in the month of Phalgun [February/March] to be given as interest-free loans up to four years to aid those who want to rebuild their houses in the Valley and in Banepa.

The loan was given from the month of Baishak [April/May]. Conditions for the loan are given briefly here:

- Those who have already been provided with aid from the 'Relief Fund' would not get loan;
- Those who are unable to repay and others who are not in position to repay would not get loan;
- The loan to be given against mortgage of house and land;
- The second and third installments would be given only after inspection whether the amount has been actually used to rebuild the house. However, by January/February 1935, the loan was given all at once;
- The head of the team was authorized to give up to Rs. 1500.00 to build a house in the three cities of Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur. If it was necessary to give more, a report had to be submitted to the organization and obtain its sanction; and

- With the exception of the three cities in the Valley, Rs. 500.00 for *pakki* buildings and Rs. 100.00 for *kachhi* houses in the villages were to be given on loan.

## Earthquake – Relief – Aid/Loan

Income

Rs. 5,000,000.00

### Expenditures

		<i>Made by the Team</i>	<i>Balance</i>
1.	Kathmandu city	1,250,300.00	7,200.00
2.	Patan city	563,920.00	11,000.00
3.	Bhaktapur city	368,980.00	56,000.00
4.	The villages in the Valley	402,190.00	38,500.00
5.	Banepa (East No. 1) and Pharping	1,020.00	29,000.00
6.	To import corrugated sheets for sales at fair price	424,280.00	0.00
Total		3,010,690.00	141,700.00

Beside the above, steps were taken to help those who wanted to rebuild their houses in the three cities of the Valley as follows:

- The government imported corrugated iron sheets and sold these cheap to those who built their houses by reducing the ropeway freight charge and by exemption of customs duty. About Rs. 400,000.00 worth of corrugated sheets were sold.
- Timber was cut from the forests and sold at cost price for which applications were received through the Municipality.
- Arrangements were made to build kilns for the manufacture of bricks and lime at various places. Bricks and lime were sold at cheap rate (1000 bricks at 9.00 and one *pathi* [3.6 kg] of lime at Re. 1.00).

- The forests located close and convenient were open until May-June 1934 and people were allowed to cut small beams for rafters. Three generals and 12 officers were deputed to look after the matter. Lists of the beams required for the people in the villages were obtained through the *amalis* (village headmen) and they were allowed to be cut the same.

It is estimated that about 70 percent of the houses were rebuilt by the time this book was written. Both civil and military personnels who had residences in the districts from West No. 1 to the eastern border and within the Valley were given their salaries for four months in advance. The amount was to be adjusted against pay within a period of four years. In this way they had some help in rebuilding their houses.

## 2. Government Houses, Temples, etc.

The repair of government houses and temples had begun in some places. As government houses throughout the Kingdom were damaged, it would take much time and money to rebuild all of those buildings.

The repair of temples and buildings of artistic value would also be undertaken later. Although the temples that had suffered minor damages have already been repaired, other old buildings bearing the mark of Nepalese craftsmen totally destroyed in the earthquake are most regrettably to be lost forever. It is going to take a long time even if these are to be replaced by new temples.

Many small and big public shelters have been destroyed. It appears that these would be hardly reconstructed as the *guthis* created for their maintenances are no longer in existence.

However, until the problem of habitat for people is solved, no attention could be given to the public shelters. The members of the *guthis* would think about the public shelters only after 1935. Regarding those built by the government, works have

begun in many places. Consideration has been given to rebuild many buildings, including official palaces, in a small scale.

However, some have built even bigger buildings than before. This is evident especially at Patan rather than in the two other cities of Kathmandu and Bhaktapur. This taste for grandeur is not necessary to be appreciated. To increase the height of buildings where the streets are narrow is to invite a greater loss in an earthquake in the future.

This is a chance to make new, spacious and healthy settlements in the place of old towns that are bad for health, although it would be a costly proposal. Japan has set a very good example for the world in this matter. It appears that Bihar is going to follow the Japanese idea. However, as some of the buildings in the cities here are destroyed while others are intact and yet other need but repairs, it does not appear wise to demolish all the houses in order to make the streets wide. There is a plan to build a wide road from Basantapur to Tundikhel in Kathmandu.

Those who are building their houses now are following the old style. Only a few people have learnt from the consequences of the earthquake and build walls and roofs that are strong enough. Therefore, even if the houses have been rebuilt, these must not be considered as earthquake proof. These new houses seem to be as weak as old ones.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. In the Hills

In the hills most houses were built of stone and clay. Orders were sent to the district headquarters to permit the cutting of trees even in the restricted areas to those persons who needed to rebuild their houses. Therefore, many were able to rebuild their houses. Yet there were some that could not do. There were some that had rebuilt their houses but could not put on the thatch roofs due to lack of thatch that would be available after the monsoon. However, many people were faced with some

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1 An account about earthquake proof houses is given in Part 10.

difficulties as the wages of carpenters and masons were very high. Yet they were compelled to build a house to live in.

The amounts sanctioned for those people who were unable to build their houses as of the month of Baisakh [April/May, 1934] and further arrangements were sanctions made during the months of Poush and Magh [Dec./Feb., 1934/35].

a. Details of the Amount Sanctioned in Baisakh 1991  
[April/May 1934 A.D.]

<i>District (East)</i>	<i>At the rate of Rs. 50.00 per</i>		<i>At the rate of Rs. 25.00 per house for those who could not rebuild their damaged houses (only for East nos. 3+4)</i>		
<i>No.</i>	<i>Total no. of houses</i>	<i>Total Rs.</i>	<i>Total no. of houses</i>	<i>Total Rs.</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. 1	10	500.00	—	0.00	500.00
No. 2	15	750.00	—	0.00	750.00
No. 3	20	1000.00	87	2175.00	3175.00
No. 4	19	950.00	267	6675.00	7625.00
Sindhuligarhi	10	500.00	—	0.00	500.00
Udaipurghari	10	500.00	—	0.00	500.00
Dhankuta	20	1000.00	—	0.00	1000.00
Ilam	10	500.00	—	0.00	500.00
Total	114	5700.00	354	8850.00	14550.00

b. Sanctions made of Poush and Magh 1991  
[December/February 1934/35 A.D.]

An amount of Rs. 200,000.00 was distributed in 11 places among the people from West No. 1 to Ilam who were unable to rebuild their houses. The distribution was made by an officer deputed by the centre with the help of the Bada Hakim of the district and officer of the militia. This amount is in addition to that sent earlier to the district. The previous instruction was to prepare an estimate and to provide from the Fund Rs. 5.00 to 50.00 for the construction of a *kachhi* houses and up to Rs.

100.00 for a *pakki* house. Children who have no parents and other relatives, people who have lost their land due to the earthquake as well as those whose income from their land are inadequate for their survival are to be given up to Rs. 20.00 each by the above mentioned officer from the Fund. The amount is to be taken from the 'Earthquake Relief Fund'.<sup>2</sup>

#### 4. In the Terai

As many *pakki* houses in the towns of Birgung, Jaleswor, Hanumannagar, Biratnagar were damaged. Government's as well as common people's, it does not look like they would be easily repaired soon. But the small houses in the villages were not much damaged and therefore, many had already been repaired.

To help people to build or repair their houses, Bada Hakims of the districts were instructed to permit the use forest timbers.

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<sup>2</sup> See 'Earthquake Relief Fund' in Part 8.





# 10

## Consideration of Building Construction in the Future

Nepal is located in an earthquake prone zone on earth, especially those areas where there were losses this time, according to geologist. This view is also supported by history. Therefore, now and in the future, houses and cities have to be obviously built in such a way as to escape the destruction of earthquakes.

This chapter is included in the hope that those who build new houses might benefit from it. The earthquake has revealed the faults or weakness of the houses in Nepal, besides the need for earthquake proof buildings.

Let me first quote the instructions given by Mr. Eden, geologist and engineer, who had come for an inspection in the capital and in the mofussil.<sup>1</sup>

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1 These instructions had also been published in the *Gorkhapatra*.

## A. Good and Bad Land for the Construction of Houses

Although an account of the 1934 earthquake was not available in Bihar province, what was obtained here (in Nepal) has helped me much in giving my opinion. The destructions by the earthquake of 1834 and 1934 were not in the same scale.

Yet the areas hit are the same, and so it becomes evident that there are more or less prone to destruction. Therefore, Bhaktapur, Harisiddhi, Khokana and Bungamati areas are liable to the greatest destruction in an earthquake while Pashupatinath, Boudha and Gokarna are sites to be least feared. Swayambhu and Kirtipur are similarly free from danger. However, both of these places are small. Therefore it is not advisable to extend the city in a south-east direction. In the Nepalese Terai, it is not right to build houses close to streams, rivers and tanks. Therefore in future, it is necessary to consider areas likely or unlikely to be disturbed by earthquakes before construction of houses. It is advisable to extend the city – towards Pashupati, Boudha, Gokarna and Sundarijal where the new electric powerhouse is being built.

