

# **NABHA AFFAIRS**

**1912 to 1917**

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**1912 to 1917**

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

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OFFER OF £5,000 ON KING'S BIRTHDAY

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Mussoorie,  
27th May, 1912.

MY FRIEND,

I am writing to you to-day on a matter which I have long cherished in my heart. It is a patent fact that His Majesty King George, the Emperor of India, is reverently loved by every Indian from the Prince to the peasant. His Majesty's amiable manners and magnificent boons conferred upon the princes and peoples of India alike at the felicitous Coronation Darbar of Delhi have particularly and permanently won their hearts and they are ready to do anything for their beneficent King-Emperor. As a tribute of gratitude and true devotion I humbly beg to offer £5,000 on the happy occasion of His Majesty's birthday, the 3rd June, 1912, being the first after his safe and successful journey to India and back to England, which has been marked with such brilliant and far-reaching results. This sum may be disposed of in any way His Majesty thinks best. I request you, therefore, that this matter may kindly be placed before the higher Authorities for submission to and approval of our revered King-Emperor, and that the announcement may be made on the happy and auspicious day.

Trusting that you are in the enjoyment of good health,

I am,  
Your Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

To

C. H. Atkins, Esq., I.C.S.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States and Bahawalpur, Chail.

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BRANCH LIBRARY  
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Nabha House,  
Simla,  
May 29th, 1912.

MY FRIEND,

I have received Your Highness' letter of 27th May offering a sum of £ 5,000 to be devoted as His Majesty the King-Emperor may decide. I am forwarding the offer at once but I fear that it will not be possible to obtain His Majesty's acceptance in time for announcement on the 3rd June.

Allow me to express my own appreciation of this mark of Your Highness' esteem and devotion to His Majesty.

Trusting Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I am,  
Your Highness' Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) C. H. Atkins.

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Mussoorie,

Dated 31st of May, 1912.

MY FRIEND,

I duly received yesterday your letter of the 29th instant and telegraphed to you that His Majesty's acceptance may kindly be obtained by cable. I hope you have kindly moved the Government accordingly and that it would still be possible to make the announcement on the 3rd June. The decision with regard to the form to which the sum may be devoted may be made afterwards.

Trusting that you are in the enjoyment of good health,

I am,  
Your Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

To

C. H. Atkins, Esq., I.C.S.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States and Bahawalpur, Chail.

Confidential D. O. No. 2124.

Chail,

Dated the 12th of June, 1912.

MY FRIEND,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your offer of a sum of £5,000 to His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday, the money to be spent as His Majesty may direct.

In reply, I am to say that the Government of India appreciates Your Highness' generous intentions, but regret their constitutional inability to communicate this offer from you as Chief of Nabha *while your status as Chief remains in doubt pending Your Highness' formal investiture with Ruling Powers.*

Trusting that Your Highness is in good health,

I remain,  
Your Highness' Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) C. H. Atkins.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwindar Bahadur,  
Chief of Nabha State, Mussoorie.

Confidential.

Mussoorie,

25th June, 1912.

MY FRIEND,

I was surprised to receive your letter, dated the 12th instant. I am really sorry to learn that the Government have been unable to forward my

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humble offer of £ 5,000 to His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, which I made on His Majesty's first birthday, after his safe and successful journey to India and back to England. It is indeed distressing to think that a plain question about a formal procedure pending between the Government and the Nabha Darbar should have interfered in my showing devotion and loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor.

Trusting you are in good health,

I am,  
Your Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

To

C. H. Atkins, Esq., I.C.S.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States  
and Bahawalpur, Chail.

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No. 21/C

Camp Naushehra,  
Dated the 8th of January, 1913.

MY FRIEND,

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor desires me to enquire if it could be convenient to Your Highness to receive a visit from him towards the end of February.

As Your Highness is doubtless aware, His Honour's tenure of office terminates in May, and Sir Louis would be glad of an opportunity of paying a last visit to the Phulkian Chiefs in their own houses.

If the proposal meets with Your Highness' approval I am to suggest that the visit to Nabha should be on the 25th and 26th of February.

On hearing from Your Highness the exact times of arrival and departure will be submitted.

Trusting Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,  
Your Highness' Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) C. H. Atkins.

To

H. H. Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwinder Bahadur,  
Chief of Nabha.

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The Palace, Nabha,  
11th January, 1913.

MY FRIEND,

I have just received your letter of the 8th instant. You will remember I explained to you verbally on the 7th ultimo when you paid a visit to Nabha that I should be touring in my State during the months of February and March. Therefore I much regret that it will not be convenient or possible for me to receive a visit from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor here as suggested.

Trusting you are in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I am,  
Your Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

To

C. H. Atkins, Esq., I.C.S.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States  
and Bahawalpur,  
Bahawalpur.

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The Residency, Patiala,

4—2—'13.

MY FRIEND,

I communicated the purport of Your Highness' letter of January 11th to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, and am directed by him to explain to Your Highness that it is the established custom for the retiring Lieutenant-Governor to pay formal visits of farewell to the Chiefs of the Phulkian States, and that in pursuance of this custom His Honour proposes to pay visits to Patiala and Jind and is desirous of showing his friendship and interest in the Nabha State by visiting its Chief also. Your Highness' father, the late Sir Hira Singh used to welcome such opportunities of meeting the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, and used always to be the first to proffer his hospitality on such occasions. The same may be said of the late Maharaja's careful observance of the custom, which has hitherto prevailed, of the Punjab Chiefs paying a visit to Lahore to take a formal farewell of the departing Lieutenant-Governor, and to welcome the incoming Lieutenant-Governor at the Capital of the Province. If, however, on this occasion His Honour only pays visits to Patiala and Jind, the absence of the usual marks of courteous friendliness in the case of the third Member of the Phulkian confederacy will be most marked, and will certainly form the subject of comment which is very unlikely to take a form favourable to Your Highness. His Honour further points out his inability to reconcile Your Highness' present attitude with the professions made by Your Highness at the time when it seemed probable that he would be able to visit the State to instal Your Highness, to the effect that the ceremony should be postponed until the period of mourning for His late Highness had elapsed, as otherwise Your Highness would be unable to entertain the Lieutenant-Governor in a suitable manner.

Sir Louis Dane is particularly surprised at Your Highness' present attitude after the very friendly conversations which you had with him at Delhi, the more so as His Honour altered his plans largely to suit Your Highness' convenience as he understood that Your Highness' tour was to last from the middle of January to the middle of February.

His Honour, considering that the discourteous tone of Your Highness' reply arises only from inexperience in affairs of State, feels sure that Your Highness has not fully considered the position, or realised the construction that will be put on a refusal to receive the Lieutenant-Governor on the visit he proposed to pay the State.

Sir Louis Dane thinks that before the matter becomes public property Your Highness would be well advised if the old and tried officials of the Nabha State were consulted in regard to it—officials who are aware of the feelings Your Highness' father would have entertained on such a subject—and if Your Highness were to follow the advice His Honour is sure they would give if consulted.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,

Your Highness' Sincere Friend,

(Sd.) C. H. Atkins.

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,

Malwindar Bahadur,

of Nabha.

The Palace, Nabha,  
11th February, 1913.

MY FRIEND,

Yours dated the 4th under cover bearing postmark the 7th has been received by me on the 8th instant.

In reply I am pained and surprised that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor should have thought that my answer of the 11th January to yours of the 8th of that month was discourteous in tone. I can assure Sir Louis Dane, if any assurance is needed, that my feelings towards him have not undergone any change since I had the pleasure, as recalled by him, of having those very friendly conversations with him at Delhi only a few weeks ago.

I read your letter to me of the 8th January as one of *inquiry*, whether I approved of His Honour's proposal to pay a last visit to my State; and if so, whether the 25th and 26th of this month, would suit me to receive him here. Having regard to the nature of the proposed visit and of the inquiry I did not construe the expression of that desire as tantamount to a *command*; and I am sure that Sir Louis Dane himself would have been the last to wish me to take it in that light. Under the circumstances I sent you a matter-of-fact reply, regretting that as I would be touring in my State in February-March it would not be convenient or possible for me to receive His Honour as suggested.

I am at a loss to understand on what information the Lieutenant-Governor altered his plans to suit, as alleged, my convenience; for I am not aware of having said or done anything which could be construed into a declaration inconsistent with what I have just stated regarding my official tour.

I regret I fail further to see any intelligible connection between my desire, expressed to you as far back as the 1st February last year, for one purpose that the ceremony of my formal recognition be postponed for a year (as I would not be able before then to entertain His Honour in a suitable manner) and my inability to proffer him my poor hospitality under the present circumstances.

With regard to the suggestion that I would be well advised to consult my old and tried officials in this matter before it becomes public property, I may be permitted to state that I myself am no less aware than any of them of the feelings my father would have entertained on such a subject, and I can again assure Sir Louis Dane that I have none other than those which my father himself would have entertained, if alive, for I am indebted to him and to him alone for all my training in the affairs of State from the time I arrived at the age of understanding.

I appreciate and value highly the kind expression of His Honour's desire to show his friendship and interest in the Nabha State by paying the suggested visit; but while grateful for that friendship and that interest, I can only express my regret the more for my present inability to offer him my poor hospitality, and can only hope that it may be possible for me to wish him farewell on the eve of his departure.

Lastly, I need only add that if the matter becomes public property, as you apprehend, it will be through no fault of mine. For, far from resorting to any such course, I have hitherto, in dealing with much graver issues affecting my State and the vested rights of its Rulers, refrained studiously from

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doing or saying anything which would make such matters public.

Trusting you are in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I am,  
Your Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

To

C. H. Atkins, Esq., I.C.S.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States  
and Bahawalpur.

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Copy of Telegram No. 11—H., dated 15-5-1913, from the Chief Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the Political Agent, Phulkian States and Bahawalpur, Chail.

Your telegram 200/C, dated 13th instant, public function. Mr. O'Dwyer's assumption charge office Lieutenant-Governor will take place at Lahore in winter, no necessity for Chiefs or Members, Bahawalpur Council, to come Simla: if any of them happen to be in Simla and so desire, Sir Louis will be glad to see them at Barnes Court before he leaves.

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No. 1529.

Dated Chail, the 16th May, 1913.

Copy forwarded to the Foreign Minister, Nabha State, for the information of the Darbar.

(Sd.) R. H. Crump, I.C.S.,  
Personal Assistant,  
for Political Agent.

D. O. No. 2517.

Dated Chail, the 29th July, 1913.

MY FRIEND,

Under directions received from him direct, I forward on the enclosed letter from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to Your Highness' address. A copy of it has also been sent to me and I am therefore aware of the contents. So I write to ask Your Highness, in case a visit to Simla be contemplated, to be so good as to let me know, and to afford me also the opportunity of seeing Your Highness and talking over certain misunderstandings which appear to have arisen, and which I am anxious to remove as far as possible. If such an opportunity can be given me of seeing Your Highness it will be a source of gratification to myself.

Hoping Your Highness is enjoying perfect health,

I am Your Highness' Sincere Friend,

(Sd.) A. Elliott.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwindar Bahadur,  
Chief of Nabha State,  
NABHA.

Amballa.

July 28th, 1913.

MY FRIEND,

Your Highness' Motamid Sardar Bishan Singh, came to see me early in June soon after I had taken over charge from Sir Louis Dane, and presented your verbal congratulations. In acknowledging through him Your Highness' message, I asked him to inform Your Highness that I should be glad to meet Your Highness if it were convenient to you to come to Simla, and to talk over certain matters which had given rise to misunderstandings between the Punjab Government and Your Highness. The Motamid about the middle of June informed that he had conveyed my message to Your Highness, and that you hoped to have an opportunity of meeting me at Simla later on.

Since then I have heard nothing more. I understand Your Motamid has left Simla without giving any information of his own or Your Highness' movements, and as apparently the Vakil attached to the Political Agent is rarely in attendance owing to his other duties in the State, Major Elliott is unable to afford me any precise information with regard to them. I am now leaving Simla for a brief tour in the plains returning about the 12th August, and I think it right to inform Your Highness of my movements in order to save you inconvenience. In case you contemplate a visit to Simla to see me, I need not say I should be glad to see Your Highness any time after my return. I am sending this letter through the Political Agent and hope it will reach

Your Highness. I shall be glad to receive any reply Your Highness may send through him.

Hoping Your Highness is enjoying good health,

I remain,

Your Highness' Sincere Friend,

(Sd.) M. F. O'Dwyer.

To

His Highness Farzand-i-Arjumand, Akidat Paiwand,  
Daulat-i-Inglishia, Barar Band Sarmur,  
Raja-i-Rajagan Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwindar Bahadur.

Mussoorie,

13th August, 1913.

DEAR MAJOR ELLIOTT,

I am much obliged to you for your D. O. No. 2517, dated the 29th July giving cover to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's letter to me of the 28th idem.

I enclose herein my reply to His Honour's favour aforesaid and shall thank you to transmit it to him as desired.

As you will see from it I do not contemplate coming to Simla at present and therefore I shall not have the pleasure of meeting you just now. As regards any misunderstandings alluded to by you in your letter, I shall be thankful if you will be so good as to inform me of the same, because I am as anxious as yourself, if not more, to remove them as far as possible, if they exist.

Hoping you are enjoying good health,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Mussoorie,

13th August, 1913.

DEAR SIR MICHAEL O'DWYER,

I have read Your Honour's letter of the 28th July forwarded to me by the Political Agent with some surprise and pain. Surprise, because I am not aware of having ordered my Motamid to inform Your Honour that I hoped to have an opportunity of meeting you *at Simla* (the italics are mine); pain at the thought lest any words from my Motamid might have given rise to any misunderstanding and needlessly put Your Honour to the trouble of addressing me on the subject. I might inform Your

Honour at the outset that I had neither last June, when my Motamid called on you, nor at the present moment any intention to visit Simla owing especially to Her Highness' continued ill-health. I cannot perhaps do better than quote from the office record what I did really order my Motamid to convey to Your Honour with reference to it.

"With regard to the wish expressed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to meet me, I am extremely pleased to hear of it. When I shall have an opportunity of meeting His Honour I shall be highly delighted."

I thought it proper to issue my orders in writing owing particularly to an unfortunate misunderstanding that had arisen between the Political Agent and my State Vakil so shortly before that the facts were still fresh in my mind. I am grieved, therefore the more to find that some similar thing has probably happened in this case in spite of the precaution I took in the matter. I am puzzled to guess correctly what exactly did take place at my Motamid's last interview with Your Honour. On my calling upon him for an explanation on the receipt of Your Honour's letter he informs me that he is not aware of having told Your Honour that I hoped to see you *at Simla*. How far he is correct in that statement Your Honour is in a better position to state than myself. All I need assure Your Honour is that I would be the last, to create any misunderstanding.

So far as I am aware there is only one important question between the Government and my State, viz., the question of my "Installation ceremonies." And I feel almost sure that Your Honour yourself will be the last person to take that question in the light of a misunderstanding. My Motamid tells me that he has already informed Your Honour of my wishes in dealing with this question; that is to say, that it be decided on its own merits on what has already been, and what will further be submitted in writing, if necessary, as being a subject too intricate and important to be either discussed or disposed of at a personal interview; and I take leave to repeat my wishes in this particular.

I am sorry that my Motamid should have left Simla without informing Your Honour, particularly if it has caused Your Honour any inconvenience. I am issuing orders to him that such thing should not happen in future.

With regard to Your Honour's observation that my Vakil is rarely in attendance on the Political Agent owing to his other duties in the State I would like to point out for Your Honour's information to remove any doubts if they exist in this respect, that since the formation of the Phulkian State Political Agency the Vakil of this State has never lived in Patiala or Chail, to be always in attendance on the Political Agent, even in the time of my esteemed father, and even when the State Vakil for the time being had no "other duties in the State" to perform. The present Vakil was deputed as State Vakil to the Political Agent in addition to his other duties as Chief Secretary, by my revered father, which both positions he still holds. But the Vakil attends on the Political Agent whenever occasion demands, and keeps him always informed of his address. Now on inquiry I have found that Lala Tipar Chand, my Vakil, informed Major Elliott on the 13th June last, both by wire and letter, that he had come up here in attendance on me and he requested the Political Agent to correspond with him here till further information. Your Honour will thus be pleased to see that Major Elliot and my Vakil have been in touch with each other. I am extremely obliged to Your

Honour for taking the trouble of informing me of your movements to save me inconvenience in case I contemplate a visit to Simla; but as I have stated above Your Honour will be pleased to observe my inability to profit by that information at present.

In conclusion I need hardly assure Your Honour that I shall be only too glad to make your acquaintance on a suitable opportunity arising.

I am forwarding this letter through the Political Agent as desired by Your Honour in the concluding portion of your letter.