## B. Earthquake-proof Building

The type of soil is not the only factor that causes destruction in an earthquake. It also depends upon the structural design, the materials used, and the skill of the builders. Most of the buildings that were destroyed were tall ones of many storeys with arches, pillars, multiple facade of broken bricks with good bricks on the outside and unattached walls with a heavier load on the upper part, made of earth without a coating of plaster were also liable to damage. These faults should be corrected in future buildings. Well shaped and evenly baked bricks should be used. The bricks in Nepal appeared to be not baked well. In Bihar many houses built of well baked bricks and plastered over were saved. Here too the houses built with *teilya* (polished) bricks, placed so as to interlock with the upper layer bricks, even without plaster, was found less prone to destruction. It

has become evident that the losses are less if good materials are used in the building. Even if the best material is not available skilful use of the same prevents a great loss. Both materials and skill have to be considered in building great mansions and palaces. The following points have to be taken into consideration in the construction of small houses.

The house made of baked and unbaked bricks should not go beyond one storey. In the hills most houses were made of stone. Stone should be cut and properly placed. In other words, stones cut in a square shape make a strong wall. The roof should be quite light. Houses made of wood, bamboo and wattles were found strong during an earthquake. Houses made of lumps of clay with holes and built haphazardly do not withstand an earthquake, as was shown clearly at Dharan and Udaypurgarhi. As far as possible the bricks should lie on plaster. The walls made of plaster can be thinner than the one made of clay, and it offsets the higher cost of plaster. Since it is stronger than a mud-built wall, it is less costly in the long run. Houses made of bricks should not be taller than 68 feet. In Japan, no house is allowed to be higher than 134 feet, no matter whatever strong material is used.

Generally speaking pillars, arches and numerous windows should not be used, as these weaken the walls. Clamping devices or methods should be used to make one wall hold unto another. When a house is built next to another, the wall should be made to interlock with the bricks of the first house, so that in an earthquake, the two buildings sway as one and the walls do not clash. The wall should have good, single pieces of bricks, not broken ones, well placed in the middle. Such walls though thin are stronger than those filled with broken pieces and less costly as the number of bricks are less. For the roof the canisters may be flattened and used. Although the roof may not appear pretty, the water flows off pretty well. Building material of good quality is not necessarily available to the general public. However, their houses should be built in such a manner as to ensure that life and property are at minimum danger in an earthquake. In other words, the houses

made of baked and unbaked bricks should not go higher than one storey. Wooden supports are stronger than those made of bricks. The roof should be as light as possible. Houses made of *teliya* bricks or of ordinary bricks with plaster (not clay) can go higher than one storey.

### C. The Period of Construction

It is stated in Indian newspapers that depending upon the condition of the land after the earthquake, houses should not be built for a period of one to three years. However, the land in Nepal in comparison to that of Bihar is found to be very different. Therefore, if repairs are made here now (1934) no harm is done. Beginnings have actually been made in many places. There is no need to have any doubts as far as the timing is concerned. However, the building materials and methods should be changed somewhat before and buildings should be made earthquake proof as much as possible. This is a question to be answered. As far as the reconstruction of big buildings is concerned, the materials would not be available until after the rainy season. There should be no doubt about the construction after that. It would be all right to begin reconstruction after the monsoon even in the Terai, where the land had split open and sand had come out.

The earthquake has proved amazing especially to the engineers in our country. It became difficult for them to determine the points to be considered or parts that have to be fortified in further constructions. The reason was that the lesson learnt in one part proved to be wrong in another place. Therefore, the engineers were divided in their opinions. However, despite the differences, a conclusion has been reached by now.

The engineers have reached an agreement unanimously that houses build of reinforced concrete are the best guarantee against earthquakes.<sup>2</sup> Since there are no such

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2 A house made of cement walls with iron beams.

buildings here, it cannot be said with certainty how they would have fared in an earthquake, but examples in foreign countries amply prove the theory. In Japan it was stated the destruction of houses built of bricks was 54 percent in the earthquake of 1923, while only 10 percent of house built of concrete were destroyed. Therefore, it would be desirable to build new houses in concrete as far as possible. Cement can be made cheaply in the Kathmandu Valley. A good engineer of Calcutta by the name of Jardin has stated that there is a great need to make a cement factory. However, as it is costly to make a house with cement, very few people can derive benefit from it. For the general public whose number is great – it is not a beneficial scheme. For those who cannot use materials of good quality but want to carry on repairs in a way they can afford, here is the quoted opinion of an engineer.

#### a. Concerning Small Houses

The weakest parts of the house are side walls and walls (since there is no need to have beams in them). Safety measures include – the *nas* (wallplates) must be long and four or five beams secured with wedges. If there were cracks in the walls built with baked and unbaked bricks, one brick along both sides of the crack should be removed. Mix clay and cow-dung and fill the crack with it.

#### b. Big Houses

Weak parts are the side walls, walls, arch and roof. To save the arch, in which cracks have appeared, cover it with cement or plaster. Wedges must be inserted in the beams in the sidewall. Walls that are 10 feet high and two feet wide need not cause alarm even if they are inclined two or three inches.

The opinion of Mr. Eden quoted above is very clear. Yet as he is a foreigner he may not be quite familiar with our conditions. It may not be possible to carry out his advice fully.

Therefore, the opinion of good native engineer, Capt. Jung Bikram Rana is quoted here. It was found that the houses having these features were prone to damages in case of earthquakes.

- Walls made of unbaked, over-baked or cracked bricks or lined with mud;
- Houses with less width, but with very great height;
- Houses with heavy roof;
- Arches;
- Houses with many doors and windows;
- Houses with the foundation on bad land and the foundation with inadequate width;
- Houses with open space and halls;
- Wings and rooms added later without proper alignment;
- Pillars made of bricks;
- Houses with little width but with a very great length;
- Houses with a lower section in the middle and with tall structures in the corners.

It would be appropriate to give consideration to the following points when building a new house now.

- The foundation should be strong. The depth depends upon the kind of soil. The width should be fully one yard so that the effect of the earthquake would spread all over the ground.
- The brick should be good (the polished one is the best).
- All parts of the house should be interlocked properly, in other words, they should not be separate parts.
- The windows should be placed with adequate space in between.
- Unnecessary decorations or empty spaces should be avoided.
- If possible iron beams and cement should be used in making the house. The walls made with lime plaster are strong too. The cost of lime plaster is higher but less

number of bricks is required. Therefore the cost is cut to some extent.

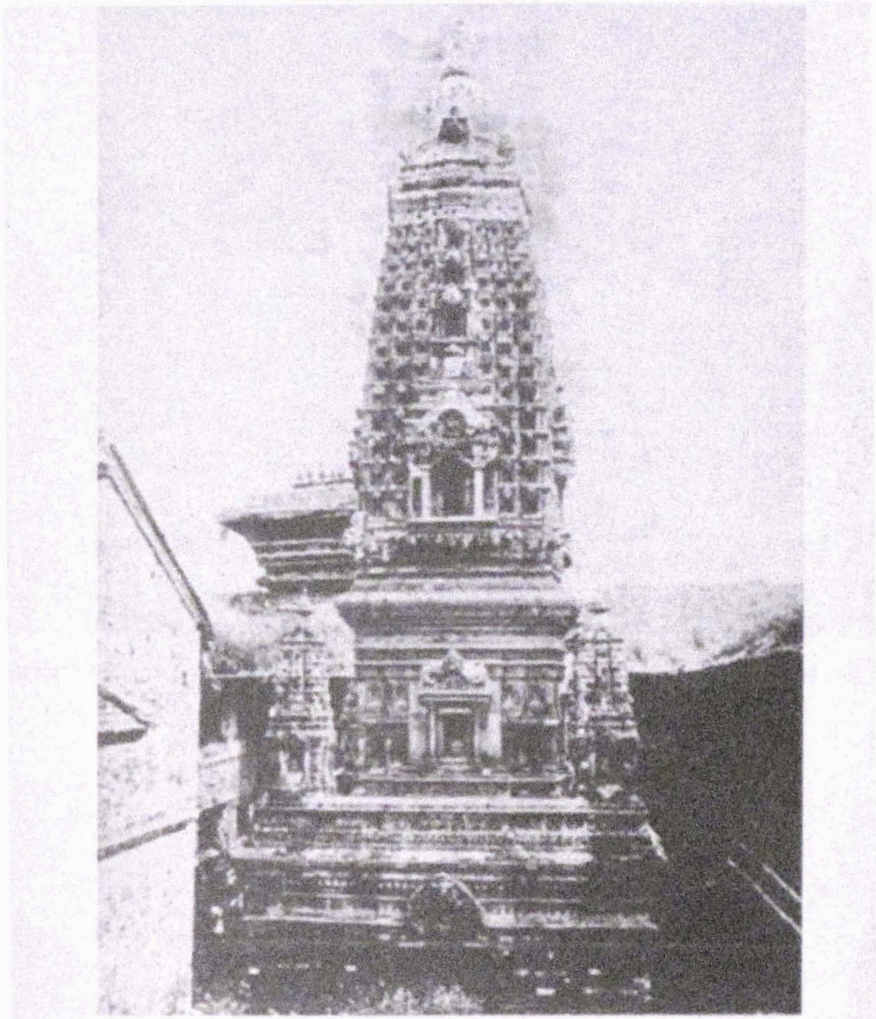
- Wooden pillars are better and stronger than that of bricks.
- The corners in the walls should properly fit together.
- No arches. It is good to place lintels above doors and windows.
- The height of a house can be determined by the materials to be used in its construction. It does not matter if a house built with good quality material is somewhat tall, but the lower the house the better it is.
- The roof should be light as possible. Those who cannot get corrugated iron sheets may use the tin of kerosene oil containers. The tin affords protection from rain.
- The rich may build their house with reinforced concrete or lime plaster and lintels places over doors and windows. Common men may build walls with mud, but the house must be low in height. The poor may build small houses or huts, using light material for the roof.

Our knowledge had increased not only in the construction of houses and mansions but in laying towns too. Japan has shown the way in this matter to the world. They have built better-looking, stronger and bigger cities in the place of those that were destroyed by earthquakes. They have built clean and wider streets in the place of narrow streets and lanes where many lives are lost in earthquakes. Therefore, the Japanese cities now are safer during earthquakes and much healthier and cleaner than before. Japan has shown in a very praiseworthy way that an earthquake provides an excellent opportunity for the reconstruction of cities. Everyone has appreciated it.

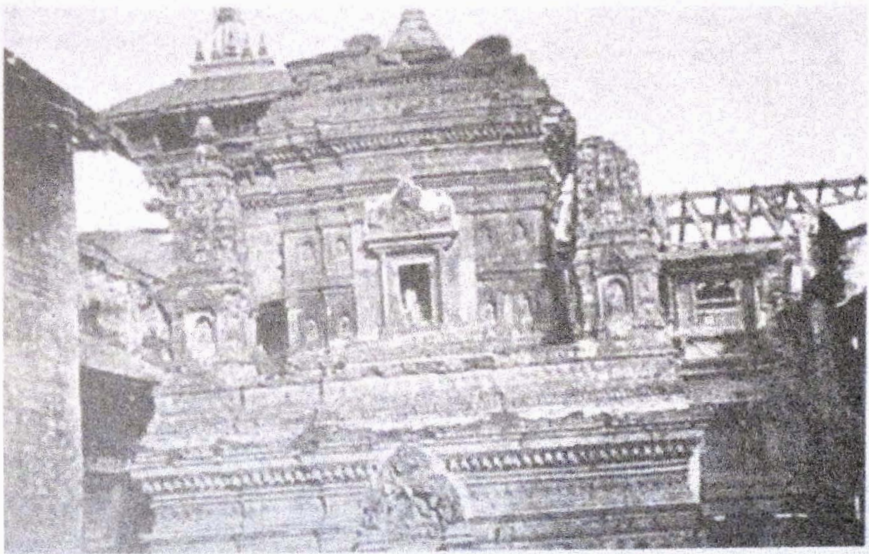
Let me pray that out of the dust of the houses, mansions and cities in our country too, a fine, strong and clean city would arise.







35. The Mahaboudha Temple, Patan, before the earthquake



36. The Mahaboudha Temple, Patan, after the earthquake





37. The temples in the Patan Durbar square before the earthquake



38. Patan Durbar square after the earthquake



39. Degutale Temple, Patan, before the earthquake

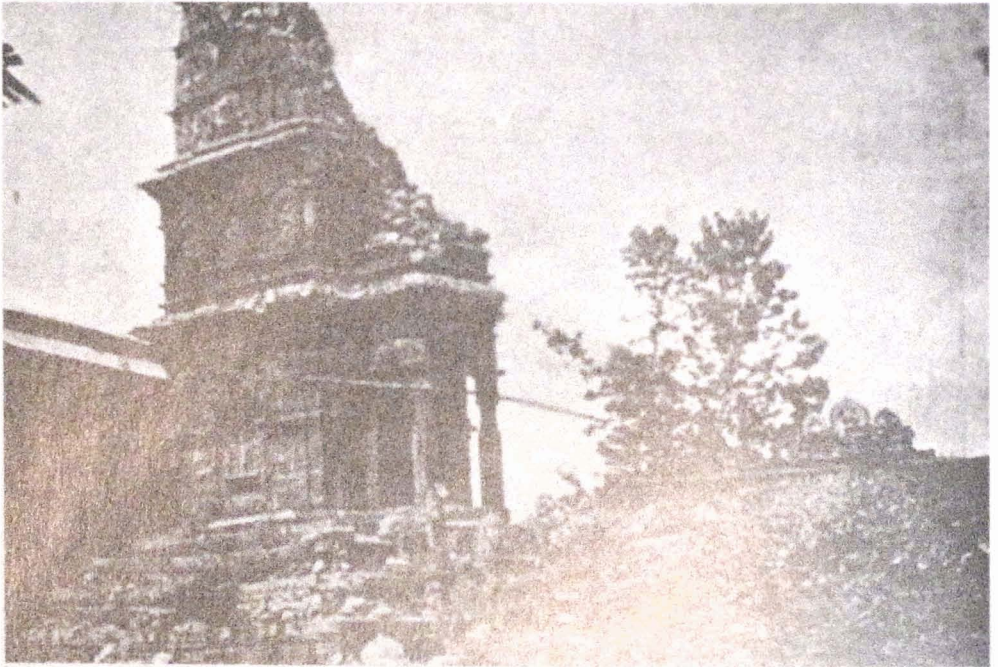


40. Degutale Temple after the earthquake





41. Krishna and Bhishnu Temple, Bhaktapur,  
before the earthquake



42. The temples, after the earthquake



43. Bhaktapur Durbar Square after the earthquake.



# Scientific Tests of the Earthquake

The following is an account of the various aspects of this great earthquake, the cause, the damages done in different parts of Nepal, the areas hit hardest by it, etc. As there is no seismograph here, a scientific delineation was not possible nor record the exact number of tremors. I am, therefore, indebted to foreigners for the account given in this chapter.

In the beginning, let me quote from the report submitted by Mr. J.B. Eden, a famous geologist, who had come to make an evaluation of the earthquake at Nepal Government's request to the British Government. However, as it is concerned with geology and soil tests, the report is quite long. A summary of the same in a simple language is given here (as was reported in the *Gorkhapatra*).

## 1. The Cause of the Earthquake

There are two causes for earthquakes.

- **Related to volcanoes:** When subterranean melting rock, steam and gases try to escape from the ground a kind of waves are set in motion and these cause earthquakes.

These are called volcanic earthquakes and do not cover long distances.

- *Related to geological formation:* The structure of land is formed of layers. Due to the quality of soil some layers become soft and pressed by heavier layers, these layers break down. In the process, a kind of waves is set in motion, resulting in an earthquake. Such earthquakes are related to geological formation. These earthquakes cause widespread destruction and they do occur frequently.

There are no signs of volcanic activity throughout Nepal. A report that an eruption in Taplejung has destroyed all the houses in a village proved to be a rumour. Therefore, the earthquakes in the country and in Bihar were geological in origin. It can be said that Nepal and the province of Bihar are located in an earthquake prone belt. Therefore, it is very essential to take preventive measures against future earthquakes in Nepal.

## 2. An Account of the Destruction in Nepal

### In the Kathmandu Valley

The destruction of the Valley in which the capital of Nepal is located can be divided into three categories:

1. The greatest loss was in the higher grounds to the south-east from Bhaktapur to Lubhu, Sanagaon, Harisiddhi, Bungamati and Khokana. The speed of the tremors in this area was 10.7 feet (3.5 m.) per second.
2. The second zone consists of Kathmandu, Patan, Sakhu and Thankot. Many palatial buildings are located in this zone.
3. The third zone consists of other places, such as Kirtipur, Swayambhu, Pashupati and the neighbouring rocky hills, where not much damage was done. Likewise, little harm was done to Gokarna, Manahara and Sundarijal.



The destruction does not seem to be uniform in the most affected area. In Bhaktapur where the houses stand close together along the streets, if all the six houses in a row were destroyed, elsewhere seven out of nine and two out of five were destroyed. The reason for this has already been mentioned before. The effect of the earthquake depends on the quality of soil. The tremors affect loose sandy soil more than the rocky soil. Most houses built of *телиya* bricks with their edges firmly fixed withstood the shocks quite well. The decorative structures that were showpieces in the palaces were all destroyed. Most houses in the market places were built of bricks, but the walls were not uniformly joined and the roofs as well as the beams do not seem to have been securely held to the walls or wooden beams. It has resulted in their destruction.