Hoping Your Honour is enjoying good health,

I am,  
Yours Sincerely,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Patiala,  
19—8—1913.

DEAR MAHARAJA SAHIB,

I am so much obliged for your letter of 13th August, which was delivered to me yesterday by the hand of the State Vakil, together with the reply to His Honour's letter. I transmitted the letter at once, under a registered cover to Simla.

I am sorry that I shall have no opportunity of seeing Your Highness, as I had much hoped to be able to do so. Certain misunderstandings certainly have been brought about, and it would be very difficult to put each case on paper, and very tedious to read them when written. So I would rather not write about those now, but would prefer to wait an opportunity of a meeting later on, when they can so much more easily be discussed verbally.

I hope the climate of Mussoorie is proving beneficial, and trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health now,

I am,  
Yours Sincerely,  
(Sd.) A. Elliott.

No. 2711.

Chail,  
23rd of August, 1913.

MY FRIEND,

In continuation of my D. O. of the 19th August, 1913, in which I stated that I had duly forwarded on Your Highness' reply to the letter received from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, I am now directed to address Your Highness, and to convey the following remarks from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in reply to Your Highness' letter.

2. In response to the Lieutenant-Governor's twice expressed desire that he would be glad to see Your Highness at Simla, Your Highness states that neither in June last nor at the present time was there any intention on Your Highness' part to visit Simla, and to quote Your Highness' own words, Your Highness is "Puzzled to guess correctly what exactly did take place at his Motamid's last interview with His Honour". I am to state that Your Highness has already been informed of what took place, in the following sentence of the Lieutenant-Governor's letter of 26th July, 1913, viz:--

"The Motamid about the middle of June informed me that he had conveyed my message (that I should be glad to meet Your Highness if it were convenient to you to come to Simla, etc.,) to Your Highness and that you hoped to have an opportunity of meeting me at Simla later on".

I am directed to inform Your Highness accordingly, and to point out that with this statement before you it is incomprehensible that Your Highness, whatever instruction to the Motamid may have been given, should entertain any doubt as to what took place at the interview in question.

3. As Your Highness is of opinion that the interviews with your Motamid have given rise to some misunderstanding, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that henceforward it will be wiser to carry on all correspondence between Your Highness and your Darbar on the one side, and the Punjab Government on the other, through the official channel, *i.e.*, through the Political Agent.

In communicating His Honour's decision to Your Highness, I have to inform you that the presence of your Motamid with the Punjab Government at Lahore and Simla thereby becomes unnecessary, and will be dispensed with, as has already been done in the case of the other Native States under the Political control of this Government.

4. Attached to this I forward for Your Highness' information a copy of my letter No. 3690 of 26th June, 1913, to the Foreign Minister, Nabha, and a copy of his reply dated 19th July, 1913. From this Your Highness will be able to ascertain the inconveniences which have arisen from having no proper official as a Nabha State Vakil, and from the fact that the Nabha Vakil does not reside at Patiala when the Political Agent is there. Also Your Highness will be able to judge how much weight is attached by the Darbar to that letter written, as the last paragraph shows, with the approval of the Punjab Government, and what action they have taken on it during nearly 2 months past. The present Nabha Vakil is both Vakil and Chief Secretary to Your Highness. When the former arrangement was entered into, by which the Nabha State Vakil was excused residence in Patiala, it was due to the proximity of Nabha town to Patiala. But when, as now, the State Vakil, owing to his being also Chief Secretary to Your Highness, has to be in constant attendance on Your Highness and so is absent from Nabha State for 6 to 7 months in the year, some alteration is clearly necessary.

I am directed therefore, to request that a suitable representative may be deputed to attend on the Political Agent as Vakil of the Nabha State, and that he should reside at Patiala in future when the Political Agent is there.

It is obvious that the present arrangement whereby the same individual combines the functions of Chief Secretary to Your Highness, and of Vakil to the Political Agent, is most anomalous and unsuitable.



5. Finally, I am to inform Your Highness that your wishes that the question pending between the Government and the Nabha State should be decided on its own merits on what has already been submitted in writing, as being a subject too intricate and important to be either discussed or disposed of at a personal interview, have been duly noted.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,

Your Highness' Sincere Friend.

(Sd.) A. Elliott.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwindar Bahadur,  
Chief of Nabha State, Mussoorie, U. P.

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Copy of a letter No. 3690, dated 26th June, 1913, from Major A. C. Elliott, I. A., Political Agent, Phulkian States and Bahawalpur, to Lala Bishan Das, Foreign Minister, Nabha State.

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With reference to my predecessor's Murasila No. 3509, dated 26th April, 1911, relating to the appointment of L. Tipar Chand as Vakil, I have the honour to invite the attention of the Nabha Darbar to the inconvenience arising from the permanent residence of the Vakil in Nabha.

The arrangement that he should reside in Nabha was, I understand, arrived at owing to there being some difficulty in finding a suitable residence for him in Patiala. This arrangement was confirmed by Colonel Dallas in a letter of 4th August, 1905 to His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha, and owing to the proximity of Nabha to Patiala is unobjectionable in theory. In practice it has resulted in the absence of the Vakil on several occasions on which he should have been present in attendance on the Agent.

I may mention the following instances :—

(a) On 13th March 1912, as I am informed, when at Nabha the Mir Munshi of this Agency handed L. Tipar Chand a letter informing him that his presence would be required at Jind on the 14th. The latter returned the letter after perusal, and asked that it might be sent him through the post. Although this was done, he did not attend at Jind, and explained his absence by saying that he had not had time to prepare for the journey.

(b) On 10th March 1913, he was informed by telegram that he would be required to be present at the ceremonies connected with the public arrival of Mr. Atkins at Bahawalpur on the 11th. For this reason his attendance at Sangrur on the 10th had been excused. He came to Bhatinda and asked to be excused from going to Bahawalpur, as he had not got proper clothes with him: he was consequently not present at the arrival visit or return visit.

(c) When I visited Jind on the 22nd April, L. Tipar Chand asked to be excused on the ground of business at Dehra-Dun, where the Maharaja then was. He was wired to on the 18th April early, and replied on the 20th that he had

urgent business and could not attend. He was directed by wire on 21st at 10-15 that he could not be excused, and replied that he could not be at Jind in time for the public reception at 7 A. M. He was again directed to attend without fail for the visit and return visit, which he could easily have done; but he did not appear till the day after, giving as an excuse that he had missed his train.

2. How far these absences are due to his residing at Nabha, and how far to his difficulty in leaving his business at Nabha I am not in a position to know; but in any case I consider the State Vakil should be a man of such position that he should be able to reside at Patiala, and give his proper attention to his duties as Vakil.

As in addition L. Tipar Chand is a Privy Councillor and therefore consequently in attendance on His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha he is naturally unable to do this.

3. These matters having been brought to the notice of the Punjab Government I am now directed to address you and to request that some new official may be appointed in his place, and that the Vakil should, in future, live at Patiala. I further request that early reply may be given.

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Copy of a letter No. 367, dated 19th July, 1913, from Lala Bishen Das, Foreign Minister, Nabha State, to Major A. C. Elliott I. A., Political Agent, Phulkian States and Bahawalpur.

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I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3619, dated Chail the 26th of June, 1913, and in reply to say that the matter referred therein is under consideration of the Darbar. A reply shall be communicated to you latter on.

From

The Chief Secretary,

To His Highness the MAHARAJA SAHIB BAHADUR OF NABHA.

To

The Political Agent,

Phulkian States and Bahawalpur, Chail.

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Dated Mussoorie, the 27th of August, 1913.

SIR,

I am directed by His Highness to acknowledge receipt of your No. 2711 of 23rd instant written in continuation of your D. O. of the 19th idem, and to state that a reply will be sent to you in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) Tipar Chand,

Chief Secretary.

Mussoorie,  
7th September, 1913.

DEAR MAJOR ELLIOTT,

I am much grieved to read your No. 2711 of the 23rd August and to find that my letter to which it is a reply should have failed to convey what I had meant. Had the sentence first quoted by you in paragraph 2 of your letter stood by itself in mine to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, I should not have been surprised to read the remarks communicated by you. But the wording and the tenor of that my letter read as a whole will, I venture to submit, make it clear that I never entertained any doubt as to what His Honour understood as having taken place at the interview in question. What puzzled me was whether the Motamid had delivered my message as directed by me, or if he made use of any such words or expressions which caused His Honour to misunderstand him on the point. I did not, as I could not, doubt the correctness of His Honour's convictions in the matter or of the statement based thereon; and now that that statement is emphasized in your letter under reference, I can but only conclude that the Motamid was to blame. In that view I can only express my regret again, if any be due from me, for my Deputy's action.

With reference to His Honour's decision communicated in the second portion of the paragraph 3 of your letter I beg to submit for His Honour's consideration, that it would be against all principle and the past practice of the Government to direct the abolition of the post itself, because an individual occupying it has been found incompetent to discharge his duties to his Honour's and my own satisfaction. As the things have happened, I agree with His Honour's decision, so far as to dispense with the present Motamid's attendance at Lahore and Simla, and I hope that His Honour will be pleased as to take it as sufficient compliance on my part with his wishes on the subject.

With reference to paragraph 4 of your letter I regret that my Foreign Minister has been unable to send a proper reply up to now, owing to old records having to be examined, for elucidation of the points involved in order to arrive at a proper determination of that question. However it is hoped that a suitable reply will be despatched to you before long.

Trusting this will find you in the best of health,

I am,  
Yours Sincerely,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

To  
The Political Agent,  
Phulkian States and Bahawalpur, Chail.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie).*

To

His Excellency the Viceroy  
Simla.

Nabha Darbar beg to offer their humble services through Your Excellency to His Majesty the King-Emperor in the present crisis.

Maharaja of Nabha.

7—8—1914.

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*Telegram (State) from Simla.*

To

H. H. The Maharaja of Nabha,  
Mussoorie.

In the name of His Imperial Majesty I warmly thank Your Highness for your loyal offer of assistance. I will remember it if occasion arises.

Viceroy.

8—8—1914.

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*Telegram (State) from Simla.*

To

His Highness Maharaja of Nabha  
Airfield—Mussoorie.

2. Government telegraph that war has broken out with Austria.

Political Phulkian.

13—8—1914.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie).*

To

Political Phulkian  
Chail (Simla).

Your telegram informing that war has broken out with Austria received. Stop Nabha Darbar's humble services are at the disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor. Stop Please assure the Government of Darbar's unflinching loyalty and devotion to the British Throne.

Maharaja of Nabha.

14—8—1914.

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*Telegram (State) from Chail.*

To

H. H. Maharaja of Nabha  
Mussoorie

96. Your loyal telegram of fourteenth inst. forwarded to Government.

Political Phulkian.

15—8—1914.

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*Telegram (State) from Chail.*

To

His Highness Maharaja of Nabha  
Airfield—Mussoorie.

In continuation of my telegram dated fifteenth inst. I am desired by Government to convey their thanks for Your Highness' offer of services and assurance of loyalty and devotion which have been duly noted by Government.

Political Phulkian.

20—8—1914.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie)*

To

Colonel Watson  
Inspector-General  
Imperial Service Troops  
Simla.

Military Minister arrived to-day from Nabha and reports Infantry fully equipped and ready waiting orders to mobilise Stop Please appoint regiment on active service and oblige Stop Major Douglas also wired to.

Maharaja of Nabha.

19—8—1914.

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*Telegram (State) from Simla.*

To

H. H. The Maharaja of Nabha  
Mussoorie.

1698g. Have to thank Your Highness for telegram announcing that regiment is fully equipped and ready.

Imperial.

20—8—1914.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie)*

To

Political

Phulkian

Chail (Simla)

Military Minister arrived to-day from Nabha and reports Infantry fully equipped and ready for active service Stop Colonel Watson and Major Douglas have been wired to appoint regiment on active service.

Maharaja of Nabha.

19-8-1914.

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Patiala,

21st August, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

I write to acknowledge Your Highness' telegram of the 19th inst. in which you informed me you had asked Colonel Watson and Major Douglas to recommend Your Imperial Service Infantry for active service.

I have forwarded a copy of the telegram for the information of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Trusting Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,

Your Highness' Sincere Friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

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Patiala,

Dated, the 22nd of August, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

In continuation of His Excellency the Viceroy's telegram, dated the 8th August, 1914, thanking Your Highness for your loyal offer of assistance in the present crisis, I have been directed to inform Your Highness that while your offer is appreciated, it is impossible to utilize Your Highness' Imperial Service Troops in case of emergency, as the latest reports show that they are not fit for active service.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health,

I remain,

Your Highness' Sincere Friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,

MAHARAJA OF NABHA.

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*Confidential*

Patiala,  
22nd August, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

In continuation of my letter of this date, I forward for Your Highness' information copy of a letter dated the 20th August, 1914, addressed to me by Colonel Watson.

My association with the Nabha State is not of very long standing but I am aware that the Nabha Imperial Service Infantry bears a fine record, and I sympathise very sincerely with Your Highness in your disappointment that the regiment should not have been selected for active service.

The remedy is in Your Highness' own hands. If due attention is paid to the advice of the inspecting officers I feel confident that the regiment will soon regain its former high level of efficiency.

The conduct of Your Highness' Military Minister in neglecting to acquaint Your Highness with the views expressed to him by Colonel Watson on the occasion of his last visit to Nabha is most reprehensible and I think Your Highness would be wise to remove this official from a post for which he is evidently unfitted. I feel it my duty to give this advice in Your Highness' own interests.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,  
I remain,

Your Highness' Sincere Friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

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Copy of a Confidential D. O. letter No. 1723-G dated 20th August, 1914, from the Inspector General of Imperial Service Troops to the Political Agent, Phulkian States.

His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha telegraphed to me yesterday to say that his Military Minister had arrived in Mussoorie and had reported that the Nabha regiment was fully equipped and ready for service. I replied thanking His Highness, by telegram, for the information given me. I had intended writing to His Highness myself, but on second thoughts decided not to do so, to explain matters as to why the Nabha regiment had not been included among the first regiments to go. His Highness well knows that I have a long standing friendship with the Nabha State and would have done whatever I could to send the regiment on service, but my duty first lies to my King and the Government of India. At the present critical juncture only the very best troops can take part. I had occasion, on my last visit to Nabha, to tell the Military Minister in most emphatic terms that I did not consider the Regiment fit for Service. The Minister seemed to consider that whether or no I considered them unfit, they should certainly be employed by Government—in fact gave me to understand that it did not matter what I or my Inspecting Officers thought of the troops—and that whether good or bad

they should be accepted by Government. I then told the Minister that I could not allow our Military operations to be jeopardised by a weak link in the chain—that the Nabha regiment was now a weak link owing to the incapacity of its Commandant, by the loss of some of the good and reliable officers—&c. &c. I have now come to the conclusion that the Military Minister cannot have told His Highness one single word of what I said—and that His Highness has been kept in complete ignorance. For the past two or three years the regiment has been “unfit for service” by reason of the incapacity of the Commandant, by the lack of proper training that it has received—and by reason of no attention being paid to the advice of Inspecting Officers. I am given to understand that the late Assistant Commandant, Sirdar Shivdit Singh—and another officer, Sirdar Pratap Singh have been relieved of their appointments—and pensioned. That another officer, Sirdar Kahla Singh has been for a long period under arrest for drunkenness, and that the Medical Officer, Sirdar Gurdial Singh has been under suspension for some time past. This shows that the regiment cannot be in a good state of discipline or contentment. At my inspection I noticed that the Non-Commissioned officers did their work well and that the men are of good material. *i. e.* the Sikhs of Nabha are certainly very fine. It has been the very greatest regret to me to have to report Regiment unfit—and in view of the present state of affairs I cannot recommend to Government, to whom I am responsible for Military advice on the subject of Imperial Service Troops, that the Nabha Regiment be sent into the first line on active service now. I am more than sorry—but hope when His Highness has learnt the truth which no doubt has been kept from him, that steps will be taken to ensure that the Nabha Regiment may become very soon on the same high level as it used to be in older days.

Should you think it advisable to do so, you are at liberty to show this letter to His Highness confidentially.

(Sd.) L. Middleton.  
22-8-'14.

*Telegram (State) from Chail (Simla.)*

To

H. H. Maharaja of Nabha  
Airfield—Mussoorie.

106. Govt. telegraphs that War has broken out between Japan and Germany.

Political

Phulkian

26-8-1914

Mussoorie,  
28th August, 1914.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I have received your letter of 22nd instant, which is in continuation of His Excellency the Viceroy's telegram dated 8th August, 1914. In this letter while again appreciating my offer, you inform me, that it



is impossible to utilise my Imperial Service Troops in case of emergency as the latest reports show that they are not fit for active service.