### In the Mofussil

The second category of destruction occurred in Siraha and Udaipurgarhi. The land yielded sand in Siraha, but not to the extent as to harm the fields. It appears that if the land is ploughed over, the sand would mix with the soil and do some good to the land. There is much destruction in Udaipurgarhi. As the soil is loose and mixed with sandstone, more destruction could come in the wake of the monsoon. Mt. Everest (the highest peak on earth) is also seen from there. It is not true that the peak is broken. It is a matter of some satisfaction. In eastern Nepal, the wooden tin-roofed paddy godowns at Biratnagar were spared while the houses made of bricks were largely damaged. The beams and walls were not securely held; as a result the structures were weak. In Dhankuta, the hospital, the court and the Bada Hakim's house were destroyed. But in the main market area, no great damage was done, except for small fissures. It is strange that the buildings in the market also built along the same ridge were saved while others were destroyed. To the north west of Dhankuta, at a distance of 5 miles (8 km) and another place 9 miles (14.6 km) away, landslides had wrought great losses. There is still danger of

landslides near Dharapani. Little harm was done to Chainpur. No damage was done also to the neighbouring villages. The eruption of a volcano and extensive damages at Taplejung was found to be only a rumour. The only building destroyed was the jail. Only a few houses in the market had cracks but no great damage was done. The landslides were also old. No fresh landslide occurred.

In addition to the above, the report contained recommendations about the land suitable for building houses and construction of earthquake-proof buildings.<sup>1</sup>

The opinion of another officer, M.L. Former, also a geologist, as given below has confirmed the above mentioned observations.

The 1934 earthquake had its origin in geological structure. Since the earth is a living matter, the land often changes shapes. Some plains become mountains while the mountains are flattened into plains. Although movements take place very slowly, yet they continue all the time. Sometimes these natural changes result in great earthquakes. Sometimes the movement of the land also causes earth to heap up in some places while holes are made elsewhere. The places where the heaps occur are known as 'geosynclinal belt', i.e. where great changes in the land formation take place. There are three such belts in India – 1) The Himalayas, 2) Baluchistan, 3) Assam-Burma border. These areas and the adjoining areas are more earthquake-prone than other places. The recent earthquakes are related to the Himalayan range. The previous great earthquake (1905) in Kangra and Punjab were also related to the Himalayas.<sup>2</sup>

Let me mention here some other scientific facts about the recent earthquakes:

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1 It has already been mention in Part 10.

2 Kangra lies about 600 miles (965 km) to the northwest of Kathmandu.

*The earthquake waves:* The fact that the recent earthquake was caused by the structure of land is known from the above account. There are three degrees of tremors – a) ordinary, b) medium and c) strong. The recent earthquake is of the strong category. It causes the greatest destruction.

*Epicenter:* The epicenter has been found in north Bihar. But it can also be somewhere else too. Since no test has been made, the exact location cannot be ascertained. Yet, according to the geologist, the epicenter cannot be ruled out of Nepal. Mr. Eden has mentioned that the greatest shocks were seen to have hit Bhaktapur and Udaipurgarhi – just as great as at Sitamarhi and Madhubani. Although the depth of the epicenter does not always remain constant, it is believed to be at a depth of between 24 (38 km) and 40 miles (64 km).

*The duration of the earthquake?:* The answer to the question differs from place to place. It is estimated from two to eight minutes in north Bihar. The seismograph in Calcutta showed that the tremors had lasted up to four hours and half. But weak tremors are not detected by men, only the seismograph can record these.

*The areas hit by the earthquake:* It is difficult to make an exact measurement of the area hit by the earthquake. However, as the tremors had reached 1000 miles (1600 km) to the east from the epicenter and presuming that the wave had hit in all the directions at the same rate, the area where the tremors were felt would be 3,150,000 square miles (8.2 million<sup>2</sup>). However, as the tremors did not reach Tibet towards the north and the territories towards the northeast, the area must be somewhat smaller than mentioned above, according to the geologist, Dr. Former. However, it must not be presumed that the earthquake destroyed the whole area. The areas destroyed in Nepal and north Bihar come to about 100,000 square miles (260,000 kms<sup>2</sup>).

*Pre-tremors:* Although small tremors precede a big earthquake sometimes, it does not always come true. The

seismograph in Calcutta recorded three minor tremors on 14th January, a day before the great earthquake – the first at a distance of 550 miles (885 km), the second at 400 miles (644 km) and the third at 300 miles (483 km). These tremors were shown in the map of the great earthquake of 15th January. Dr. Sen of Calcutta provided this map.

- *Post-tremors*: It is considered natural for small tremors to be felt after a great earthquake. These cannot be recorded without a seismograph. The seismograph has recorded 28 minor tremors between 15th and 20th January. It won't be a mistake to guess that the number of tremors felt here were about the same. However, since the tremors are still going on even now, the number must be much higher. After the great earthquake in Tokyo, Japan, in 1923, the number of tremors had reached 1250. After the great earthquake in Assam in 1897, there were 850 small tremors within a period of five months. After the recent earthquake the Calcutta seismograph has estimated the number of small tremors to be about 65 up to the month of Aswin [Nov./Dec. 1934]. It would be true for Nepal also.



## Earthquakes in Nepal in the Past

It appears that great earthquakes had occurred in Nepal in the past also. Although none of them were as great in magnitude as the recent one, many people have expressed an interest in knowing about these early earthquakes. Hence, this chapter. Only few people know about previous earthquakes, including the one in 1833. Therefore it would not be out of place to give a brief account of the earthquakes in the past. However, as we lack chronicles and history of our country, not much can be said on the subject.

The earliest record of an earthquake in Nepal was nearly 675 years ago in 1255. It occurred on *asad sukla tritiya, punarbasu nachhetra, dhurba yoga, sombara* (third month, bright fortnight, third day, Monday), [March 5] Many people died in the wreckage of temples and houses. The ruling king Abhaya Malla was also killed in the earthquake. There were frequent tremors for 15 days.

A great earthquake occurred in 1260. Many people were killed. This occurred during the rule of King Jayadeva.

In the year 1408 on the day of *bhadra sukla 12, uttarashadha nachhetra, sombar* (fifth month light fortnight,

12th day, Monday), a great earthquake occurred. The temple of Machhendranath, many other temples and houses were destroyed. The land was split wide open, causing a great loss. Many lives were also lost. It occurred during the rule of King Shyam Singh.

A catastrophe occurred on *poush krishna astami* (ninth month, dark fortnight, eight day) in the year 1681. A very long comet [probably Halley's] was seen and a strange sound came from the sky, and the people were very frightened. About five months later on *jestha sukla saptami* (second month, light fortnight, second day) a great earthquake occurred during the night. Many buildings were destroyed. The king then was Sri Niwas Malla.

On the day of *dasahara*, in the third *prahar*, in 1810 there were 21 tremors. Houses were destroyed and some lives lost. The temple of Pashupatinath was spared. His Majesty King Grivanyuddha Bikram Shah was on the throne then. There was a rebellion in the Punjab (Simla district now) and Gurkhali Army was deployed to suppress it and to strengthen the administration. It appears that the earthquake had no effect on the war.

In the year 1823 seven planets had come closer in one zodiac and an untoward event was feared. However, after the planets had gone out of zodiac on the day of *yamapanchak* there were 17 tremors, but the loss of life and property was not much. A few months later an epidemic killed many men and cattle. There was a great flood in the month of Magh [Jan./Feb.].

In 1833, on Monday, 28th of August, at 6 p.m., an earthquake lasted for 40 seconds. Another tremor of equal intensity came at 11 p.m. followed by 23 shocks during the night. There were tremors daily for some days. Many houses, mansions and temples were destroyed. Thirty-five years previously His Majesty King Rana Bahadur Shah had made a temple of Jagannath on the edge of the Tundikhal. It was 100 feet tall on a massive plinth. The temple was totally destroyed. General Bhimsen Thapa had two big towers on either side of his mansion. One of them was totally destroyed and the top of

the other fell down. The General's mansion at Bagh Durbar and the mansions of General Ranabir Singh Thapa and General Mathbar Singh Thapa at Lagan in Kathmandu were destroyed. The shocks were felt up to Kuti in the north, to Bijayapur in the east, to Makwanpur in the south and to Gorakhpur in the west. In the Kathmandu Valley most destruction was done at Bhaktapur and Thimi. However, the temple of Pashupati, Guheshwari, Purnachandi, Minnath and Chandeswari at Lalitpur were spared.

During the catastrophe the then king, His Majesty Rajendra Bikram Shah, visited Bhaktapur, accompanied by ministers and kindly distributed food grains and cloths to the victims. It was estimated that 18,000 houses were destroyed throughout the Kingdom, of which 4,214 were in the three cities of the Valley. The image of Balkumari was recovered from the wreckage of the temple 21 days afterwards. During the Dasain festival, only the head-dress and a holy water pot were used as substitute for ritual purposes. Another image was made later on. People lived in the open ground because their houses were damaged. The nobles and their families stayed in tents in their gardens. On the 15th day of the light fortnight of Aswin (the sixth month) [Sept./Oct.] that day, a great flood came and rivers and streams swept away a great deal of rice paddy from the fields. The image of Tika Bhairab at Chapagaon was also swept away by the flood. An account of the earthquake was also published in an English newspaper. Other earthquakes followed in 1835, *asad sudi 5* (third month, dark fortnight 5th day); *bhadra sudi ekadasi* (eleventh day less 13 *ghadi* [hours?]) and again on *aswin krishna astami, roj 6* (sixth month, dark fortnight eighth day, Friday); and on Aswin 12, *roj 2* (sixth month, twelve day, Monday). The earthquake on the last day was quite intensive. Although the earthquake caused a great loss of property, the palaces, mansions and houses were restored as the Nepalese had great courage.