In reply I feel constrained to say that it has given me much pain to learn that the State Imperial Service Infantry, which has been maintained so long at a considerable cost, should have been reported to be not fit for active service at a juncture when the opportunity has arrived for the Infantry to justify its very existence. The reports which are furnished to the State every year by the Inspecting Officers and especially the letter which His Excellency the late Commander-in-Chief had the goodness to write to me after the manoeuvres of 1912 testify to the efficiency of the regiment. However, I do not consider it proper to write more at present in this respect.

As Colonel Bakhshish Singh, who was sent to Patiala to assist in the re-organisation of Patiala troops, has not yet returned, although the time for which he was appointed there has expired, I request that a British Officer to be selected by the Inspector General of the Imperial Service Troops may kindly be temporarily lent to the Darbar to command the State Infantry in His Majesty's service during the present war. The Darbar will of course pay the salary of the officer so lent.

Trusting you are in good health,

Yours Sincerely,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Mussoorie,  
28th August, 1914.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I am in receipt of your letter dated 22nd August, 1914, giving cover to a copy of letter No. 1723-G dated 28th August, 1914, from the Inspector General Imperial Service Troops. In reply I write to say what I have already said in my letter dated 25th August, 1914, that at such a critical juncture when the whole attention of the Government as also of this Darbar, is centred in the Great War in which the Empire is engaged I do not think it advisable to say anything on the subject mentioned in the two letters referred to above or to draw the attention of the Government to those controversies which have arisen on account of Maharaja Patiala's refusal to return Col. Bakhshish Singh. However, I hope to send a suitable reply to these letters when the War ends in victory to the British Arms. Putting aside at present all controversies I have replied to your formal letter dated 22nd August, 1914, by a separate letter, and I trust that you will be good enough to move the Government to accede to the Darbar's request stated in that letter.

Hoping you are well,

Yours Sincerely,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Patiala,  
30th August, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of Your Highness's two letters dated the 28th inst. in which you again express the wish that Your Imperial Service Infantry should be sent on active service.

I have forwarded both of Your Highness' letters under reference to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of the best of health,

I remain,  
Your Highness' Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

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Chail,  
6th September, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

In reply to Your Highness' letter of the 28th August in which you expressed a desire that the Nabha Imperial Service Infantry should be sent on service under the Command of a British officer I am desired to say that as the complement of Imperial Service Troops which Government have at present decided to employ has already been provided from regiments fit for active service, Your Highness' request cannot, it is regretted, be acceded to.

Your Highness has already been informed of the decision of His Excellency the Viceroy that whilst your offer is appreciated it is impossible to use your Imperial Service Troops in case of emergency as they are not fit for active service. Why and since when they have become unfit have been fully explained in the Inspector General's letter, No. 1723-G, dated the 20th August, 1914, a copy of which I sent to Your Highness under cover of my letter of the 22nd August.

2. In order, however, to fit the Nabha Imperial Service Infantry for active service hereafter, should a further call for Imperial Service Troops be made, the Inspector General suggests that one of the senior officers (other than the Commandant) should be put in command of four full service companies, to train them steadily from now onwards. He considers that Sirdar Bachan Singh would probably be the right man. If the Nabha Darbar agree to this the Inspector General would detail Captain Anderson, Inspecting Officer, to Nabha in order to help in the training and get the four companies ready for service. The Inspector General would also endeavour to arrange that Captain Anderson should accompany the regiment as special service officer if the regiment was certified as fit for active service, and if the offer of its service were made by the Darbar and accepted by Government.

3. I shall be glad to hear whether this arrangement is acceptable to Your Highness, in which case I will ask the Government to issue the necessary orders to Captain Anderson without delay.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,  
Your Highness' Sincere Friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

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*Telegram (State)*

To

His Highness Maharaja Nabha  
Airfield—Mussoorie.

Kindly telegraph when I may expect reply to my letter of sixth September regarding Imperial Service Infantry.

Political Phulkian

Patiala

11—9—1914.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie)*

To

Political  
Phulkian  
Patiala.

Your telegram His Highness indisposed with cold and fever Stop Reply to your letter of sixth September will be despatched tomorrow.

Secretary, Maharaja Nabha

11—9—1914.

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*State telegram (from Patiala)*

To

His Highness Maharaja Nabha  
Airfield—Mussoorie.

Very sorry to hear of Your Highness indisposition Hope you are better today.

Political Phulkian

12—9—1914.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie)*

To

Political  
Phulkian  
Patiala.

Thanks for your telegram His Highness slightly better to-day.

Secretary, Maharaja Nabha

12—9—1914.

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Mussoorie,  
12th September, 1914.

DEAR SIR,

I am desired by His Highness the Maharajah Sahib Bahadur of Nabha to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the sixth instant. His Highness regrets to learn that the Government have not been able to loan a British Officer to Nabha Darbar, although they offered to pay his salary. The question of the efficiency of the Nabha Infantry has been raised again in your letter, and I am to repeat what His Highness wrote in his letter of the 28th August, that this is no time for discussing controversial matters, and that a suitable reply will be sent after the end of the present crisis in the victory of the British Arms. His Highness notes that it is not proposed to send the whole regiment on active service, but only its four companies. Under the temporary arrangement pending the return of Bakhshish Singh, who is the permanent Commandant of the Nabha Infantry, from Patiala, Sardar Bacchan Singh is already second in command of the regiment and in charge of its two companies. It seems, therefore, that there will be no difficulty in adding two more Companies to his charge.

His Highness, however, fails to understand what you mean when you say that Captain Anderson would accompany the Regiment as Special Service Officer "if the offer of its services were made by the Darbar and accepted by Government" when the Darbar offered their humble services to His Majesty the King-Emperor immediately after the outbreak of the European War so far back as the 7th ultimo—an offer which was graciously accepted by His Excellency the Viceroy.

Please convey the Darbar's thanks to the Inspector General for his ordering Captain Anderson to take special interest in the Nabha regiment.

Yours truly,  
(Sd.) Atma Ram.  
*for Secretary.*

Lieutenant-Colonel B.E.M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States.

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*State (telegram) from Chail.*

To

H. H. Maharaja of Nabha  
Airfield—Mussoorie.

79. I wish to see Your Highness on important business Kindly telegraph to me at Sangrur earliest date on which you can see me I arrive Sangrur 31st and could reach Mussoorie on 2nd August.

Political Phulkian  
30-7-1914.

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*Express (telegram.)*

To

Political  
Phulkian  
Sangrur.

Your telegram Thanks Shall see you at Mussoorie on Tuesday afternoon 4th August Please wire date and time of arrival so that arrangement may be made for you in some hotel.

Maharajah Nabha.  
30-7-1914.

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*State (telegram) from Sangrur.*

To

His Highness Maharaja of Nabha,  
Airfield—Mussoorie.

Thanks for your telegram Am arranging to reach Mussoorie morning third August Much appreciate your kindness in offering to arrange hotel but please do not trouble about this I have arranged to stay at Charleville.

Political  
31-7-14.

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Guarantees proposed by me in order to demonstrate that Your Highness realises your responsibility to the Supreme Government.

1. A written undertaking that Your Highness will direct your Foreign Minister to reply more promptly to references from the Agency and also to word his replies more courteously.

(Note). In this connection the failure of the Darbar to reply to His Excellency the Viceroy's Kharita regarding the appointment of Mr. Wood as Political Secretary to the Government of India ; and the failure to reply to the Political Agent's letter in connection with the irregular arrest of Musamat Harnami alias Partapi by a Nabha Police Official in the Amritsar District may be instanced as particularly flagrant cases.

2. A written undertaking that Your Highness will not in future leave Nabha for any visit of over a week's duration in the Punjab, and for any visit of whatever duration to other Provinces or States (excepting the Phulkian States) without giving the Political Agent in writing a fortnight's notice of your intention.

3. A written assurance that Your Highness will respond to reasonable requests for information regarding the administration and statistics of your State (to be followed up by action giving effect to the assurance).

4. A written assurance (to be followed by suitable action) that Your Highness' Darbar will abandon their obstructive attitude in excise matters and co-operate with the British Government in bringing about excise reform in the same way as other States of the Punjab.

5. A written assurance that the Darbar will furnish information called for by Political Agent in extradition cases, and the prompt supply of the information called for by him on the 18th February, 1914, in regard to the case of two British subjects, Ala Singh and Bhagat Singh, who were extradited from the Ludhiana District and made over to the State authorities for trial.

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon,

Lt.-Col.,  
Political Agent,  
Phulkian States,  
4th August, 1914,  
Mussoorie.

Mussoorie,

25th August, 1914.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

With reference to our interview at the Charleville Hotel, Mussoorie, on the 4th instant, at which you asked me to send you within a month a reply to your written note which you gave at the time, I write to say that as since that interview the Empire has become involved in a war and at this juncture all our energies are directed towards supporting the Government with our resources and, if need be, our lives, it seems to me that it would be proper to suspend our minor controversies for the time being. In the meantime the best guarantee or assurance that I can give is of deep loyalty and devotion to the Crown and of my readiness to undergo any sacrifices for the honour and prestige of the Empire. I hope you will agree with me in postponing the consideration of contentious matters till such times as the present troubles are over. However, if you think that a reply should be made

to your proposals at an early date, I shall forward it as soon as possible after hearing from you to that effect.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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Chail, Simla Hills,  
4th September, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

I have received Your Highness' letter of the 25th August ; I understand Your Highness to ask that consideration of all the questions referred to in the note which I handed to Your Highness at Mussoorie on the 4th August should be postponed until the Empire is once more at peace.

In reply I beg to say that, while fully appreciating Your Highness' assurance of loyalty to His Majesty the King Emperor, I fail to see any reason for postponing the consideration of the matters referred to. On the contrary, the existence of the present state of the war appears to me to call for greater efforts on the part both of Your Highness and myself to clear away once and for all any misunderstandings which may have arisen in the past.

All the points referred to in my note under reference have already been most fully discussed, and I do not understand why Your Highness should anticipate any difficulty in agreeing to give the assurances which I have asked for.

I hope that Your Highness will see the matter in the same light and that you will be kind enough to despatch your reply within ten days of the receipt of this letter.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

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Mussoorie,

Dated the 17th September, 1914.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I have received your letter of the 4th September, 1914. I had hoped that you would agree to my proposal for a postponement of the matters raised in your memorandum given to me at your interview with me on the 4th ultimo, but as you think otherwise I write to inform you that I shall send my reply to the memorandum about the end of this month.

Thanks for your enquiry about my health, which thank God is now a little better.

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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Chail, 19th September, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

I have to thank Your Highness for your letter of the 17th instant, in which you inform me that you will send me a reply about the end of this month to the memorandum which I presented to Your Highness on the 4th August.

I am glad to hear of the improvement in Your Highness' health, and remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

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Mussoorie,  
14th October, 1914.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

With reference to our interview at the Charleville Hotel, Mussoorie, on the 4th August, 1914, when you gave me a memorandum of proposals asking for certain guarantees, I now write to say that as the proposals related, as I observed at the time, to state matters, I referred them to the Executive Council of the State for consideration and report. The Council have submitted a note on it, a copy of which I enclose with this letter. I have recorded a note regarding No. 2 of your proposal, which the Council have asked me to deal with, a copy of which is also forwarded herewith. A perusal of these will, I hope, satisfy you that the matters mentioned in your memorandum are all capable of being dealt with, and can only be dealt with satisfactorily, in the ordinary course of correspondence, and that even if we may be late in arriving at an agreement regarding some of them, this can in no event affect the character or the cordiality of my relations with the Government.

2. At our interview I requested you to let the State Vakil be present and also asked you to send separate letters with regard to each matter, but I am sorry to say that you did not agree to these proposals, and you pressed me to give an immediate reply to your note. You will recognise that it is difficult for me to discuss matters concerning the State, which have been the subject of correspondence and discussion between you and the State officials. Besides, some of these State matters are usually disposed of collectively by the Darbar. I was, therefore, unable, as I explained to you at the time, to discuss with you on the spot the matters mentioned in your memorandum.



Another reason why I prefer to avoid personal discussion on State matters is that in a free and frank discussion there may arise differences of opinion and things may sometimes be said which may leave not a quite pleasant impression behind. As it is my earnest and sincere desire that personal relations between you and me should be nothing but friendly and cordial, unaffected by differences of opinion on controversial matters, it seems to me desirable that whenever such matters of the State require discussion, this may be done by correspondence or conversation with the responsible State Officials instead of by personal interviews between you and me.

3. After the break of the war I wrote to you on the 25th August last to say that as since our interview the Empire had become involved in a war and all our energies and attention were therefore devoted to preparing ourselves to do our duty to the King-Emperor and the Empire, it seemed to me that it would be proper to suspend our small controversies and to postpone a consideration of contentious matters until the war was over, but you did not agree with this view. On the contrary, while expressing your appreciation of my loyalty to the King-Emperor, you said in your letter of the 4th September that "the existence of the present state of war appears to me to call for greater efforts on the part both of Your Highness and myself to clear away once and for all any misunderstandings which may have arisen in the past".

Your proposals and your last letter would seem to imply that some "misunderstandings" had arisen between us in the past, which required to be cleared up. I have given the matter my best consideration and I cannot recall any circumstance in my relations with the British Government which could justify such a view. Evidently you have meant the word "misunderstandings" to apply to those differences of opinion on certain matters which have arisen between the Government and the Darbar. But you will recognise that these are differences which may not unnaturally sometimes arise in the ordinary course of friendly dealings between two administrations in matters of domestic policy and procedure, and I, for my part, would not speak of them as misunderstandings.

4. You were good enough to say at the interview that both you and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor felt quite satisfied with and had no complaint to make so far as our personal relations were concerned, but to my great regret and surprise you expressed the opinion that the official relations of the Darbar with the Government were not what they ought to be. You added that the matters about which you asked for undertakings and assurances were small and trifling in themselves, but taking them together you considered them serious. I must say that I am unable to agree with you in this view.

5. The position taken up by you at the interview and the nature of the guarantees demanded were so unusual that they came upon me as a great surprise. To demand written guarantees and assurances in regard to matters of a routine character, still pending consideration and under correspondence, is certainly a new and unusual departure. I am constrained to say that your proposals do not quite harmonize with the friendly relations which have subsisted between my house and the British Government for more than a hundred years, and which rest upon the solid foundations of treaties between my house and the Government.

6. In all matters of State I have been but following in the footsteps of His Late Highness my revered and illustrious father, who throughout his life

was honoured and trusted by Government, and in all important State affairs I always consult the responsible officials of the State who are no other than the trusted and honoured *Ahalkars* of my father's time—some of whom are connected with the State even from before my father's time.

7. Having had the privilege of being associated for many years with my revered father in the administration of the State, I fully understand and realise my responsibility to the Government. It is not necessary for me to repeat my assurance of loyalty and devotion to the British Throne. I am ever ready to do my duty loyally and faithfully by the Government. But as you are well aware, I have a right to act independently in the purely internal affairs of my State. This is a privilege which the State has ever enjoyed since its connection with the Paramount Power. The British Government have guaranteed that the Maharajas of Nabha shall always be treated by it with the same honour, dignity and respect with which their ancestors were treated from the time friendly treaties were made between the Government and the Nabha State. The proposals put forward by you seem to me somewhat militate against that gracious promise. The true guarantee of the fact that I realise my responsibility to the Supreme Government should not be sought in written assurances that matters of a more or less routine character which must often form the subject of discussion and correspondence between the departments of two friendly Governments, shall be expeditiously attended to, or that a certain course shall be followed in certain matters which do not touch any vital point in our relations, but in the unshaken and unshakeable loyal and friendly devotion of my house and myself to the British Throne. Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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Note on the Memorandum of Political Agent dated 4th August, 1914, submitted to His Highness by the State Council, Nabha.

In regard to the Political Agent's complaint that the Foreign Minister's replies are not worded courteously, we have made an enquiry in the matter from the Foreign Minister. He assures us that in all correspondence with the Agency nothing has ever been further from his intention than to say anything which might even indirectly be construed as showing want of courtesy. He does not know to which particular letters exception has been taken by the Political Agent. We have, however, invited the attention of the Minister to the complaint of the Political Agent, and feel sure that he will take still greater care in future to see that his letters are so worded that there may be no appearance of want of politeness and courtesy.

In regard to the question of delay in replying to references from the Agency, the Foreign Minister says that care is always taken to reply to a reference from the Government, as early as the circumstances of the case permit: We have, all the same, requested the Minister to be as prompt as possible in replying to letters from the Agency. But, as he has pointed out, exception has to be made in cases of important matters necessitating careful consideration and often consultation; and we hope the Political Agent will agree that it is very difficult in such cases to avoid delay. This matter was one of the subjects of conversation between the Political Agent and the State officials during his visit to

Nabha in December 1913, when the position of the Darbar was fully explained to him, and he seemed to be satisfied with the reasons stated at the time.

The delay that occurred in sending a reply to His Excellency the Viceroy's *Kharita* re the appointment of Mr. Wood was duly explained in the Foreign Minister's covering letter with which a reply to that *Kharita* was sent. We understand that the Patiala and Jind Darbars were also under the same impression as our Foreign Minister, viz., that the *Murasila* did not call for an answer, and that they also did not send their replies before the 19th and 27th June, 1914, respectively. In the other case, viz., that of Mussamat Harnami *alias* Partapi, the delay was due to the enquiries which were being made in the matter. After the woman had been handed over to the Amritsar Police, there only remained the question as to how she had been brought into the State territory. For that full enquiry was necessary, and the result was communicated to the Political Agent after it was over. But it is important to note that the woman had already been handed over to the District Magistrate of Amritsar, and that she had been returned by him to her husband, who is a subject of this State, and who was really the man with whom she originally came to Nabha territory of her own will from the Amritsar District.

In this connection we may be permitted to mention that correspondence which the Foreign Office of the State has to carry on has considerably increased, particularly in regard to matters of detail since the creation of the Agency.

2. As regards the second point mentioned in the memorandum, namely, that His Highness should give a written assurance that he will not leave Nabha territory without giving a fortnight's notice to the Political Agent, we beg to say that two of us have been connected with the State for a very long time—the Senior member for nearly sixty years and the junior for nearly 40 years—and we deem it our duty to remark that until the June of last year the British Government never made any proposal to the Nabha Darbar which would have the effect of imposing any restriction upon the freedom of movement of the Maharajahs of Nabha. The proposal in question, in our humble opinion, will affect not only the personal convenience of His Highness but also His Highness' dignity as the Ruler of a State in friendly alliance with the British Government. But as the matter is still somewhat of a personal nature, we submit that His Highness himself may be pleased to consider and deal with it.

3. As regards the third point certain informations and statistics are supplied to the Political Agent. Sometimes, however, when the requisition is of such a nature that the Darbar are unable to comply with it, it becomes our duty to reply to that effect. It is possible that we may fail in some particular instance to satisfy the Government that the reason of our refusal is right. In such a case the Darbar hope that the Government will be pleased to make allowance for differences of points of view and of judgment, and not set down our inability to supply the information required to any intention on our part—for none such can possibly exist—to treat any request coming from the Government with any thing but the respect that is due to it. The Darbar do not withhold information where the information called for does not in their opinion involve a departure from the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the State, which is guaranteed by the *Sanad* of 1860 and sanctified by the practice of more than a century of cordial relations between

the State and the Government. We cannot here better illustrate our point than by referring to what we understand, happened so recently as the 4th August last when at the time of interview with His Highness the Political Agent requested that information should be supplied to him of new appointments made in the State. His Highness quite properly, as we venture to think, pointed out that he could not comply with the request as it would affect the rights and powers of the State, which it has always enjoyed, to select and appoint its own servants, and would be clearly an interference in its internal affairs.

4. With regard to point No. 4, the Darbar have always co-operated with the Government and are ever ready to do so in future in excise matters as far as they reasonably can "having regard to the interests of State and people." As regards the particular question of prohibiting the boiling of opium before sale, the matter was discussed and carefully considered in a conference at Delhi held in November, 1911, and the proceedings of that conference record that "finally the representatives of Patiala, Jind, Nabha and Malerkotla were not convinced that the prohibition would be efficacious in reducing smuggling... and in order to guard against the operations of opium recommended that patrols should be strengthened and detective arrangements improved."

This will show that our Darbar was not singular in the opinion it held on the question of prohibiting the boiling of opium before sale, and that this was clearly a case of an honest difference of opinion as to the efficacy and suitability of a particular measure suggested by the Government of India for adoption by the State, and not one of want of co-operation. It has always been understood that in inviting the Darbar to consider the desirability of adopting measures similar to those adopted by the Government in British India, the Government do not wish that the Darbar should not fully and freely weigh the suitability or otherwise of the measure recommended to the State, or that the responsibility of the Darbar for introducing the measure in the State should in any degree be lessened or divided.

Much correspondence has taken place between the Darbar and the political Agent on this question of the boiling of opium before sale. The Political Agent in his letter No. 155 of the 10th January, 1914, asked the Darbar to agree to prohibit the boiling of opium from 1st April, 1915. The Darbar in their letter No. 29, dated 28th January, 1914, informed him that the matter was engaging their attention, and as there was ample time between the date and April, 1915, a reply would be sent after the matter had been considered. The matter was still under consideration when the Political Agent in his letter No. 130 C. A., dated the 9th July 1914, informed our Foreign Minister that the Punjab Government proposed to fix a limit on the amount of hill opium imported into Nabha. The Foreign Minister in his letter of the 5th September, 1914, has invited the attention of the Government to the fact that the question of hill opium stands on quite a different footing from that of excise opium, and quoting the words of the Political Agent in his letter No. 3565, dated 17th September, 1912, have pointed out that there had been "*no restriction on the amount of hill opium which may be imported into the State,*" and expressed a hope that the present proposal of the Financial Commissioner would not be sanctioned. A reply to this letter is awaited.

As to the Political Agent's remark that the Darbar should act in this matter in the same way as other States have done, we venture to remark that

the case of every State differs according to its circumstances, and we feel sure that the Government of India do not wish any measure to be introduced in any State that may not suit the people of that particular State. If any support were needed for this view, we might invite attention to what the late Viceroy, His Excellency Lord Minto said in his letter, dated the 6th August, 1909, addressed to His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad, published at page 3 of of the Gazette of India Extraordinary of 22nd January, 1910. Said His Excellency :—

“ I wish to assure Your Highness that I do not contemplate or counsel the adoption of any general rules or general course of action. The circumstances of different States vary so greatly, the treaty relations which unite them to the Paramount Power are so diverse, that any general policy would create endless difficulties, even were a general policy desirable. Your Highness will probably agree with me that each State must work out its own policy with reference to local conditions. Should it be necessary to combine in some matters such as in circulating information, and the surveillance of individuals suspected of propagating sedition, I shall still be firmly of opinion that each state should deal with its own problems.”

If even in such an important matter as the suppression of sedition, the Government of India thought that no general rules or general course of action could be imperatively laid down for adoption by the Natives States of India, we submit that the rule that “ each State must work out its own policy with reference to local conditions ” should apply with much greater force to matters of excise policy.

With regard to point No. 5, the Foreign Minister says that till recently information of results of trials in the first court only used to be supplied by the Darbar in the cases of persons extradited by the Government, just as similar information was supplied by the Government to the State in the cases of persons extradited by the State. When a few months ago the Political Agent asked for information regarding the result of an appeal in the case of Ala Singh and Bhagat Singh, the Foreign Minister at first replied that he was not in a position to supply it, as his doing so would be contrary to the old and established practice. But later on the necessary information was supplied by him to the Political Agent on the understanding that similar information would be supplied by the latter to the former. This matter has already been disposed of by the Foreign Minister's letter No. C. I., dated 31st August, 1914, and does not in our opinion call for any further remarks from us.

6. We have noted with much regret the wording used in the heading of the memorandum wherein the Political Agent speaks of “ guarantees ” proposed by him “ to demonstrate ” that His Highness “ realises ” his “ responsibility to the Government ”. We feel it our duty to say—and we say it with confidence—that there has never been any single circumstance in the relations of the Nabha Darbar with the British Government which would justify a demand for any guarantee that the Darbar realise their responsibility to the British Government. That responsibility, as it is defined by the Sanads and Treaties, is, we are happy to say, as fully realised by the Darbar to-day as it has always been in the past; and we have no hesitation in affirming that it will continue to be so realised in the future. The Nabha Darbar have repeatedly given incontrovertible proofs of their unswerving loyalty and devotion to the British Throne, and they are always ready to do so whenever occasion

may call for it. In view of this fact the proposal of the Political Agent has caused us no little surprise and pain, as in our humble opinion it is hardly in keeping with the high position and dignity of His Highness the Maharajah Sahab Bahadur and with the cordial relations which have always existed between the British Government and the Darbar.

In conclusion we may add, that in matters of State His Highness' responsibility is shared by the Darbar, *i.e.*, his responsible Advisors and Ministers.

(Sd.) P. C. Chatterjee,  
President.  
,, Munawar Ali Khan,  
Senior Member.  
,, Hazura Singh,  
Junior Member.

30th September, 1914.

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NOTE BY HIS HIGHNESS

With reference to the proposal of the Political Agent that I should give "a written undertaking that" I "will not in future leave Nabha for any visit of over a week's duration in the Punjab and for any visit of whatever duration to other Provinces or States (excepting the Phulkian States) without giving the Political Agent in writing a fortnight's notice of" my "intention," I would invite attention to the correspondence ending with the Political Agent's letter No. 30 C. A., dated the 23rd March, 1914.

2. The undertaking that the Political Agent now proposes I should give, differs materially from what was required by the "extracts" of Government orders—(I may say in passing that I have not yet received copies of the original orders notwithstanding my repeated requests)—forwarded to me with his predecessor's letter of 2nd June, 1913, and by the subsequent letters of Major Elliott and the present Political Agent. In the said "extracts" no mention is made of the time when notice should be given by a Ruling Prince who intends to travel beyond his territory. All that is said at the end is that "at least a week's notice should be given if an official reception, recognition or salute is required"—implying that if none of these formalities is required a notice is not necessary.

3. In his D. O. letter No. 2197, dated the 3rd July, 1913, in connection with the enquiry made about my visit to Mussoorie, Major Elliott said that my "convenience and comfort" were "the main objects of the enquiry made". But it seems to me that it will hardly add to my "convenience and comfort" if I am subjected to the restriction that I should not travel outside my territory without giving a fortnight's notice. In my letter of 10th August, 1913, I informed Major Elliott that I intended to appeal to the Government of India against the orders which I considered imposed an unnecessary and irritating restriction upon the freedom of my private action. In the present Political Agent's letter of the 24th—26th December, 1913, which was a reply to mine of the 10th August, he gave me a friendly advice that a representation in regard to the orders conveyed to me in the form of "extracts", would carry more weight if I

deferred its submission until I had had "longer experience of the working of the orders." Unfortunately I have not had to wait long before I find that the rules are made more stringent and additional restraints are sought to be imposed on my freedom of private action. It needs only a superficial examination of the condition to which the Political Agent requires my assent to see how unduly severe it is in its demand, and what inconvenience and irritation it will cause in its working. One can easily imagine cases where the visit is of such a nature that it is quite impossible to give a fortnight's notice. If the proposed condition were accepted and enforced it would mean that I could not pay a friendly visit even, say, to Malerkotla or Alwar, which are only about half an hour's journey from Nabha and Bawal respectively—unless a fortnight's notice had been previously given.

4. I do not here wish to repeat the objections which have been urged by me in previous correspondence on the subject. The Political Agent wrote in his letter of 24th—26th December, 1913, that pending any action which I might decide to take with regard to submitting a representation to the Government, I should agree to give him a "warning" in future of my intention to travel outside the limits of my State. In reply to this letter I wrote to him on the 13th March last as follows :—

"Your letter contains a request which differs greatly from that of your predecessor. He insisted on my submitting an application for leave, you request a warning of my intention to travel outside my State. To your suggestion I have no opposition to offer. To safeguard my rights, however, I would ask you to accept even this assurance subject to the condition that it shall not hamper me in raising the question in the terms of my letter of the 10th August, 1913, to your predecessor. If it be necessary I propose to get the opinion of the Secretary of State upon the question."

5. A perusal of the Political Agent's letter of 24th—26th December, 1913, would show that no request was made by him about a fortnight's notice. Such a demand is made now for the first time. Evidently the Political Agent was satisfied at the time by the assurance given in my letter of 13th March, 1914, in terms of which it appears, that as a matter of fact, information was given to the Political Agent of my present visit to Dehra Dun and Mussoorie, and it is not clear how any necessity has arisen for asking a fresh assurance. It appeared from the Political Agent's letter of the 23rd March, 1914, that to all intents and purposes the correspondence was closed subject to any representation that I might make to the Government of India.

12th October, 1914.

*Private.*

Chail, 19th October, 1914.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA SAHIB,

I write to thank Your Highness for your letter of the 14th instant, relating to our interview of the 4th August last at Mussoorie, and to inform you that I hope to forward it, together with its enclosures, to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor at an early date.

( 12 )

I note with satisfaction the friendly sentiments expressed in the concluding portion of paragraph 2 of Your Highness' letter; and, with regard to Your Highness' opinion that whenever official matters require discussion this can best be done by correspondence or conversation with the responsible State Officials instead of by personal interviews between Your Highness and myself, I take this opportunity of suggesting that Sir P. C. Chatterjee, the new President of the State Council, should call on me at Patiala some time this week. I am naturally anxious to make Sir P. C. Chatterjee's acquaintance, and am hopeful that a talk with him will enable me to comprehend more clearly the Darbar's point of view on the cases under discussion between the State and the Government.

I hope to reach Patiala to-morrow night, the 20th instant, and if Sir P. C. Chatterjee will send me a telegram I will arrange to be at home when he calls.

I trust Your Highness has now completely recovered from your recent indisposition, with kind regards,

I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

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Patiala,

Dated the 14th of September, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

I am desired to convey to Your Highness the following message from His Excellency the Viceroy:—

Begins:—It gives me great pleasure to communicate to Your Highness the following gracious message from His Majesty the King-Emperor to the Princes and peoples of India:—*Message begins*: During the past few weeks the peoples of my whole Empire at home and overseas have moved with one mind and purpose to confront and overthrow an unparalleled assault upon the continuity, civilization and peace of mankind. The calamitous conflict is not of my seeking. My voice has been cast throughout on the side of peace. My Ministers earnestly strove to allay the cause of strife and to appease differences with which my Empire was not concerned. Had I stood aside when, in defiance of pledges to which my Kingdom was a party, the soil of Belgium was violated and her cities laid desolate, when the very life of the French nation was threatened with extinction, I should have sacrificed my honour and given to destruction the liberties of my Empire and of mankind. I rejoice that every part of the Empire is with me in this decision. Paramount regard for treaty faith and pledged word of Rulers and peoples is the common heritage of England and India. Amongst the many incidents that have marked the unanimous uprising of the populations of my Empire in defence of its unity and integrity, nothing has moved me more than the passionate devotion to my Throne expressed both by my Indian and English subjects and by Feudatory Princes and Ruling Chiefs of India and their prodigious offers of their lives and their resources in the cause of the realm. Their one-voiced demand to be foremost in conflict has touched my heart and has inspired to highest issues the love and devotion which, as I well know, have ever linked my Indian subjects and myself. I recall to mind India's gracious message to the British nation of goodwill and fellowship which greeted my return in February, 1912, after the solemn ceremony of my coronation Durbar at Delhi and I find in this hour of trial a full harvest and a noble fulfilment of the assurance given by you that the destinies of Great Britain and India are indissolubly linked. *Message ends.*

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
of Nabha.

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D. O. No. 3398.

Chail,

Dated the 25th of September, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

If Your Highness has not already done so I write to suggest that you should send me an answer to my letter of the 14th for communication to His Excellency the Viceroy.

My letter of the 14th conveyed a message from His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness RIPUDAMAN SINGH Bahadur,

Maharaja of Nabha State,

Mussoorie.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie).*

To

Political

Phulkian

Chail (Simla)

Your D. O. No. 3398 of 25th September to hand today Stop His Highness still indisposed and called Doctor from Nabha Stop Regret delay replying your letter of 14th Stop Answer will be sent as soon as possible.

Secretary Maharaja Nabha

28-9-1914.

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*Telegram (State) from Patiala.*

To

Secy. Maharaja Nabha

Airfield—Mussoorie

Your telegram of 28th Sorry to hear His Highness still indisposed Kindly convey my sympathy and wishes for speedy recovery.

Political Phulkian

29-9-1914.

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*Express telegram (from Mussoorie).*

To

Political

Phulkian

Patiala

His Highness sends you his best thanks for your sympathy and good wishes.

Secretary Maharaja Nabha

29-9-1914.

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No. 408.

From  
Lala Bishan Das,  
Foreign Minister, Nabha State.

To  
The Political Agent,  
Phulkian States,  
Patiala.

Dated Nabha, the 19th of October, 1914.

SIR,

I am desired to send you herewith His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur's reply to His Majesty the King-Emperor's gracious message to the Indian Princes and peoples for transmission to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Sd.) Bishan Das,  
Foreign Minister,  
Nabha State.