Although there was a great deal of political disturbance after the earthquake, public affairs went on as usual. There was no distress and concern. Within five or seven years, the



houses that were destroyed were replaced by new ones. His Majesty King Rajendra Bikaram Shah put a golden roof in the temple of Pashupati in the year 1840. As all the building materials were available within the country itself, it did not take long to make up the loss caused by the earthquake.

The extent of the previous earthquakes cannot be ascertained. However, the earthquake of 1833 and 1934 had affected the same territories. The 1833 earthquake devastated the east of Trishuli, the Gandaki river in Nepal and the northern part of Bihar in India. This year's earthquake also destroyed the same territories. The 1833 earthquake hit Bhaktapur most. It was the same place again that was hit by this year's earthquake.

Therefore, it appears that the same place in Nepal could be hit during the earthquake in the future. Many specialists have ascertained that the intensity of the earthquake in 1934 was greater than that of 1833. A principal government officer of Bihar (Mr. Narayan Singh) wrote in a newspaper:

We have an account of the earthquake of 1833. Therefore we can say for certain that it was not as strong as this year's earthquake.

A judgement can also be made from the destruction of houses. The number of houses destroyed then was 18,000 whereas at least 207,000 houses were destroyed now.

Many people also question when the next earthquake is going to hit Nepal. But no one seems able to give an answer to it. Since the previous great earthquake in 1833 was followed by the recent one, people are apt to take solace that no great earthquake will come until 100 years later. But it cannot be said that earthquakes come regularly every 100 years.

Before concluding this chapter some of the well known earthquakes in the past 80 years that hit the earth are:

Japan	1855
Naples (Italy)	1857
Japan	1895
Charlestone (South America)	1897

California (America)	1906
Mesina (Europe)	1908
Morisika (Italy)	1914
New Zealand	1921
Japan	1922
Japan	1923

The great earthquakes that occurred in India within a period of 37 years are given below.

Assam	1897
Kangra (Punjab)	1905
Baluchistan	1909
Bengal	1918
Pegu (Burma)	1930
North Bihar	1934

The above list provides some information about the most earthquake prone places on earth.



## APPENDICES



# The Number of the Injured Who were Treated

As the matter of treatment has been mentioned in Part 6, only the number of those who were injured and received treatment is given here.

## A. In the Capital (within the Valley)

1. The list of the injured who were admitted in the hospital

<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Death</i>
Tri-Chandra Military	57	58	21	136	11
Bir (Male)	40	22	10	72	9
Biry (Female)		72	12	84	4
Patan	10	14	5	29	-
Bhaktapur	12	18	10	40	6
Total	119	184	58	361	30

## Injuries

<i>Fracture</i>	<i>Deep Wound</i>	<i>Injury</i>	<i>Tetanus</i>
130	95	124	14

## 2. The number of persons who came to the hospitals for treatment

<i>Military</i>	<i>Bir (Male)</i>	<i>Bir (Female)</i>	<i>Patan</i>	<i>Bhaktapur</i>	<i>Total</i>
4197	1117	420	463	2112	8309

## 3. Treatment in temporary hospitals

<i>Place</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Total</i>
Lubhu-Sanagaun	200	184	10	394
Panga	152	84	33	269
Bungamati-Khokana	322	257	274	853
Kisiphedi	14	26	16	56
Total	688	551	333	1572

## 4. First aid treatment rendered by Doctors

<i>Place</i>	<i>No.</i>
Kathmandu City	228
Patan	131
Bhaktapur	822
Pulchowk	9
Pharping	11
Dharmathali	52
Thecho	30
Harsiddhi	106
Changu	15
Lubhu-Sanagaon	23
Bungamati	13
Total	1440

## 5. First-aid treatment rendered by Army Compounders

<i>Place</i>	<i>No.</i>
Sanagaun-Chapagaun-Khokana	578
Pharping	28
Chorpur-Gundu	27
Bode-Katunje	150
Naikap-Balambu	41
Palwari-Bosan	43

Balalbu–Dahachok	40
Harisiddhi–Godavari	58
Hadigaun	38
Tokhel–Machhegaun–Bosigaun	70
Boudha–Sankhu	75
Sunaguthi	97
Total	1245

## 6. Treatment by Ayurvedic Doctors

<i>Place</i>	<i>No.</i>
Ayurvedic Hospital	309
Patan	1156
Thaibu–Badegaun	84
Bungamati	39
Khokana	38
Sanagaun	49
Naikap–Balambu	44
Kathmandu City	390
Bhaktapur	57
Jawalakhel	19
Harisiddhi	41
Koteshwor–Bhaimal–Chabel	27
Dahachok	14
Miscellaneous	331
Treated by Unani Hakim (Muslim doctors) at various places	306
Total	2926

## 7. Treatment by Earthquake Volunteers

Earthquake Volunteers	1023
Maharaja Servant's Society	886
Total	1909

*(Supplies and equipment were also provided by government)*



## 8. The severely injured brought to the main hospital by Earthquake Volunteer

<i>Place</i>	<i>No. of Persons</i>	<i>No. of persons who didn't come</i>
Naradevi area	10	-
Balambu-Sataungal-Kisipidi	5	6
Harisiddhi-Bodegaun	-	5
Sanagaun-Lubhu	11	2
Thecho	1	-
Patan city	7	10
Thimi-Nakadesh	7	2
Total	41	25

## B. In the Terai

<i>Place</i>	<i>Not Admitted to the Hospital</i>	<i>Admitted to the Hospital</i>	<i>Amount Sanctioned*</i>
Birgunj Hospital	66	1	200
Kataharban	1	-	200
Jhapa	4	-	100
Jaleswor	4	-	200
Biratnagar	2	7	100
Rangali	2	-	100
Sarlahi	82	-	200
Dharan Bazar	50	-	-
Total	211	8	1100

(Amounts were also sanctioned for the hospitals in the west, but as no great damage were done there, expenses were not required.)

## C. In the Hills

### 1. The list of the injured admitted to the health centers

<i>Place</i>	<i>No.</i>
Dhankuta Hospital	9
Bhimphedi	5
Okhaldhunga (East No. 3 Clinic)	200
Dhankuta Clinic	7

Tanahau Bandipur (West No. 3 Clinic)	2
Banepa (East No. 1) Temporary hospital	153
Total	376

## 2. Treatment rendered by Compounders sent from the center

Chisapanigarhi	20
Charikot East No. 1	19
Dhulikhel East No. 1 (to Khadpu)	17
Ramechap East No. 2	24
Jonpur, East No. 1 (to Danduwa)	57
Kulekhani (Chitlang-Kulekhani)	58
Nala, East No. 1 (Nala-Bakalnath)	25
Panauti East No. 1 (Baudol Panauti)	17
Dhunibesi-Deurali	53
Total	290

## Reports Received by Wireless

The news from the outside world after the earthquake first came through wireless on 20th January. The messages as well as others concerning the earthquake received after 22nd January are given here, which give an idea how the news was received late abroad. It appeared that it was only after 24th January that an accurate report was received. The wireless served very well while the wire, telephone and postal services were out of order. However, there was no equipment here to send messages by wireless. Hence, a message could not be sent earlier from here.

### **Jan. 20, 1934 (Calcutta)**

The news about the earthquake in Nepal was received only today. The message was received by a Nepalese officer in Calcutta from the Maharaja of Nepal via heliograph. Many people had feared that the great earthquake must have done great destruction in Nepal also. It has really happened so. The message however only said, 'the shock of the earthquake was very severe. There was a great loss of life and property in the Kathmandu Valley.' Therefore, until a full report is received, anxiety about conditions in Nepal will continue to haunt.

**Jan. 22, 1934 (Calcutta)**

There is a rumour in Gorakhpur that there has been a great loss of life in Nepal due to the earthquake and the house of the English Resident has also been destroyed. The Maharaja of Nepal is camping at Banbasa. An earthquake at a location 250 miles (402 km) from here was recorded today.

**Jan. 23, 1934 (Calcutta)**

The seismograph here recorded an earthquake at about 3 p.m. at a location 1000 miles (1600 km) away. According to the government of Bihar-Orissa, the U.P. Government is considering sending 5500 blankets to the earthquake affected people of Bihar-Orissa. Destruction in the railway factory at Jamalpur as reported earlier was confirmed. A merchant of Lucknow has delivered 500 blankets for relief work. About 6500 men have begun to work until now.

**Jan. 24, 1934 (Calcutta)**

It has been learnt from a Nepalese Government official that the loss in Nepal was not as great as was believed earlier. However, a later wireless message stated that there was a great destruction in the three cities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur and thousands of corpses are lying under the debris of the buildings. The Maharaja of Nepal was on a tour of the western Terai. He wanted to return to the capital immediately upon receipt of the news of the earthquake, but he could not go as the railway lines were broken. Perhaps he is on his way towards Nepal by now. As the place he happens to be is very far from the capital, he has sent men to the capital with instructions to alleviate the sufferings of the people. With the destruction of H.M. the King's palace, two of His Majesty's daughters and five or six maid-servants were killed. One of the grand-daughters of the Maharaja has also died. The wife of Major Hasta Shumsher was buried under a house and the dead body was recovered with great difficulty. Many old buildings were destroyed. The motor-road from Raxual and the telephone line too have been damaged.