To  
His Excellency the Right Honourable  
Charles Baron Hardinge of Penshurst,  
P. C., G. C. B., G. M. S. I., G. C. M. G.,  
G. M. I. E., G. C. V. O., I. S. O.,  
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

It gives me much pleasure to acknowledge with thanks the receipt, through the Political Agent, of Your Excellency's kind message communicating to me the gracious message of His Majesty the King Emperor to the Indian Princes and Peoples.

The message is indeed most gracious and invaluable as an expression of His Majesty's noble and sympathetic mind. I, in common with other Ruling Princes and His Majesty's Indian subjects, offer my most sincere and fervent gratitude for the overwhelming kindness and condescension shown by His Majesty in expressing his gracious appreciation of the feelings of loyalty, devotion and love we all bear to His Majesty's person and Throne. As His Majesty has graciously and most truly observed paramount regard for treaty faith and pledged word of Rulers and peoples is the common heritage of England and India. Naturally therefore I, in common with other Indian Princes and Chiefs, feel a genuine pleasure and pride in loyally responding to the noble resolve of His Majesty to stand by England's treaties with Belgium and France in the hour of the grave danger to which they have been exposed.

In loyal response to His Majesty's gracious message, I beg once more to assure Your Excellency that I and my Darbar are willing and ready to make every sacrifice that our duty to the King Emperor in the present situation may demand, and that all our resources are at the disposal of His Majesty's Government.

In addition to the sum of Rs. 15,000 contributed by me to the Prince of Wales Fund, I telegraphed my humble contribution of ten thousand rupees towards the Indian Relief Fund. I am glad to inform Your Excellency that animated by loyal sentiments, my people have also cheerfully and enthusiastically responded to the noble appeal issued by Your Excellency, and have raised among themselves a subscription of nearly thirty-five thousand rupees towards the Indian Relief Fund.

I have already placed my troops and the resources of my State unreservedly at the disposal of His Majesty's Government and am deeply grateful to Your Excellency for your kind acceptance of my offer. As a further contribution I have the pleasure to put at the disposal of His Majesty's Government a sum of twenty thousand pounds or rupees three lakhs to defray the expenses of our expeditionary forces, and one hundred horses for the use of the army in the war, to be selected from my stables by any officer whom Your Excellency may be pleased to depute for the purpose. I shall also be happy to place my own residential house at Simla and my houses at Lahore and Amballa at the disposal of Your Excellency's Government for the accomodation of the wounded persons during the present European war. I hope Your Excellency will be pleased to accept this humble offer.

I shall esteem it a great favour if Your Excellency will kindly be pleased to communicate my humble and dutiful response to His Majesty the King-Emperor.

I remain,  
Your Excellency's respectfully,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha

Mussoorie,  
14th October, 1914.

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No. 3737.

From  
Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C. I. E., D. S. O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States.

To  
The Foreign Minister,  
Nabha State,  
Nabha.

Dated Patiala, the 26th of October, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of His Highness' Murasila in reply to His Majesty the King-Emperor's message to the Indian Princes and peoples received with your letter No. 408, dated 19th October, 1914, and to state that it has been forwarded to the Punjab Govern-

ment for favour of transmission to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Sd.) L. Middleton,  
I. C. S.,  
Personal Assistant for  
Political Agent.

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D. O. Confidential.

Dated Patiala, December 16, 1914

MY FRIEND

With reference to Your Highness's Murasila dated October 14, 1914, to the address of His Excellency the Viceroy, which was forwarded to me for transmission in a closed cover, under cover of a letter dated October 19, 1914, from Your Highness' Foreign Minister, I am directed to inform Your Highness that in view of Your Highness' constant and persistent disregard of their expressed wishes, the Government of India regret that they are unable to avail themselves of any of Your Highness' kind offers of assistance in connection with the present War.

Trusting Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwindar Bahadur,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

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Nabha,  
24th December, 1914.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I am in receipt of your letter dated the 16th December, 1914, and thank you for having forwarded to His Excellency the Viceroy my Murasila of the 14th October, 1914, *re* Darbar's offers to His Majesty the King-Emperor at the present war. I am very much surprised and pained to learn, that the Government of India have not been pleased to accept my offers, which were an humble token of my sincere devotion and loyalty to the British Throne, and an earnest of the sacrifices which I and my State are ready to make in support of the British Government in the righteous war in which they are engaged.

The reason why the Government of India are unable to accept my offers, is stated in your letter to be my "constant and persistent disregard of their

expressed wishes." I request you to kindly assure the Government that in nothing that I have done or written have I ever intended to show a disregard of their wishes, such as is attributed to me. If I and Darbar have discussed certain matters with you, we have done it in the interest of the State according to our judgment, being always confident that the mighty British Government is always just in the exercise of its powers, and makes allowances for differences of opinion held in good faith, and it will be a source of much regret to us if they stand in the way of our loyal offers of assistance being accepted at a time, when every one who is attached to His Majesty's Throne would naturally feel a satisfaction in being able to render some service to the Government.

My two Sardars, Lala Tipar Chand and Babu Atma Ram, are taking this letter to you to represent matters verbally, and I would request you to be good enough to inform them if there may be any other matter that is complained of.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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Patiala,

26th December, 1914.

MY FRIEND,

I have received Your Highness' letter of the 24th inst. regarding the offers of assistance to His Majesty the King-Emperor during the present war which have been made by Your Highness's Darbar.

I am forwarding Your Highness's letter to the Punjab Government.

I informed Your Highness's Sardars that so far as I knew, His Honour the Lieut. Governor had nothing fresh, beyond the matters dealt with in previous correspondence, to complain of, except the failure of Your Highness's new Chief Minister, Sir P. C. Chatterjee, to call on me.

I asked your Sardars to assure Your Highness of my sincere desire to help Your Highness, and said that I hoped Sir P. C. Chatterjee would call on me either here or at Nabha; and I also requested them to say that if Sir P. C. Chatterjee could meet me, I felt confident that a friendly conversation with him would be of great assistance in furthering a better understanding between Government and the Darbar.

As Your Highness is not able to receive me at Nabha before the 11th January, I hope you will permit Sir P. C. Chatterjee to visit me here.

Trusting Your Highness is well,

I remain,

Your Highness's sincere friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

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Nabha,  
30th December, 1914.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, and am sincerely obliged to you for your kind assurance of your desire to help the Darbar.

In regard to Sir P. C. Chatterjee's visit to you at Patiala, allow me to point out that the Ahalkars, who were deputed from time to time by the Darbar as their representatives to verbally discuss State matters with the officers of the Government, are naturally of their own selection. I hope you will agree with me that it would be creating a bad precedent—and in State matters precedents are an important factor to count with—if the Political Agent were himself to select the Ahalkar who should talk to him on behalf of the State. Permit me to give you my personal assurance, that in not sending Sir P. C. Chatterjee to Patiala, I have not the slightest intention of showing a want of regard for you, and I request you not to misunderstand me in this matter. There is no desire, and there cannot be any, on the part of the Darbar to show disregard of the wishes of the Government, far less to do anything savouring of want of courtesy to you, but we are all conservative by nature and habit in all State matters, and this explains the position we have sometimes to take in regard to new proposals.

I have deputed Lala Tipar Chand and Babu Atma Ram to go with this letter, and to verbally request you to kindly move the Government to accept the loyal offers of assistance I have made in connection with the present war.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY'S  
BRANCH LIBRARY  
BOMBAY

D. O. No. 51.

Nabha,  
21st January, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to the conversation which passed between you and the State officials at Nabha on the 11th and 12th instant on the question of the Darbar's offers of assistance in connection with the present war, the State Vakil was deputed to you yesterday to enquire as to whether the Government had been graciously pleased to accept the said offers. The Vakil has reported that you were pleased to tell him that you had referred the matter to the Punjab Government, the Punjab Government would refer it to the Government of India, and then a reply would come through the regular channel in due course. In regard to the question of reference to the Punjab and supreme Governments, I am to remind you of the request which was made at Nabha by the two Ahalkars who saw you on the 12th instant, namely, that in case you could not see your way to giving us a definite affirmative reply accepting our offers, and thought it proper to refer the matter to higher authorities, the Darbar should be given an opportunity to represent matters to His Honour the

Lieutenant-Governor by a deputation of State officials. In order that the Darbar's point of view may be represented by their own accredited agents and to safeguard against the possibility of any misunderstanding, I am to request that His Honour the Lieutenant—Governor may kindly be pleased to fix a date to receive the officials of the State and hear their representation on the question of our loyal offers before he comes to any decision himself or forwards his opinion to the Supreme Government; unless of course, the Government is pleased to graciously accept our offers without the necessity of any further representation in the matter.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) Bishan Das,  
Foreign Minister, Nabha State.

To  
Lieutenant-Colonel B.E.M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States,  
Patiala

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D.O. No.52.

Nabha,  
Dated the 5th of February, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to invite your attention to my letter No.51, dated the 21st January, 1915, re the Darbar's offers of assistance in connection with the present war, and request the favour of a very early reply thereto. The matter being connected with the war is urgent, and the Darbar are anxious to know when His Honour the Lieutenant—Governor will be pleased to give State officials an opportunity to represent matters on the question of the Darbar's offers. The request was made by the State officials to you so far back as the 12th January last, but no reply has yet been received on the subject.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd) Atma Ram,  
for Foreign Minister, Nabha State.

To  
Lieut.-Colonel B.E.M. Gurdon C.I.E., D.S.O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States,  
Patiala.

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Confidential No 381,C.A.,D.O.

Patiala, 5th February, 1915

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your letter No.51, dated 21st January, 1915, and subsequent reminder dated February 5, regarding the Darbar's offers of assistance in connection with the present war, I write to inform you that the matter



referred to has since been the subject of correspondence between His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and His Highness the Maharajah.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) B.E.M. Gurdon, Lt.—Colonel,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States.

To

Lala Bishan Das,  
Foreign Minister,  
Nabha State,

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D.O. No.53.

Nabha,

Dated the 7th February, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your letter No.381 C.A. dated the 5th February, 1915, I write to say that in the letter of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor dated the 30th January, 1915, addressed to His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur there is no reference to the Darbar's requests made to you at Nabha on the 12th January last, through their Sardars, and again in my letter dated the 21st January and 5th February, 1915, that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may kindly be pleased to fix a date to receive the State officials, and hear their representation in the matter of the Darbar's loyal offers. As the matter is urgent and the Darbar are anxious that they may be able to render some service to the Government in the present war, I again request you to kindly arrange to have a date fixed when His Honour may be pleased to receive the deputation of the Darbar's officials.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) Atma Ram,  
for  
Foreign Minister,  
Nabha State.

To

Lieut.-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C. I. E., D. S. O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States,  
Patiala.

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Confidential D. O. No. 391-C. A.

Patiala,

Dated the 9th February, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

I have received your demi-official letter No. 53, dated 7th February, 1915.

You again ask that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may be moved to fix a date for the receiving the State officials whom the Darbar propose to depute in order to represent their views in regard to the offers of assistance

made by the Darbar in connection with the war. You point out that there is no reference in His Honour's letter of the 30th January, 1915, to the address of His Highness the Maharajah, to the desire of the Darbar to send the Deputation.

In reply, I would point out that His Honour distinctly stated in the letter referred to that he had informed me that nothing has since occurred which would justify a request to the Supreme Government to reconsider a decision which is so reasoned and is intended to be final.

I would also point out that your demi-official letter No. 51-C., dated 21st January, 1915, was forwarded by me in original to the Chief Secretary, Punjab Government, who in acknowledging it referred me to the views expressed by His Honour to which I have drawn your attention above.

In these circumstances I regret that I am unable to take any further action in regard to the proposed deputation.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

Lala Bishan Das, Foreign Minister,  
Nabha State,  
Nabha.

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Lahore,  
Dated the 30th of January, 1915.

To

His Highness Farzand-i-Arjumand Akidat Paiwand  
Daulat-i-Inglishia Bakar Band Sarmur  
Raja-i-Rajagan Maharajah RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malvindar Bahadur, Chief of Nabha.

MY FRIEND,

The Political Agent has already informed Your Highness of the reasons which have led the Government of India to decide that they are unable to avail themselves of Your Highness' kind offers of assistance in connection with the present war. That decision was arrived at after full consideration only some weeks ago, and I have informed Colonel Gurdon, in reply to the representations of the Darbar forwarded through him, that nothing has since occurred which would justify a request to the Supreme Government to reconsider a decision which is so recent and is intended to be final. At the same time I sincerely regret that the relations between the Nabha Darbar and the Paramount Power should be such as to compel the Government of India to come to a decision which cannot but be painful and disappointing to the Ruler of a State which in the past has been conspicuous for its close and friendly relations with the Supreme Government.

As Your Highness knows it has been my object since I came to the Punjab to endeavour to restore with the Nabha Darbar those friendly official relations which I am happy to think subsist between this Government and the other States subject to its Political Control. I had hoped that the many interviews private and official which I had the pleasure of having with Your Highness between October 1913 and February 1914, would have helped to that end.

I still hope that frank and frankly personal discussion in which Your Highness would fully state your views, and I would put forward those of Government, would help to remove misunderstandings and to produce more friendly official relations. Therefore I write to suggest that if it be convenient to Your Highness to come to Lahore for a few days in February after the 10th, I should be very glad of the opportunity of discussing personally the matters which now give rise to controversial correspondence with the Nabha Darbar and any other matters which Your Highness may wish to bring forward.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health,

I beg to remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) M. F. O'Dwyer,  
Lt. Govr. Punjab.

Patiala,

February 5, 1915.

MY FRIEND,

Your Highness' Vakil, Sardar Bakhshish Singh, informed me this morning that he has delivered to Your Highness' Foreign Minister His

Honour the Lieutenant Governor's letter to your address dated January 30th, which was forwarded to me under flying seal, and which, as I was absent on leave, I forwarded to my Personal Assistant for delivery to the Vakil.

As Your Highness will have seen from the letter referred to, His Honour is of opinion that there is no reason whatever for moving the Supreme Government to reconsider the decision regarding the kind offers of assistance made by Your Highness in connection with the War, which I had the honour to convey to Your Highness in my confidential D. O. letter of the 16th December, 1914.

I much regret that it has fallen to my lot to forward to Your Highness a letter which must have caused you considerable disappointment. I venture still to hope however that a frank and friendly discussion between His Honour and Your Highness will, as His Honour says, help to remove misunderstandings and promote more friendly official relations.

In his letter to you His Honour wrote that he would be glad to see Your Highness after February 10th; but the Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government in his letter to me suggests that Your Highness should visit Lahore between the 10th and 28th February; and I presume from this that it would be inconvenient to His Honour to meet Your Highness after the latter date.

I shall be grateful if Your Highness will inform me as soon as you conveniently can on what date it will be convenient to you to meet His Honour at Lahore.

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon,  
Lieut. Colonel  
Political Agent,  
The Phulkian States.

To

His Highness Farzand-i-Arjumand  
Akidat Paiwand Daulat-i-Inglishia  
Barar Band Sarmur  
Raja-i-Rajagan Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwindar Bahadur  
of Nabha.

Nabha,  
Dated the 6th February, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of his Honour the Lieutenant Governor's letter dated the 30th January, 1915, received on the 3rd instant, and also of your letter of the 5th instant received today. I am further directed to say that His Highness hopes to send a reply as soon as he can.

I might also here point out that the mention of "Barar Band Sarmur" among the titles of His Highness in the letter of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor dated the 30th January and also in your letter dated the 5th February is a mistake for "Barar Bans Sirmaur," which is the correct title.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) Tipar Chand,  
Chief Secretary to His Highness  
the Maharajah Sahib Bahadur of Nabha.

To Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon,  
C. I. E., D. S. O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States, Patiala.

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Confidential D. O.

Dated Patiala, Feb. 15, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

Please refer to your D. O. letter dated February 2, 1915. I am asked to intimate to the Nabha Darbar His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's regret that, owing to an unintentional misprint, H. H. the Maharaja's well known title of 'Barar Bans Sirmaur' should have been spelt 'Barar Band Sirmur'

I also wish to express my regret to the Darbar that the mistake was repeated in my own letter of Feb. 5, 1915.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

Lala Tipar Chand, Chief Secretary to His Highness,  
The Maharaja Sahib Bahadur of Nabha.

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Nabha,

Dated the 18th February, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I desire to send my State Sardars to hand over to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor my reply to his letter of the 30th January, 1915, and to personally explain to His Honour some points relating thereto. I shall feel obliged if you will kindly request His Honour on my behalf to be pleased to fix a date and time convenient to him after the 23rd instant when the State Sirdars may wait upon His Honour for the purpose mentioned above.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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Patiala, Feb. 21, 1915.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I have received Your Highness' letter dated the 18th instant, in which you ask me to request His Honour to receive the Sardars to whom Your Highness proposes to entrust your reply to His Honour's letter of Jan. 30, 1915.

I have today forwarded Your Highness' letter for His Honour's consideration.

Trusting Your Highness is well,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness

Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH, Malvindar Bahadur

Maharaja of Nabha.

Nabha,

2nd March, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

With reference to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor's letter dated the 30th January, which I received on the 3rd and the receipt of which was acknowledged on the 6th ultimo, I wrote to you on the 18th February to request His Honour on my behalf to be pleased to fix a date when my Ahalkars might hand over my reply to him personally. My object in sending my letter of the 18th ultimo was that, before I went to Lahore, my Ahalkars might verbally communicate to his Honour a few matters in regard to the interview suggested by him. You were good enough to inform me by your letter of the 21st ultimo that you had forwarded my letter to His Honour. After having awaited a reply for a week I sent the State Vakil to you on the 28th February to enquire whether any reply had been received from His Honour. He informed me that you said that a reply might be received the next day or the day after. I therefore, again sent two Sardars to you yesterday; and from your conversation with them it appears that you are not certain as to when a reply to my letter may be expected.

In the circumstances it seems I should send my reply without waiting any longer, and I shall send it on Saturday the 6th instant unless I hear from you before that date that His Honour has been pleased to fix a date to receive my Sardars.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Confidential D. O. C. 1-11.

Dated Patiala, March 2nd, 1915.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

With reference to Your Highness' letter dated Feb. 18, 1915, to my address, I am desired to inform Your Highness that His Honour the Lieut. Governor sees no necessity for a deputation of State Officials to wait upon him, as the Political Agent is the recognised channel of communication with the Darbar.

As Your Highness's reply to the Lieutenant-Governor's invitation to Your Highness to come and see him at Lahore is much over due and the dates proposed in February have now expired, I am to ask Your Highness to send your reply through me as soon as possible, and to suggest that Your Highness should proceed to Lahore on some date before the 22nd of March, excepting between the 12th and the 17th.

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malvindar Bahadur, Maharaja of Nabha.

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Patiala,  
2nd March, 7. 30. p.m.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I have just received Your Highness' letter of date which has crossed my letter which I delivered to Your Highness' Vakil this afternoon.

Trusting Your Highness is well,

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

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The Palace,  
Nabha, dated the 9th March, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I received your D. O. letter No. C1-11, dated the 2nd instant, I herewith enclose my reply to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's of the 30th January last, and request the favour of your kindly forwarding the letter to His Honour.

As I wrote to you in my letter of the 2nd instant I had intended to send my reply on the 6th instant, but I am sorry I could not do so, as the matter

was important and I was not able to finish my letter on that date.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

To

The Political Agent,  
Phulkian States.

The Palace,

Nabha, dated the 6th March, 1915.

To

His Honour Sir Michael Francis O'Dwyer K.C.S.I., I.C.S.,  
Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

YOUR HONOUR,

I thank Your Honour for your kind letter of the 30th January, 1915, which I received on the 3rd February and from which I learnt with much pain and regret that the Government of India's decision not to accept my loyal offers of assistance in connection with the present war is in Your Honour's view intended to be final. An acknowledgment of this letter was sent to the Political Agent on the 6th February, but as the matter dealt with by it was of some importance I took the time to consider it; and, after looking up the papers relating to the interviews which I had the pleasure of having with Your Honour at Simla in October, 1913, I wrote to the Political Agent on the 18th February requesting that Your Honour might be pleased to fix a date when my Ahalkars might hand over my reply to Your Honour personally. My object in writing that letter was that before I went to Lahore my Sardars might verbally communicate to Your Honour a few matters in regard to the interview suggested by you in your letter. In reply to my letter of the 18th February, I have now learnt from the Political Agent's letter No. CI-11 of the 2nd instant that Your Honour has not been pleased to accede to my request. The above explains the delay that has occurred in replying to Your Honour's letter, and I hope you will be pleased to excuse it.

2. Soon after the war broke out, in accordance with loyal traditions of my house, I offered services of the Nabha Darbar to the Government, and His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to "warmly thank" me for my loyal offer, and to say that he would remember it if occasion arose.

The Political Agent conveyed to me by his letter, dated the 14th September last, the message of His Excellency the Viceroy communicating to me the gracious message which His Majesty the King Emperor was pleased to address to the Princes and peoples of India. In dutiful response to that gracious message I made the offers which are now the subject of correspondence. With reference to these offers the Political Agent informed me by his letter dated the 16th December, 1914, that the Government of India were unable to avail themselves of them on account, it was said, of my "constant and persistent disregard of their expressed wishes." In view of our long-established loyal and friendly relations with the Government and the messages which had been exchanged between the Darbar and the Government since the commencement of the war, I had not the remotest anticipation that I would receive.



such a letter, and was naturally greatly surprised and pained by it. I am not aware of those expressed wishes of Government, the alleged disregard of which on my part is stated to be the cause of the Government's refusal of my offers. If, however, a reference is intended to the memorandum of "guarantees" proposed by the Political Agent dated the 4th August, 1914, I would point out that a detailed reply was sent to Political Agent so far back as the 14th October, 1914, and no further communication has been received from him on the subject. Permit me to assure Your Honour and through you His Excellency the Viceroy that if the Darbar have made representations to the Government, in certain matters they have done so, according to their judgment, in the interest of the State, placing full reliance in the justice of the British Government and its policy of toleration of honest differences of opinion. These representations should not, I submit, be construed as showing want of regard for the wishes of Government to which I am bound by the closest ties of loyalty, allegiance and friendship.

3. Your Honour is pleased to say in your letter that the Government of India have arrived at the decision in question "after full consideration." It seems, however, from Your Honour's letter that the several representations made by the Darbar through the Political Agent since the receipt of his letter dated the 16th December last have not yet been brought to the notice of the Government of India. I am not even sure that before the Government of India arrived at their decision they had before them for consideration the Darbar's letter with its enclosures dated the 14th October last in reply to the Political Agent's memorandum, if that memorandum embodies those expressed wishes of the Government, a constant and persistent disregard of which is imputed to me. I submit that before any decision of the Government of India may be said to be final, they should be in possession of the Darbar's views on the question which might have influenced their decision. Your Honour will be pleased to observe that long before the receipt of Your Honour's letter of the 30th January suggesting personal interview between Your Honour and myself the Darbar made a request through the Political Agent on the 12th January that a deputation of State officials might kindly be allowed to wait on Your Honour and lay the views of the Darbar on the question of offers before you. Your Honour however, did not deem fit to accede to this request. But in this connection I would take the liberty of pointing out that it was not an unusual request which was made to Your Honour. Your Honour's predecessors in office had always been pleased to receive the deputations sent by the State from time to time. The deputation in question would have been fully able to lay the Darbar's views before Your Honour on any question on which they might have been desired to do so, and I am sure that they would have been able to explain matters far better than I can.

4. Your Honour, while acknowledging that the State "in the past has been conspicuous for its close and friendly relations with Supreme Government," has expressed regret that the present relations of the Darbar and the Government of India "should be such as to compell the Government of India to come to a decision which cannot but be painful and disappointing to the Ruler" of such a State. I sincerely thank Your Honour for your sympathy, but I am unable to see that there is anything in our mutual relations to compel the Government to come to such a decision. So far as the Darbar are concerned I am happy to say that we have not wavered an hair's breadth from our devotion and loyalty to the Government. If any proof were needed

of the Darbar's attitude, I might be permitted to mention one single instance. In order that I might be able to show my respect to His Excellency the Viceroy by attending the State Entry at Delhi and to prevent the possibility of any adverse interpretation being put on the Darbar's position on the question of my "installation," I agreed—although the original invitation sent by the Panjab Government was not conditional, and it was only subsequently that the Government made my "installation" a condition precedent to my taking part in the State Entry at Delhi—to receive the Political Agent, and through him the Government Khillat on a day—the 10th of Muharram—which is observed as a day of mourning by my Muhammadan subjects, which was not auspicious according to our Calendar and on which I would not ordinarily have performed the ceremony. Your Honour can hardly appreciate the strength of these objections to a people conservative like ourselves, and what it cost me to overcome them in order that I might show my loyalty to the Paramount Power by taking part in this State Entry.

The State could only show and prove the loyalty in the past, because it was allowed to serve the Government. But if, as on the present occasion, the State had not been given opportunities to serve, it could not have established its reputation, which it highly values, of loyal devotion to the British Throne. Honest differences of opinion between the representatives of the Government and Nabha Darbar on questions of administrative policy or procedure, which will always be capable of fair adjustment, should not, I submit, be allowed to weigh in the estimation of the Government of India against the unbroken and glorious record of our loyal friendship and devotion extending over a century, and cemented and consecrated with the blood which the soldiers of my State have shed on many a battlefield in the service and for the honour and glory of the British Government.

5. Your Honour has been pleased to suggest that I may see you at Lahore to fully state my views and frankly discuss with you personally "the matters which now give rise to controversial correspondence with the Nabha Darbar and any other matters which" I "may wish to bring forward."

So far as interviews of a non-business character are concerned, it will, I need hardly say, always be a pleasure to me to meet Your Honour. But it is my earnest wish and request that Your Honour may be pleased to excuse me from discussing official and controversial matters at a personal interview with Your Honour, because I do not feel quite at ease in a personal discussion, and there is also the risk of misapprehensions being created by it. Further, in my humble opinion it does not seem to be a practical procedure that whenever there may be a few matters under consideration between the Government and the Darbar, Your Honour and I should meet to discuss them. Much as I respect Your Honour's suggestion, I have not found in my own experience personal interviews for the purpose of discussing controversial matters conducive to a better understanding. Your Honour was pleased to invite me to Simla in October 1913 for a similar purpose. On that occasion I was denied even the usual official courtesies due to my position. And Your Honour's refusal to allow my Secretary and Vakil to be present at the interview to help me, as the Political Agent was present to help Your Honour, also placed me in a position of great difficulty and disadvantage. Besides, in a free discussion things are sometimes liable to be said which do not leave quite a pleasant impression behind. I believe Your Honour also recognised this when, writing about our Simla interview in your letter to me of the 17th October, 1913, you referred to

the "plain and even blunt language," used by Your Honour at these interviews.

I have frankly stated my views to Your Honour, I sincerely hope you will not misunderstand me in the matter. I desire to avoid a personal discussion so that "our personal relations" should be always "friendly and kindly" "even if we do not see eye to eye now and again in official matters."

6. The controversial correspondence alluded to in Your Honour's letter has not been, I submit, of our seeking. I wrote to the Political Agent so far back as 25th August last, *i. e.*, soon after the outbreak of the war, suggesting that it seemed to me proper that the consideration of our minor differences should be suspended during the period of the war and that all our energies should be devoted to the service of the King-Emperor. But I am sorry to say that the Political Agent did not agree to this suggestion and insisted on my sending him a reply to his memorandum dated the 4th August, 1914, which I, therefore, had to do by my letter of the 14th October and its accompaniments. I would now again request Your Honour that such controversies as have not already been settled and I am happy to think that they are neither numerous nor pressing be laid aside for the present and the Darbar permitted to render to their Suzerain what little service they can at the present juncture. I submit that the request which I am now making is not unreasonable. It is in conformity with the wise policy enunciated by the Right Honourable Mr. H. H. Asquith, the Prime Minister and His Excellency the Viceroy, both of whom have advised putting aside all controversial questions during the war and devoting all our thoughts and energies to the defence of the Empire.

If, however, Your Honour does not see your way to agreeing to this, I would submit that the Darbar have already expressed their views in detail in regard to the matters still under correspondence. If any further explanation is required with regard to any matter I would request that the Darbar may be kindly informed of it, and they will gladly submit their explanation in writing. After that, I would request, the Punjab Government may be pleased to pass orders on each question individually. If the Darbar feel aggrieved against any particular decision, an appeal to the Government of India will be open to them.

Your Honour has been pleased to remark that I may bring forward any other matters that I may wish at the interview. Please accept my assurance and convey the same to the Government of India that the Darbar do not wish to bring forward any other question for the consideration of the Government while the war lasts. We desire only one thing, *viz.*, that we may be allowed, as in the past, to fight in the service of the King Emperor. I request that our humble offers, which are a token of loyalty and devotion to the throne, may be kindly accepted, and our troops which have been trained and maintained for many years at great expense to be of use to the Government at a time like this, may be ordered to proceed to the front. (I may mention here that I am informed by my Military Minister that Captain Anderson has told him that the Nabha Infantry is quite fit and ready for active service.) We want nothing more. The Darbar desire to serve the King-Emperor and the Government from a sense of their sacred duty and they earnestly hope that they will be permitted to do so.

To the great British Government, which commands the resources of a world-wide Empire, the humble offers of a small State like Nabha are of no importance. To us, however, the matter is of deep concern, and I must, therefore, earnestly request Your Honour to kindly move the Government of

India to reconsider their decision. I hope that on a reconsideration of the matter Your Honour will be pleased to accede to my request and move the Government of India to accept my offers, which, though humble, have been prompted by feelings of warm and dutiful devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's person and throne.

8. Before concluding I wish to make it clear that there is not the least desire on my part and there cannot be any, to avoid "friendly intercourse" with the representatives of the Government, and I trust Your Honour will not misunderstand me in any of the remarks which I have made above in regard to the utility or practicability of the procedure of discussing official matters personally. In the end I have only to add that I shall be glad to go to Lahore to meet Your Honour at any time, convenient to Your Honour, which you may be pleased to appoint.

9. Apologizing again for the delay which has occurred in replying to Your Honour's letter and trusting that Your Honour is in the enjoyment of good health,

I beg to remain,

Your Honour,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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Confidential No. D. O. 2 C 1-11

Sangrur, March 11, 1915.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I have today received Your Highness's letter of the 9th instant enclosing your letter of the same date to the address of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor.

I have forwarded the enclosure to His Honour.

Trusting Your Highness is well,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness

Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH, Malvindar Bahadur,

Maharaja of Nabha,

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Patiala,  
19th March, 1915.

MY FRIEND,

I forward herewith a letter, dated the 17th inst., from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to Your Highness' address.

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Farzand-i Arjumand Akidat-Paiwand  
Daulat-i-Inglishia, Barar Bans Sarmur,  
Raja-i-Rajagan Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malwindar Bahadur, Chief of Nabha.

Dated Lahore, the 17th of March, 1915.

MY FRIEND,

Your Highness' letter of 9th March, replying to mine of February 3rd, (in which I had suggested that if convenient, Your Highness might come to Lahore during February for a friendly discussion of certain matters,) reached me on the 12th instant. Pressure of other work has prevented me from replying to it till to-day, and I hope you will excuse the delay.

2. I may explain that not having had a reply from Your Highness by the end of February I asked the Political Agent on 1st March to inform you that I hoped Your Highness would be able to come to Lahore at some further date before March 22nd, excluding 12th to 17th. From Your Highness' letter I observe that, while you prefer to be excused from discussing with me official and controversial matters at a personal interview, Your Highness is quite willing to come to Lahore to meet me at any time appointed. I feel, however, that Your Highness could not perhaps arrange to come to Lahore between the date of receipt of this letter and the 22nd without some inconvenience, and as I shall be leaving Lahore after the 22nd instant for some weeks on a tour already arranged, I would suggest that Your Highness might come to Lahore between the 22nd April and the end of that month.

3. I still hope that our meeting will help to clear away misapprehensions and to place the relations between the Darbar and Government on the clear and friendly footing which Your Highness, as a loyal feudatory of the Supreme Government, must desire.

4. Your Highness expresses some anxiety that you may be at a disadvantage in a personal discussion, that it may only create further misapprehensions, and that it is not a very practical form of procedure in official matters. In view of these objections I would not press the matter at this stage had I not realised how little had been accomplished towards the settlement of controversial matters by the very lengthy correspondence with Your Highness' Darbar. But I may further assure Your Highness that personal discussion between the Rulers of State and the political authorities is a recognised form

of procedure which has often been found more useful in smoothing over difficulties and controversies than lengthy correspondence. I can also say from my own experience that during many years' dealings with Ruling Chiefs including those of the greatest States in the Indian Empire, I have never met one who did not welcome the opportunity of discussing official matters with the representative of the King-Emperor or of the Viceroy; and I cannot help thinking that if Your Highness had consulted your Political Agent, who is the recognised medium of communication between the Darbar and the Government, frankly and freely in the way that other Chiefs do, the present situation would not have arisen.