A meeting was held here (at Calcutta) yesterday in the Majlisghar (Town Hall) to establish a relief-fund for the earthquake-hit areas in India. A committee was also formed to provide funds and cloths. The meeting was presided over by the Mayor of Calcutta.

**Jan. 27, 1934 (Calcutta)**

The 'Viceroy Relief Fund' was created to provide relief for the earthquake hit areas in India. The Mayor of London also sent up a similar fund in England. Mr. Birla made a donation of Rs. 20,000.00 to the Marwari Relief Society.

**Jan. 29, 1934 A.D. (Calcutta)**

A great earthquake hit the central and southern parts of Mexico (Western America). There was a great loss of life and property. About 100,000 houses were reportedly damaged. A rain has fallen continually in Patna since the night before last, causing great hardship to the people. As it has also been raining in Muzaffarpur people had to seek shelter even in the houses damaged by earthquake.

**Jan. 31, 1934 (Calcutta)**

The seismograph recorded earthquakes as follows:

1. At 2 a.m. about 800 miles (1287 km) away from Calcutta
2. At 5:30 a.m. about 200 miles (322 km) away from Calcutta.

A meeting had been held by the Mayor of London when the earthquake relief fund was created. Many famous men were present in the meeting. Another meeting was to be held after some days, according to a message from England.

The above messages were picked up by Prof. Asuthosh Sen at Tri-Chandra College through wireless. A great demand for the above-mentioned reports could be easily imagined at a time when there was no news at all from the outside world. Besides these, there were also other reports, which were not translated as these had no connection with the earthquake. Before I bring this chapter to an end, I would like to thank Prof. Asuthosh Sen.

## List of Donors to the 'Earthquake Relief Fund'

An 'Earthquake Relief Fund' was established on 1st March, 1934 in Nepal. An account of Nepalese Rupees (in cash) 1,075,104.65, and in Indian Currency notes 24,800.00 and in coins 1,472.00 were received by the month of Phalgun [Feb-March] in 1935, as follows:

	<i>Nepalese Rupees</i>	<i>Indian Note</i>	<i>Currency- coins</i>
Within Nepal	1,053,925.00	3,100.00	1195.00
From India	20,979.65	10,270.00	139.00
From England	200.00	2,575.00	123.00
From Japan	0.00	8,855.00	15.00
From other countries	0.00	0.00	0.00

The names of donors are as follows:

Nepal

	<i>Nepalese Rupees</i>	<i>Indian Note</i>	<i>Currency Coin</i>
H.H. Maharaja Joodha Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana	300,000.00	0.00	0.00
H.H. the Maharani	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
H.H the Maharaja of Sita Bhawan	15,000.00	0.00	0.00
Commander-in-Chief General Padma Shumsher J.B. Rana	25,000.00	0.00	0.00
The General, Western Command	51,000.00	0.00	0.00
Rani (The General, Western Command)	25,000.00	0.00	0.00
The youngest daughter of General, Western Command	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
The Rani of Banshi	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
The Junior Rani of Patan	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
The Rani of Samod	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
The Nepali Rani of Charkhari	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
The Nepali Bahurani of Khajurgaon	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
General Babar Shumsher J. B. Rana, Eastern Command and his family	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
General Kaiser Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana, Southern Command and his Rani	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
General Singha Shumsher J. B. Rana, Rs. 70,000 and Shri Panch Second Shahjyadi, Rs. 30,000	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
General Krishna Shumsher, Rs. 60,000 and Sri Panch the youngest Shahjyadi, Rs. 30,000 and Mainya Chhatra Rajeshwari Devi Rs. 10,000	100,000.00	0.00	0.00

Lt. General Shanker Shumsher J.B. Rana and his Rani	100,000.00	0.00	0.00
The Maharani of Bajhang, Elder sister of General, Western Command	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Gururaj Hemraj Panditjyu	4,000.00	0.00	0.00
Bada Kaji Marich Man Singh	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
Guru Purohit Bhubaneshwar Prasad Upadhyaya, Tansen	0.00	400.00	0.00
Kaji Ratna Man, Subba Gunja Man and Kharidar Tirthaman	1,019.00	0.00	0.00
Sardar Manik Lal Rajbhandari, Kwalakhu, Patan	175.00	0.00	0.00
Sardar Umadev Pant, Kamalpokhari	200.00	0.00	0.00
Wife of Sardar Umadev Pant	100.00	0.00	0.00
Mir Subba Pashupati Bhakta Pant, Gairidhara	100.00	0.00	0.00
Mir Subbha Bhaktalal Rajbhandari, Kwalakhu, Patan	125.00	0.00	0.00
Khardar Suryalal Rajbhandari	35.00	0.00	0.00
Mukhia Pursottamlal Rajbhandari, Kwalakhu, Patan	24.00	0.00	0.00
Kharidar Guhekali Bhakta Pant, Gairidhara	25.00	0.00	0.00
Pandit Padma Nath Pant, Bhurunkhel	25.00	0.00	0.00
Rana Modjang, Udaipur	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
Subba Narajung, Sherjung, Dirgha Jung Gurung Butaul	0.00	800.00	0.00
Babu Saheb Mussoorie Shumsher J.B. Rana	0.00	0.00	300.00
Babu Saheb Narendra Shumsher J.B. Rana	0.00	0.00	295.00
Babu Saheb Bahadur Shumsher J.B. Rana	0.00	0.00	300.00



Babu Sahib Jagat Shumsher J.B. Rana	0.00	0.00	300.00
Charkha Pracharak Tuls Meher	5.00	0.00	0.00
Commanding Colonel Ganga Bahadur Basnyat Chhetri, Chhetrapati	500.00	0.00	0.00
Lt. Col. Narsingh Bahadur Basnyat Chhetri, Chhetrapati	100.00	0.00	0.00
Capt. Yegya Bahadur Basnyat, Chhetrapati	25.00	0.00	0.00
Raja Jaya Prithvi Bahadur Singh	0.00	600.00	0.00
Com. Col. Chandra Jung Thapa Chhetri	200.00	0.00	0.00
Jivnath Shrestha Kwabahal, Patan	5.00	0.00	0.00
Salipha, the Dware of the late H.H. Maharaja Chandra Shumsher	1000.00	0.00	0.00
Kharidar Baburam Upadhyaya, Sinamugal	5.00	0.00	0.00
Com. Col. Kirtiman Khatri Chhetri, Gyaneshwar	50.00	0.00	0.00
Capt. Balkrishna Shumsher J.B. Rana	100.00	0.00	0.00
Kharidar Chandralal Rajbhandari, Kwalakhu, Patan	30.00	0.00	0.00
The Nepalese residents of G.A.P. Ranchi, care of Sardar Bahadur Tiku Singh Thapa	0.00	300.00	0.00
Capt. Mukunda Bahadur Basnyet Chhetri, Chhetrapati	50.00	0.00	0.00
Maj. Narmadan Thapa, Pakanajol	27.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1,053,925.00	3100.00	1195.00

## India

Raja Pashupati Pratap Singh, Bansi	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
Raja Rao Udaysingh Patna	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Rawalji Sangram Singh, Samod	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Ganapat Lal, Haiderabad	0.00	0.00	50.00
D & Wandex	0.00	0.00	81.00
Indraprastha Sewa Mandali Co.	0.00	245.00	5.00
Gulav Co. Karachi	0.00	1000.00	0.00
Durga Prasad, Deputy Collector, UP, Gazipur	0.00	100.00	0.00
Sahu Hajarimal Marwari, Makhan Tole	5001.00	0.00	0.00
Dairam Marwari	51.00	0.00	0.00
Widowed daughter-in-law of Sahu Hajarimal Marwari, Makhan Tole	1001.00	0.00	0.00
Dewalram Marwari	45.00	0.00	0.00
Maniram Marwari	41.00	0.00	0.00
Suraj Prasad Marwari	41.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Haridukhari Marwari	35.00	0.00	0.00
Shivadhariman Marwari	31.00	0.00	0.00
Hajaram Marwari	31.00	0.00	0.00
Ghasiram Marwari	21.00	0.00	0.00
Ram Chandra Marwari	25.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Tuiram Marwari	151.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Ramratna Marwari, Indrachowk	201.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Chunilal Sagaral Marwari, Makhan Tole	151.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Narayandas Marwari, Indrachowk	151.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Chimamram Marwari, Bhedasingh	21.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Jamundhar Marwari, Indrachowk	21.00	0.00	0.00