If at our meeting Your Highness desires to be assisted by your Chief Minister, there will be no objection to his being present, as well as your Political Agent, through whom I am sending this letter.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of good health and looking forward to seeing you next month,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) M. F. O'Dwyer,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

The Palace,  
Nabha, 22nd March, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I acknowledge having received yesterday your letter dated the 19th instant giving cover to a letter dated the 17th March, 1915, from His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to my address, and in reply write to say that an answer will be sent later on.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

The Palace,  
Nabha, 30th of March, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

In continuation of my letter dated the 22nd instant I request you to kindly inform His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, that in response to his invitation, I shall pay him a visit on some date between the 22nd and 30th April next.

I shall let you know later on for His Honour's information the exact date on which I shall be at Lahore.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Confidential D. O.

Patiala,

4th April, 1915.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Your Highness will remember that on the 25th and 26th of last month you sent Sardar Hazura Singh and Lala Salig Ram to inform me that, before answering His Honour's letter of the 17th idem, you wish to hear from me official matters His Honour wished to discuss.

I submitted to His Honour a report of the conversation I had with the above mentioned officials, and I am now desired to inform Your Highness that His Honour's desire is to discuss generally the relations between the Darbar and the Government in the hope of putting them on a better footing.

Meanwhile on my own responsibility I venture to express the hope that some, at least, of the cases now under discussion between the Darbar and Government may be decided before Your Highness's meeting with His Honour.

Progress in this direction can I think be made by verbal discussion between Your Highness's Vakil and myself. No doubt Sardar Bakhshish Singh has already informed Your Highness of the conversations I have had with him.

In conclusion I desire to thank His Highness for your letter of the 30th ultimo in which you ask me to inform His Honour that, in response to his invitation, you would pay him a visit on some day between the 22nd and 30th of April.

I duly informed His Honour of Your Highness' intention, and I hope you will soon be able to let me know the exact date of your arrival in Lahore.

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

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The Palace,

Nabha, 5th April, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I am obliged to you for your letter of the 4th April.

Please let me have a list " of the cases now under discussion between the Darbar and Government " in order to facilitate discussion and settlement of as many of them as possible.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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( 14 )

Confidential D.O. No. C-1-11.

Patiala,

The 7th of April, 1914 (1915)-

MY FRIEND,

I have received Your Highness' letter of the 5th instant, and in reply beg to enclose a list of some of the matters now under discussion between Government and the Darbar. Please note that the list has been hurriedly prepared and that I do not vouch for its completeness.

Since receiving Your Highness' letter under reply I have received a telegram from the Chief Secretary to the Punjab Government in which it is stated that the date most convenient to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for receiving a visit from Your Highness will be Tuesday, the 27th April, if that date suits Your Highness. Will you kindly inform me whether the date mentioned will suit Your Highness.

Hoping Your Highness is well,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malvindar Bahadur,  
Maharaja of Nabha.



**List of some of the cases pending between the Nabha Darbar and the Government**

Serial No.	Subject	Remarks
1	Prohibition of boiling of opium before sale. Also imposition of uniform still head duty on country liquor, and information for Punjab Excise Manual.	<i>Vide</i> correspondence ending with Political Agent's letter No. C-7-3, dated the 6th April, 1915.
2	Notice to be given by the Darbar when His Highness the Maharaja intends to travel outside the limits of the State.	It appears from His Highness' note dated the 12th October, 1914, that His Highness is willing to give notice of his intention to travel outside the limits of his State, but the question is whether adequate notice will be given to enable the Political Agent to communicate His Highness' intentions to the Punjab Government and any other local Government concerned.
	Inclusion of an Arched Royal or Imperial Crown in the Nabha State Coat of Arms.	<i>Vide</i> Political Agents' demi-official letter dated the 10th February, 1915, to the Foreign Minister, Nabha State.
4	Compensation for Brickfield near Gumti Khurd.	<i>Vide</i> correspondence ending with Foreign Minister, Nabha's Robkar No. 1261, dated the 17th March, 1915. On the 2nd April, 1915, the Political Agent discussed this case verbally with the Vakil, and asked him to enquire whether the Darbar would agree (1) to hand over the confiscated bricks to Government in anticipation of the final settlement of the case, and (2) to permit Political Agent's representative to visit the brick field and inspect the Girdawari statements.
5	Signing of forms relating to cession of jurisdiction by Darbar over lands occupied by certain Railways in State Territory.	<i>Vide</i> Political Agent's letter No. 560, dated the 6th February, 1915, to the Foreign Minister, Nabha.
6	The desirability of obtaining replies to Political Agent's letters more promptly.	As an instance of what appears to be unnecessary delay it may be noted that on the 28th April, 1914, Government asked the Political Agent to request the Darbar to send samples of liquor to the Financial Commissioner. The Darbar eventually complied with this request, but the Foreign Minister did not inform the Political Agent till the 25th March, 1915.
7	Information for the Annual Administration Report.	<i>Vide</i> Political Agent's confidential letter No. 377 C. A., dated the 1st February, 1915, to the Foreign Minister, Nabha.

The Palace,  
Nabha, 10th of April, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I write to thank you for your letter of 7th instant enclosing a list of matters now under discussion between the Government and the Darbar. I send Sardar Hazura Singh and Lala Salig Ram to discuss all these matters with you. If there are any other matters I would request you to be good enough to inform the officials of them, so that a settlement may be arrived at in as many of the matters as possible.

I propose to reach Lahore as the State Vakil has already informed you verbally on Tuesday the 27th instant. I would prefer to call on His Honour on the 28th after a day's rest, but if that does not suit the convenience of His Honour I shall call on him the same day (in the afternoon) as suggested by you in your letter.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Patiala,  
The 15th of April, 1915.

MY FRIEND,

I write to thank Your Highness for your letter of the 10th instant and to inform you that His Honour will be glad to see you at 2.30 on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 28th instant.

I was very pleased to have an opportunity of discussing with Sardar Hazura Singh and Lala Salig Ram the matters referred to in my letter of the 7th instant.

I was very pleased to hear that Your Highness' Darbar had decided to prohibit the boiling of opium before sale. I have submitted a report on the subject to His Honour.

Hoping Your Highness is well,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malvindar Bahadur, Maharaja of Nabha.

D. O. No. 136—C.

Nabha,  
Dated the 16th of April, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your letter D. O. No. C—1—11, dated the 7th instant to the address of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur, with which you had forwarded a list of seven cases pending between the Government and the Nabha Darbar, His Highness was pleased to depute Sardar Hazura Singh and Lala Salig Ram, with his letter dated 10th instant to your address, to talk over these cases with you, with a view to arriving at a settle-

ment in as many of them as possible. Accordingly they called on you on the 12th instant, and had a conversation with you on all the matters included in the above mentioned list. From the note which they have submitted in regard to their interview with you I gather that the position in regard to the matters mentioned in your list stands as below :—

The State officials communicated to you that the Darbar would in deference to the wishes of the Government prohibit the boiling of opium before sale in the State territory from the 1st of July next. Necessary orders have been issued in the matter.

A reply to your letter No. 54 C—7—3, dated the 6th April, 1915, on this question will, however, be sent later on.

In your memorandum of 4th August last you asked for a fortnight's notice. The impracticability of the proposal was explained in a note dated the 12th October, 1914. It, however, appears now that what is required is adequate notice according to the circumstances of each case. You were also good enough to tell the Sardars that the notice might be given orally through the State Vakil. Accordingly as the circumstances of each case will permit notice will be given in writing or orally in terms of His Highness' letter of 13th March, 1914. It is understood that notice is not required of visits to neighbouring places like Malerkotla or Amballa or of visits to sacred places like Amritsar or Hardwar for religious purposes.

As you said in your letter of the 10th February, 1915, the State Vakil did inform the then Political Agent that His late Highness had ordered the Crown Mark to be removed. Subsequently, however, when the order was communicated to the Foreign Office the Foreign Minister brought to the notice of His late Highness that the Coat of Arms then in use was very old, that the banner presented by the Empress Victoria to His late Highness on the occasion of Delhi Imperial Darbar of 1877 bore a Crown with the Coat of Arms specially designed on the occasion for the Darbar; and that a specimen of the State Coat of Arms was formally sent to the Government at their request on two occasions in 1882 and they took no objection to the mark of the Crown. On the representation of the matter by the Foreign Minister, the State Vakil under instructions from His late Highness saw Mr. Atkins, the then Political Agent, personally on the 30th September, 1911, and explained to him the view of Darbar that as the Coat of Arms was old and had been already recognised by the Government, there appeared to be no reason to change it after such a lapse of time. The matter ended there and we heard no more about it till the receipt of your letter of 10th February, 1915. I may add here that this matter did not appear in the list of pending cases prepared and sent by Major Elliot and discussed with you in December, 1913.

In this matter no reply has yet been received from the Agency to the Robkar of the Foreign Office No. 1261, dated 17th March, 1915. As the State Sardars explained to you the Darbar will have no objection to the removal of the Bricks as soon as the sum of Rs. 500, which was imposed as a penalty by His late Highness on the Contractor for tres-

4. Compensation for brick-field near Gumti Khurd.

passing on the State lands and constructing a kiln without the permission of the State, is received in this office. There is no objection of appraisal of values involved in this case, and I think no object will be served by an inspection of Girdawari statements. I may add here this case has been now pending for about 6 years.

As the Sardars explained to you on the 12th instant, all that the Darbar desired was, that the points on which both the Government and the Darbar were agreed, *Viz.*, the reservation of sovereign rights to the State and the affording of facilities by the Railway Administration to the State authorities in preventing crime etc., might be incorporated in the formal document evidencing the cession of jurisdiction. The Sardars at your request left with you a literal English translation of the Urdu form sent by the State previously.

So far as possible care is always taken in sending replies to letters from the Agency as promptly as each case permits. The Sardars suggested to you in their conversation, that in cases of delay you might remind this office through the State Vakil, and you were good enough to accept the suggestion.

In regard to the specific instance given in the column of remarks of your list about the delay that occurred in sending samples of liquor to the Financial Commissioner, it was due to the fact, that the sister States had to be consulted. I understand that the Jind Darbar have not even yet been able to comply with your request, and that the Patiala Darbar also took a long time in sending their reply.

From what you said to the Vakil and the State Sardars I gather that Government will not press for such information as the Darbar are unwilling to supply, that this matter will not produce any unpleasantness, and that the case need not be considered as pending.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) Atma Ram,  
Offg. Foreign Minister,  
Nabha State.

To

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States,  
Patiala.

The Palace,  
Nabha, dated 18th April, 1915.

DEAR COLONEL GURDON,

I am sending herewith a letter addressed to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and request the favour of your kindly

forwarding it to His Honour.

Trusting you are well,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

To

The Political Agent,  
Phulkian States.

The Palace,

Nabha, 18th of April, 1915.

To

His Honour Sir Michael Francis O'Dwyer, K.C.S.I., I.C.S.,  
Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.

YOUR HONOUR,

As I have already informed Your Honour through the Political Agent, I shall, in response to your invitation, call upon you at Lahore on the 28th instant.

2. The second paragraph of Your Honour's letter under reply, seems to imply some reproach at supposed delay in answering your earlier invitation. I must be permitted to explain the position. Your Honour's letter of the 30th January reached me on the 3rd February. It invited me to visit you at Lahore after the 10th February, and the invitation foreshadowed a desire on Your Honour's part for a personal discussion with me on "matters which," in your own language, "now give rise to controversial correspondence with the Nabha Darbar and any other matters which," I might "wish to bring forward". Let me here repeat that I wish to bring forward no matter. The letter further communicated to me Your Honour's painful and unpleasant refusal to convey my requests to the Government of India to reconsider their inability to accept my offer of troops for the service of His Majesty in the present War. The letter needed consideration—and you know I move slowly by temperament—the more so that it was followed up by a letter from the Political Agent on the 5th February in which, echoing your words, he expressed the hope "that a frank and friendly discussion between His Honour and Your Highness will, as His Honour says, help, to remove misunderstandings and promote more friendly official relations." The Political Agent suggested my visit to yourself should take place between the 10th and 28th February. I caused to be briefly acknowledged both these letters by a letter of the 6th February addressed to the Political Agent, stating I would send a fuller reply later. The next day the 7th February my Foreign Minister wrote to the Political Agent in continuation of a request originally made so far back as 12th January through the Political Agent, asking permission for my State officials to call upon Your Honour so as to place before you the Darbar's views with regard to my offer of troops. I do not know whether this request ever reached you. But on the 9th February the Political Agent replied that "nothing has since occurred, which would justify a request to the Supreme Government to reconsider the decision which is so reasoned, and is intended to be final". Following as this did upon previous requests in writing, under date the 21st January and the 5th February, for the favour of a similar interview to which the Political Agent replied on the 5th February,

that the matter " has since been the subject of correspondence between His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and His Highness the Maharaja." I felt that I was bound in justice to myself to consider carefully what steps I should take to exculde at our intended meeting at Lahore any further reference to an offer which, submitted in terms of heartfelt loyalty, had been thrust aside in terms which left behind them a sting the more painful that it was undeserved. On the 18th February I wrote myself and asked the Political Agent to ascertain from you whether Your Honour will be pleased to receive my State officials for the purpose above mentioned on any date after the 23rd February, and also receive from them my written reply to your letter of the 30th January. On the 21st February the Political Agent informed me that he had written to you on the subject. By a further letter of the 2nd March I went more fully into the matter with the Political Agent. That officer's letter of the 2nd March crossed mine. It informed me that you had declined my request. On the 9th March I forwarded on to the Political Agent the long letter to which Your Honour replied by your letter itself now under reply. Under the circumstances I trust Your Honour will agree with me, that I am not obnoxious to any reproach for delay, if indeed your letter intened to convey any such reproach.

3. For Your Honour's information, I enclose copies of Notes of the interviews which took place on the 11th and 12th January and 12th instant between my Sardars and the Political Agent. With the explanations given by my officials to the various topics upon which they were addressed by the Political Agent I am in complete accord. Above all I wish, once for all, respectfully but firmly to associate myself with their attitude upon the question of my State's offer of troops. I acted in unison with all the other Ruling Princes in India, who at a time of national crisis offered all that they owned in support of a Monarchy and a race of men whose connection with India is almost as much a matter of pride and gratitude with the Princes and Noblemen of India as it can be with themselves. But I have been assured that the rejection of my offer by the Supreme Government is final and will not be re-considered. Of my alleged faults I will say no more. For I feel that each one of the charges imputed to me, has been answered over and over again in writing, and that any inability on my part and the part of my Darbar to see eye to eye with the Government of India on all occasions on matters, which either affect the ancient traditions of my House, or deal with comparatively trifling differences of opinion upon details of a executive administration, does not deserve the stigma, to which I and my people have been subjected by the refusal to permit both to take our share in the war. I hope Your Honour will be able to understand in some measure my feelings on this point. I have done nothing to merit the public affront which has been meted out to me. But I feel that for the time I can hope for no redress. Barred from the splendid honour of being numbered among those, whose contributions to a great effort have been publicly acclaimed by the Parliaments and Press of Great Britain and of Greater Britain, my people and I must summon what of philosophy we can to our aid, and believe that " they also serve who only stand and wait".

4. With the other details of topics, and as to which it is stated that the Government and I are "in disagreement", I will only here once more beg to remind Your Honour, that each and every one of these has been already dealt with fully on paper. The Notes of the interviews with the Political Agent enumerate the various points of alleged discord. I respect-

fully deny that that term is applicable. My Darbar has stated its views. If they be not in accord with the views held by the Government, I feel certain any fresh communication from the Government will meet with the courteous and definite treatment. I submit that free discussion and an honest divergence of views on questions of administrative and executive expediency, has always been the right of every Indian Ruler—great or small—within the confines of this land, a right not merely conceded to him, but a right which British education has inspired him to believe in, to exercise and to admire. In spite of honest disagreement, if the Government insist upon imposing its views on the State, the Darbar will have no help but to submit, because against the ultimate exertion of authority backed by the British Raj, there is no alternative to submission.

5. I am not aware of any disagreements between my Darbar and the Government which cannot be cleared away by frank discussion with that body. The Darbar and I are at one in our belief that they and I as Ruler have certain clear and unequivocal rights as well as duties and responsibilities under my Sanad. In my humble opinion the correspondence necessary to define our views has not been too lengthy. It certainly now presents clear issues. It is for Your Honour to deal with these as you choose. When I read your statement that the present impasse would not have arisen if I had consulted the Political Agent more frankly, I am only the more convinced of the hopelessness of my ability to present my views successfully by word of mouth. There has been no reserve in the Darbar's consultations with the Political Agent. He is in full possession of our wishes, our views and our wants. We have stated to him all we had to state in writing. If after all this correspondence we are still open to misconception, I am convinced that oral discussion will only aggravate my present situation and multiply the many obstacles which today envelope and impede my progress to any final solution. I may be pardoned if I view with alarm the prospect of conversation which, finding me unready by temperament and not quick of spoken words will open more wide than ever the door to charges of promises unredeemed. Written words remain. I am content to be judged thereby. I propose to bring not the Diwan but another official when I call upon you.