Wife of Sahu Mahabir Bhedasingh	501.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Purnamal Marwari, Bhedasingh	501.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Najarmal Marwari, Indrachowk	151.00	0.00	0.00
Shau Ghanashyam Das Marwari, Indrachowk	101.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Radhakrishna Ram Jivan Marwari, Makhan	101.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Suryamal Marwari, Dillibazar	21.00	0.00	0.00
Pandit Ranjilal Marwari, Indrachowk	21.00	0.00	0.00
Giridharilal Marwari, Indrachowk	51.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Vishanth Marwari, Bhedasingh	501.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Rameshewar Marwari	301.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Harinarayan Marwari, Indrachowk	2501.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Ramkarandas, Kedarnath Marwari Bhedasingh	2101.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Jamunadhar Marwari, Indrachowk	201.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Natthumal Marwari, Indrachowk	201.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Kusaliram Marwari, Indrachowk	151.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Mukharam Marwari, Indrachowk	201.00	0.00	0.00
Musara Bagaramkalawar, Makhan Tole	251.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Meghraj Pyarelal Marwari, Bhedasingh	51.00	0.00	0.00
Gigaram Marwari Brahman, Indrachowk	21.00	0.00	0.00
Rawal Subrahmanya Shastri Bhatta, Priest of Pashupatinath	59.40	0.00	0.00

Bishnu Shastri Bhatta, Priest of Pashupatinath	6.25	0.00	0.00
Bithal Shastri Bhatta, Priest of Pashupatinath	5.00	0.00	0.00
Narayan Shastri, Priest of Pashupatinath	10.00	0.00	0.00
B.D.K. Narayan Shastri Bhatta, Priest of Basuki Narayan	25.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Baldevdas Hanuman Prasad Marwari, Indrachowk	1101.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Jugalkishor, Kuluram Marwari, Indrachowk	301.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Bishweshwar Lal Marwari, Makhan Tole	21.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Jagatram Marwari Makhan Tole	21.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Rishiram Marwari, Indrachowk	21.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Bhuramal Marwari, Indrachowk	101.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Krishna Narayan Marwari, Indrachowk	351.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Brijlal Marwari, Indrachowk	351.00	0.00	0.00
Abdul Rajak Miyan, Chhetrapati	25.00	0.00	0.00
Thakuram Mahabir Prasad Kalwar, Indrachowk	301.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Ramphal Gyaniram, Indrachowk	225.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Khub Lal Ramkanu, Indrachowk	31.00	0.00	0.00
Indian Copper Corporation Ltd. Singapore Indian note and currency	0.00	825.00	3.00
Justice S.C. Mallick Judge, High Court Calcutta, Indian note	0.00	100.00	0.00
Sahu Bishnu Shah Gopal Ram Kalwar, Indrachowk	225.00	0.00	0.00
Master Mrityunjaya Sen, Jawalakhel	25.00	0.00	0.00

Prof. Sudhir Kumar Chaudhari, T.C. College	25.00	0.00	0.00
Prof. Ashutosh Ganguli, T.C. College	25.00	0.00	0.00
Khardar Bishnu Lal Biharilal	50.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Srikrishna Ambarlal Marwari, Indrachowk	401.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Bakshiram Narsingh Das Marwari, Indrachowk	351.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Parsuram Makhanlal Marwari, Indrachowk	201.00	0.00	0.00
Shanker Marwari, son of Sahu Bhola, Indrachowk	1101.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Ramananda Marwari, Indrachowk	25.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Rajlal Kalwar, Makhan Tole	125.00	0.00	0.00
Phulchansa, Baburam Kalwar, Makhan Tole	251.00	0.00	0.00
Sitaram Hariram Kanu, Makhan Tole	125.00	0.00	0.00
Sahu Kaluram Raghurath Marwari, Makhan Tole	125.00	0.00	0.00
Dwaridut Prasad Awadhakishor Kalawari, Makhan Tole	21.00	0.00	0.00
Total	20,879.65	10,270.00	139.00

## England

	<i>Indian Note</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Currency Coin</i>	<i>Nepalese Rupees</i>
Lt. Col. C.T. Dax British Envoy	500.00	0.00.00	0.00	0.00
Mr. Price Canton, British Consul General	50.00	0.00.00	0.00	0.00
Col. Willy, Hony. Recruiting Officer, Gorakhpur	150.00	0.00.00	0.00	0.00
Lt. Col. E.C. Brown Gorkha Rifles	0.00	0.00.00	101.00	0.00

Miss Lily Pennent Oldfield	0.00	0.00.00	14.00	0.00
Mr. Ent Bumford Banaras	365.00	0.00.00	2.00	0.00
Mr. R.G. Kilbourne	250.00	0.00.00	0.00	0.00
Mr. N.E. Penny England	0.00	1.01.00	0.00	0.00
Sir John Campbell, England	0.00	3.03.00	0.00	0.00
Mrs. Wickham England	0.00	1.10.00	0.00	0.00
Mrs. Madan, England	0.00	2.00.00	0.00	0.00
Major E.J. Luggard, England	0.00	0.05.00	0.00	0.00
R.K. England	0.00	2.00.00	0.00	0.00
Col. L.W.E. Watt, England	0.00	1.01.00	0.00	0.00
Miss B.R. Evans, England	0.00	2.00.00	0.00	0.00
Mr. & Mrs. S.F. Armsby, England	0.00	25.00.00	0.00	0.00
Anon, England	0.00	2.10.00	0.00	0.00
M.E.L. England	0.00	2.02.00	0.00	0.00
E.F. Batton, England	0.00	1.01.00	0.00	0.00
Punghill Parish Church, England	0.00	10.00.00	0.00	0.00
Lt. Col. H.E. Drake Brackman, England	0.00	1.00.00	0.00	0.00
Maj. Gen. Nigel Woodyat, England	0.00	1.01.00	0.00	0.00
Mr. Hazelgyadar, England	45.00	0.00.00	5.00	0.00
Mr. W.H.J. Wilkinson, England	0.00	0.00.00	0.00	200.00
Mr. Alfredwant, England	100.00	0.00.00	0.00	0.00
Mr. Kenneth Keymar, England	330.00	0.00.00	1.00	0.00
Mr. Enlapowet, London, England	40.00	0.00.00	0.00	0.00
Total	1830.00	55.14.00	123.00	200.00

Note: £ 55.14.00 = Indian Note 745.00, and therefore,  
total Notes = 2575.00

## Japan

	<i>Indian Note</i>	<i>Currency coin</i>
Harada Society for Goodists, Tokyo	1180.00	3.50
Yokohama Municipality and Cotton Spinners Association, Japan	2360.00	6.50
Tomoha Co., Osaka	20.00	0.00
Japanese Merchants & School , c/o Japanese Consul, Calcutta	2295.00	5.00
Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Indo-Japanese Assoc. Eastern Cultural Society and Buddhist Union	3000.00	0.00
Total	8855.00	15.00

\* About Rs. 5000.00 had been donated from our country for the Earthquake Relief Fund during the earthquake of 1923.

[Note: The price of gold in 1934 was about \$35.00 per ounce]

## Earthquake Volunteers

A brief description of the selfless services rendered by them has already been given in Part 7. The names of those who served the sufferers under me during the painful days are given below:

Headmaster Rudra Raj Pandit, M.Sc

Prof. Khadananda Sharma, M.Sc

Pandit Prem Raj

Shesh Raj

Devi Bikram Rana

Ananta Chandra

Mahabir Prasad

Birendra Prasad Shah

Chuda Prasad

Basant Bahadur

Purna Bahadur Shrestha

Master Ishwari Prasad

Yegya Prasad Shah

Pusker Nath

Gopalji

Bishnu Dev

Siddhi Charan

Jagadish Prasad

Samba Dev

Digbijay Raj

Krishna Prasad Shrestha

Ganga Bikram

Gokul Krishna

Ram Prasad Tandukar

Jivnath Lohani

Hiranya Bhakta

Ambika Prasad

Yegya Prasad Ghimere

Tirtha Raj

Gaddi Ram



Tanka Bilas	Siddhi Lal
Prem Prasad Tandukar	K. Muktinath
Master Chandra Lal	Basanta Lal
Dibya Dev	Master Dev Bir, M.A.
Gopal Pande	Master Chandika Lal
Sambhu Prasad	Narendra Mani, M.A., B.Sc
Kedar Bista	Master Khadga Man
Gobardhan Lal	Master Mohan Dhoj
Krishna Prasad Khatri	Master Khadga Dhoj
Govind Bahadur	Master Lal Bahadur
Gokul Man Shrestha	Prof. Bodh Bikram, M.A.
Prof. Asuthosh Sen, M.Sc.	Mukunda Nath
Prof. Asuthosh Ganguli, M.A., B.L.	Dilliraman
Master Rudra Das	Tirtha Nath
Prof. Bhairab Bahadur, M.A.	Amrit Prasad
Master Netra Nath, B.A.	Ram Bahadur Thapa
Krishna Gopal Vaidya	Kesharnarsingh Joshi
Gokul Man	Brisha Bahadur
Radha Krishna	Jayananda
Ram Sharan	Ram Lal
Chandra Purna	Kedar Man Pradhan
Ratna Bahadur Manandhar	Gyan Bahadur
Hem Bahadur	Gopal Man
Shyam Bahadur	Padma Bahadur
Ram Prasad Shrestha	Siddhi Lal
Ratna Lal	Rameshwar Lal
Mitra Nath	Bhabani Prasad
Master Gyan Prasad	Prem Lal
Tulsi Lal	Prof Narayan Bahadur, M.A.
Totra Raj Pande	Master Parthamani, B.A.
Yegya Dev	Master Tulsi Prasad, B.A.
Master Durga Prasad	Girvan Bikram
Chandra Bahadur Basnyat	Balaram Pal
Ram Gopal Vaidya	Batu Prasad Tiwari
Tarananda Vaidya	Subarna Raj
Lagat Bahadur	Ram Prasad Amatya
Nanda Lal	Durga Man Pradhan
Raunak Man	Rohini Lal
Dwarika Bahadur	Dil Raj Upreti
Laxmanpal Vaidya	Gopi Madhab

## Accomplishments Since the Publication of the First Edition

Let me state here what has been done since the publication of the first edition.

The repairs and reconstructions of the houses belonging to the public and the government as well as the temples are going on. As most houses within the capital belonging to the public have become somewhat habitable a special attention is given now to the reconstructions of old temples and buildings. The temples and public shelters are being repaired by the members of the *guthi* as the fund became available to them. In some of the temples records of previous construction have been found which made the reconstruction easy. It further made it possible to give the temple a resemblance to its former structure and the knowledge of a lost art has been restored. For example, the temple of Mahaboudha at Patan had the record of the construction in 1552 including a mould of the bricks.<sup>1</sup>

Four of the storeys of the tower near the Tundikhel in Kathmandu had remained after the earthquake. The lower

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1 The bricks of the temple look very fine.

storeys have been demolished and the tower has been rebuilt. The cost of bamboo scaffolding for the same has come to thousands of rupees. A matter of great glory is a broad, new road being built from Hanuman Dhoka to the Tundikhel, on both sides of which suitable buildings are being constructed.

The road is going to be modern one with sewage pipes. The construction of the road where there was previously a very dense settlement is a matter of pride for the city. In the suburbs the roads are being widened and provided with footpaths. In Bhaktapur too the structures attached to the houses have been removed and the street made wide and open. The city appears more spacious now.

The temples and other buildings are being rebuilt. However, it is going to take a longer time as the work requires especially skilled workers. Some of these buildings have already been completed. Those reconstructed include the Palace of 55 Windows at Bhaktapur and the Krishna Temple near it as well as the stone elephant at Ranipokhari, some other temples in the neighbourhood and the Hanuman Dhoka Palace.

Most houses and palatial buildings have been rebuilt. However, as many of them had to be first demolished to the foundation and then built, it was natural to require more time and money. The Jawalakhel Durbar, Laxmi Niwas at Maharajgunj and the mansions at Bhatbhateni and Pulchowk have been rebuilt in a different style rather than before. Some of the mansions that seem to have been but slightly damaged had to be torn apart at many places and rebuilt. Babar Mahal and Singha Mahal fall into this category. The Gol Baithak of Thapathali and other old palaces as well as the houses belonging to the nobles have been taken apart to the foundations. Many of the owners of such buildings built their houses in different locations. The result is the emergence of modern buildings in a number of places.

The total amount in the Earthquake Relief Fund has come to Nepal Rs. 1,075,106.65, Indian Rs. 25,845.00 notes and Rs. 1486.50 coins

The government has made a new arrangement so that the people who wanted to rebuild their houses damaged by the earthquake can have the supplies at a reasonable price.

- The government to make available on sale 12,000 pieces of timber from the woods of Godavari and Nagarjun to the public of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Patan;
- A contractor to be authorized to cut down 13,000 pieces of timber from the Tunkharka forest in the hills and the Bhaktapur Brigade to be allowed to sell the same at the rate quoted by the contractor;
- As the masons, carpenters and blacksmiths of Bhaktapur are asking for increased wages, a list of all these workers has been prepared. One third of these workers are employed for official purpose and two-thirds are sent by the Control Branch upon the request of the public. The wages for these workers have been fixed as follows:

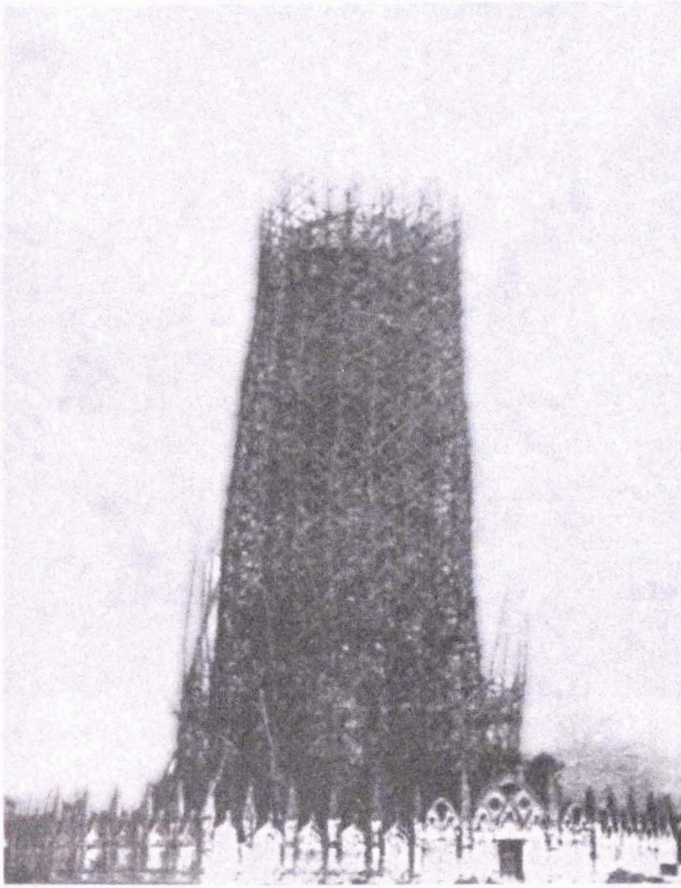
	<i>Government Works</i>		<i>Public Work</i>
	<i>From [Kartik to Chaitra]</i>	<i>From [Baishakh to Aswin]</i>	<i>On all months</i>
First class Carpenter	0.60	0.72	0.60
Second class Carpenter	0.48	0.60	0.48
Third class Carpenter	0.32	0.48	0.32
First class Mason, Blacksmith, Stone Mason	0.60	0.68	0.60
Second class Mason	0.48	0.56	0.48
Third class Mason	0.32	0.44	0.32
First class House Painters	0.60	0.64	0.60
Second class House Painters	0.48	0.52	0.48
Third class House Painters	0.32	0.40	0.32

The control of wages was initiated first in Bhaktapur as it was evidently found necessary in the circumstances.

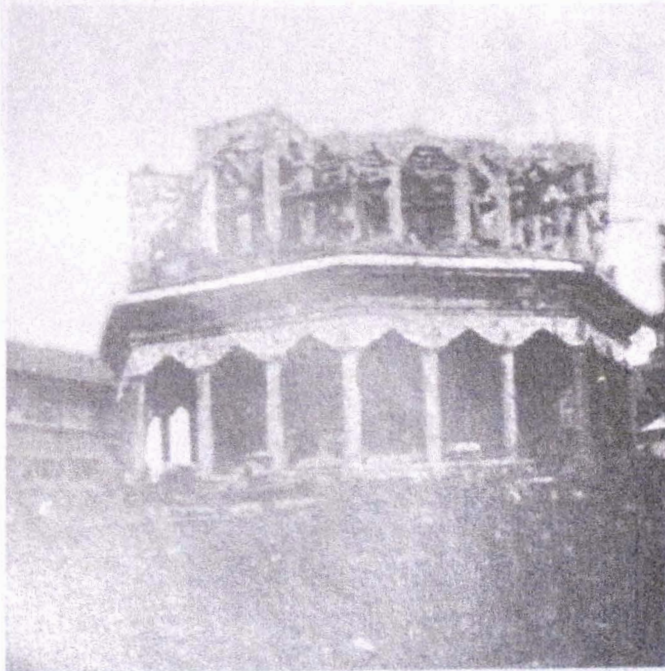
Earthquakes have destroyed big buildings and temples. However, many building have arisen from the ground, thanks to the efforts made by men. My money went into another pocket and someone else's money came into my pocket. Except from the payment made for foreign goods and wages paid to foreign workers, the resources of the country have remained within the country itself and we see its beneficial effect. This is a good lesson learnt from the earthquake.

The task of reconstruction is gradually becoming lighter now. It is also hoped that after a few years the wound of the earthquake would be healed completely. Let me welcome that day soon and with that wish I am stopping my pen.

[1935]



44. Dharara Tower under repair



45. Chyasu Temple, Patan, under repair





46. New Road from Hanuman Dhoka palace to Tundikhel under construction



47. Sewage pipes being laid at New Road







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**The Great Earthquake  
in Nepal (1934 A.D.)**

**Brahma Shumsher Jung  
Bahadur Rana**

*Translated by Kesar Lall*

History



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