6. Outside the matters enumerated in the Notes of the interview with the Political Agent which are herewith enclosed, I am not aware of any, open for discussion between Your Honour and myself. Those therein enumerated have been discussed threadbare. I have, it would seem, been most unfortunate in my inability to make myself and my legitimate grievances understood by those to whom I am so immeasurably inferior. Discussion with my State officials, who are willing to discuss and who embody my wants and represent my wishes, is refused. I frankly appeal to Your Honour to avoid discussion with me, who do not seek it. I am sore hurt on certain points which are outside your restorative powers. Your Honour has decided that the line is ruled black and firm across my offer of service to the Throne. I do not desire to re-open old wounds. I have no wish to incur new wounds. And when we meet I pray Your Honour will respect my desire, if unhappily you are not in sympathy with the reasons, for silence.

I remain,

Your Honour's sincere friend,

(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Note of an interview between the State Officials and the Political Agent at Nabha on the 11th January, 1915.

At 4 p. m. the Prime Minister, Members of the State Council, the Chief Secretary to His Highness, the Deputy Foreign Minister and State Vakil met the Political Agent by appointment to discuss matters pending between the Darbar and the Government.

The principal point pressed on Col. Gurdon was the offer of troops, money and horses, etc., made by His Highness towards the end of October in response to His Majesty's gracious message communicated by the Viceroy. The Prime Minister said that this offer had not been accepted by the Government on account of His Highness' alleged disregard of certain wishes of the Government of India but that the offer was quite a distinct matter from the other cases, it was made in response to the gracious message of the Sovereign and ought to have been accepted without reference to previous negotiations relating to administrative matters of comparatively minor importance. As His Highness' loyal devotion to the Suzerain power was demonstrated by the offer, his feelings were wounded by its rejection. When the King demanded of the Princes and peoples of India that they should stand round and help him in a time of stress and difficulty and they offered all they owned for the use of their Sovereign, it was hardly the right thing to do to bring in other questions pending between the Government and the person making the offer. The offer stood by itself and should be considered on its own merits. When His Highness was considered a fit and proper Prince to whom the message should be sent it was not right to reject his offer on extraneous grounds. Khan Sahib Muhammad Munawar Ali Khan reiterated in Urdu the propriety of keeping the question of the offers separate from administrative discussions, and pointed out that for more than a century, since its connection with the Paramount Power began, Nabha State had been foremost in helping the Government with men and money in times of emergency. The Campaigns of Kabul, Tirah, Mohmand, Africa and Delhi bore testimony to this loyalty and devotion. It was for the first time that our offers were not being accepted simply because we had not fallen in with certain views of the Government in matters of comparatively minor importance, which had no connection with the Darbar's offers, and should therefore be kept quite distinct and separate. We had been keeping the Imperial Service Troops at considerable cost for several years past to help the Government at a critical time like the present. We hoped the Political Agent would be good enough to have our offers accepted; otherwise we would have to move higher authorities in the matter.

Colonel Gurdon spoke of the difference of opinion which arose on the occasion of His Highness' installation after the death of his late Highness. The Prime Minister pointed out that according to his own interpretation of the Sanad succession opened out in favour of His Highness on the death of his father, but His Highness was not at present raising this question and the matter did not require any consideration at present.

Colonel Gurdon next referred to the question of excise opium which he said was public question, and said that in the Punjab all Native States had adopted the policy formulated by the Government of India. The Prime Minister said that the concession made in this respect by the Government was not



being abused and there was no smuggling of opium carried on within Nabha territory, but that the larger consumption was due to the fact that Nabha opium was boiled, and was preferred by the people, and that crude opium was often injurious to the human constitution and often caused gripes and a feeling of sickness. Colonel Gurdon said that Nabha Darbar should agree to the wishes of the Government. The Prime Minister then referred to the question of pecuniary loss which the State would sustain by boiling of opium being discontinued. Colonel Gurdon replied that the question of compensation could be considered.

The Political Agent next referred to the question of notice about His Highness' movements outside his territory. He said that he wanted a reasonable notice but we could while giving him the assurance which he wanted take exception to the rule and reserve our rights to move Government to rescind or modify it. He admitted that many Chiefs disliked this rule. The Prime Minister put the question as to whether Rulers in Europe travelling incognito in other territories gave information of their movements. Colonel Gurdon said it was a matter of courtesy; there were standing orders on the subject and he had to give information to the Punjab Government.

Colonel Gurdon said that ordinary proposals by him were regarded with suspicion by the State, which gave rise to prolonged correspondence. The Prime Minister explained that some of the correspondence was due to unnecessary action taken by Government, for example in the matter of surrender of lands for railways made nearly fifty years ago. His Highness was required to sign forms which were obviously incorrect. His Highness was justified in asking that if a document was wanted from him it should be correct in all particulars, e.g., in saving the sovereign rights of the State, &c. Colonel Gurdon conceded that in regard to this matter we were right. The Prime Minister also referred to the question of compensation for lands given for railway purposes and said that since we surrendered such lands free of cost there seemed to be no necessity why Government should press for our receiving compensation. It was a matter entirely in the discretion of the Nabha State to ask for compensation for such lands. Colonel Gurdon did not say anything on the subject.

The Prime Minister referred to the offer of the troops which he said was prior to and independent of the present offer. Colonel Gurdon said that the troops were not at first in good condition. On this the Prime Minister said that the defects having been removed the troops were in excellent condition for service and should now be accepted. Colonel Gurdon said the troops were now in good condition but the Government had not till then decided the matter.

The deputation repeatedly pressed the argument that the loyal offers of troops and subsequently of money and horses &c., in response to the King-Emperor's message were totally distinct matters from the administrative questions pending between the State and the Government. Colonel Gurdon questioned the Prime Minister; "You consider it improper to mix up the offers with questions previously in issue between the Nabha State and the Government?" The Prime Minister said "they ought to be certainly kept separate and disposed of separately." Colonel Gurdon expressed satisfaction

at the long and open conversation he had with the deputation. After this the State officials left.

(Signed) P. C. Chatterjee,  
Prime Minister.  
" Muhammad Munawar Ali Khan,  
Member Council.  
" Hazura Singh,  
Member Council.  
" Tipar Chand,  
Chief Secretary.  
" Atma Ram,  
Deputy Foreign Minister.  
" Bakhshish Singh,  
Agency Vakil.

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Note of conversation between the Political Agent and State officials at Nabha on the 12th January, 1915.

As directed we called upon the Political Agent at the State Guest House and told him that the Vakil had said that he (the Political Agent) wanted to know the result of the conversation we had with him the previous day, but that the deputation had already requested him that he might kindly move the Government to accept the loyal offers made by the Darbar to His Majesty's Government in connection with the present war and that the other matters of a routine nature which were being mixed up with the question of our offers might be kept separate from it. We further said that was the time for us to serve our King-Emperor with troops and money and that we ourselves were anxious to know from him whether according to our request he had moved the Government to accept our offers and to deal with all other matters separately. We, therefore, again requested the Political Agent to kindly have our offers accepted by the Government, or to arrange with the Punjab Government for a time when our officials might wait upon His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and make our request to him. The Political Agent thereupon asked whether His Highness was going to see the Lieutenant Governor. We replied that His Highness would not go but that the State officials whom the Maharajah Sahib Bahadur would be pleased to depute would wait upon His Honour to represent matters to him. The Political Agent said that he would write to the Punjab Government.

(Signed) Hazura Singh,  
Member Council.  
" Atma Ram,  
Deputy Foreign Minister.  
" Bakhshish Singh,  
Agency Vakil.

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Note of conversation between the Political Agent and State Officials at Patiala on the 25th and 26th March and 12th April, 1915.

Under orders of the Darbar we called upon the Political Agent at Patiala on the 25th and again on the 26th of March last. We asked the Political Agent to be good enough to mention the matters pending between the Government and the Darbar which were considered to be the cause of the refusal of state offers. The Political Agent referred to the question of opium as the most important and said that he would write to the Punjab Government and would let us know on receiving their reply.

On receipt of the list of seven pending cases from the Political Agent under cover of his letter of the 7th instant addressed to His Highness, first the Vakil on the 10th, and again we on the 12th instant, under directions from the Darbar, called upon the Political Agent to talk over the matters mentioned in the said list, and discussed each matter with him seriatim.

#### 1. OPIUM.

On the question of prohibition of boiling of opium before sale we informed the Political Agent that, in deference to the wishes of the Government, the Darbar would prohibit the boiling of opium in the State territory from the 1st July next, but the Darbar hoped that they would receive compensation and also the concessions that had been given to the other States. We told him that the date of 1st July had been fixed with a view to making arrangements for the introduction of the new system and the disposal of the stock in hand.

The Political Agent said that he would report to Government the Darbar's decision but that a communication on the subject might be sent to afford them an opportunity to consider the question of concessions, etc., which would no doubt be considered by the Government.

#### 2. NOTICE OF HIS HIGHNESS' JOURNEYS OUTSIDE THE STATE.

We explained the Political Agent that the discussion on this question had been practically closed. But on a new question of 15 days' notice being raised the matter was again opened unnecessarily.

The Political Agent said that it was not the object that 15 days' notice should be given for each and every journey. Adequate notice with regard to the special circumstances of the particular journey intended would be sufficient. The notice did not need to be in writing. It might be given verbally through the Vakil. We said that the notice will be given according to the circumstances of each case either orally or in writing.

#### 3. COAT OF ARMS.

We explained to the Political Agent that the State Coat of Arms was adopted many years ago, that its specimens were sent to the Government at their request in 1882 and that the banner granted by Her late Majesty the Queen Empress Victoria to the late Maharajah Sahib Bahadur at the Imperial Darbar of 1877 bore a gold crown almost similar in shape to that which was represented on the State Coat of Arms. As regards the correspondence which passed between Mr. Atkins and the then State Vakil it was followed only a few days after by a personal interview between Mr. Atkins and the State Vakil, at which Mr. Atkins on being informed, in accordance with His late Highness' directions, of the facts of the case, dropped the question and we heard no more about the matter till the receipt of your letter of 10th February last.

The Political Agent said that a communication might be addressed setting forth the facts which would show the continued use of the Coat of Arms since it was first adopted.

4. KILN.

We explained the Political Agent that the question of the kiln was a question between the Darbar and the contractor who had encroached upon and occupied State lands without having first obtained permission from the State authorities, and had thus violated State laws. His late Highness had imposed a penalty and the State desired that those orders should be upheld. It had been said by the Canal Officer that the contractor alone was responsible for his act. The subsequent purchase of the bricks by the Canal authorities from the contractor did not alter the situation. As soon as Rs. 500 due to the State from the contractor were received the Darbar would have no objection to the removal of the bricks.

The Political Agent remarked that from what he had heard from the Vakil and also from what we told him he understood that the compensation demanded was in the nature of a penalty which was imposed by the late Maharajah Sahib Bahadur on the contractor for occupying State lands without authority and that the Darbar desired that the orders passed by the late Maharajah Sahib Bahadur should be upheld.

5. SIGNING OF FORMS.

We explained to the Political Agent that the Darbar desired that the points on which both the Government and the Darbar were agreed, viz., the reservation of sovereign rights to the State and the affording of facilities by the Railway Administration to the State authorities in preventing crimes, etc., might be incorporated in the agreement. A reply to that effect had been sent long ago with a form of cession in Urdu. We gave to the Political Agent an English translation of the form at his request.

6. DELAY IN SENDING REPLIES.

We asked the Political Agent if there were any cases in which replies were still due. The Political Agent referred to his communication about the Coat of Arms and said that the only reply which he had till then received from the State Foreign Office was that records had been ordered to be put up. In cases which required time for consideration he said it would be well if he were informed of the fact through the Vakil; he would then be able to answer Government reminders. In regard to the instance given by the Political Agent in the list of cases regarding the delay that occurred in sending samples of liquor to the Financial Commissioner we explained that the delay was due to the fact that the sister States had to be consulted. We also added that we understood that the Jind Darbar had not even yet been able to comply with the Political Agent's request, and that the Patiala Darbar had also taken a long time in sending their reply.

We suggested to the Political Agent that in case of delay he could remind the Foreign Office through the Vakil. The Political Agent accepted the suggestion.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

We reminded the Political Agent of the conversation which the State

Vakil had with him in May 1914 and on the 10th instant when the Vakil had informed him that the State had objections to supply the information which the Political Agent wanted. We added that from what the Political Agent had said to the Vakil in May 1914 and again on the 10th instant we gathered that if the State had objections he would not press the matter. The Political Agent said that if the Darbar were not willing to give such information they might not give it; this need not produce any unpleasantness and the case would not be considered as pending.

8. GENERAL.

We explained that as the Vakil had already told the Political Agent and as had been intimated in the letter which we had brought with us, His Highness proposed to be in Lahore on the 27th instant. But His Highness desired it to be clearly understood that, as had been said in his letter of the 9th March last to His Honour, His Highness would not enter into any discussion on controversial matters at this visit.

The Political Agent said that he had already sent a telegram to enquire about the date and time of meeting and he would write to His Honour that His Highness would not discuss controversial questions. He further said that he himself did not consider it likely that His Honour would discuss controversial matters with His Highness. His Honour would only have a private and friendly talk with His Highness to remove any suspicions that might be in His Highness' mind and to place the relations of the Government with the Darbar on a better footing, but if His Highness would take up concrete instances then of course His Honour might reply.

9. In the end we remarked that the main object of the deputation was to interest the Political Agent in the State Infantry which had been under orders so long. The inordinate delay in the troops being sent to the front was disappointing and the officers and men felt it most keenly. The Political Agent said that the matter was not in his hands: but after some further conversation he added that he would do what he could. Meanwhile, he advised, the men might be allowed to proceed on furlough as recommended by Captain Anderson. The men he said would like the change, but they should, of course, be warned to join in 48 hours when required to do so.

(Signed) Hazura Singh,  
Member Council.  
" Saligram,  
Military Minister.  
" Bakhshish Singh,  
Agency Vakil.

Nabha.

15-4-'15.

Patiala,  
20th April, 1915.

MY FRIEND,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of Your Highness' letter dated the 18th inst. to the address of His Honour the Lieut. Governor.

I will forward the letter to His Honour by today's post.

Trusting Your Highness is well,

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(S.) B. E. M. Gurdon

---

*Telegram (ordinary).*

To

Foreign Minister

Nabha N. W. Ry.

113. Punjab Government enquire whether Maharaja wishes salute to be fired on his arrival Lahore 27th and if so at what hour His Highness will arrive Please telegraph reply.

Political Phulkian

Patiala

22-4-1915.

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D. O. No.

Nabha,

Dated the 23rd of April, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your telegram No. 113, dated 22nd April, 1915, I beg to inform you that the arrival of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur at Lahore will be public. His Highness will arrive there on Tuesday the 27th instant at 8 o'clock in the morning.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) Atma Ram,

Offg. Foreign Minister, Nabha State.

To

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon,

C.I.E., D.S.O.,

Political Agent, Phulkian States, Patiala.

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*Note of an interview* between His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab at Lahore on the 28th April 1915.

Present :

Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Lieutenant-Governor.

His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur.

Mr. Barron, Chief Secretary.

Lala Atma Ram, B.A.,

Colonel Gurdon, Political Agent.

Foreign Minister.

The time of interview having been previously fixed, Colonel Gurdon, the Political Agent came to His Highness' residence at 2 p.m. to conduct him to Government House. His Highness accompanied by the Political Agent and his Foreign Minister, Lala Atma Ram, motored to Government House, where he was received in the porch by Colonel Bayley, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor. His Honour received His Highness at the entrance to the drawing room and conducted him to a seat on his right hand.

His Honour began by saying that he was sorry that for some time past the relations of the Nabha Darbar with the Government had not been on the same friendly footing as those of other States. In their correspondence with the Government the Darbar often referred to the Sanads. He would, therefore, briefly go through those documents, as reproduced in Aitchison's treaties, Volume VIII., on the foundation of which their relations with the Government rested.

His Honour said that when Maharaja Ranjit Singh began to lay hands on the possessions of the Cis-Sutlej Chiefs, the States of Patiala, Jind and Kaithal invited the assistance of the British Government to protect them from the high-handedness of the Maharaja. The Government came forward to their help. The negotiations were then conducted perhaps by Mr. Metcalfe, who entered into an alliance with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Maharaja engaged not to commit any encroachment on the possessions or rights of the Chiefs on the left bank of the Sutlej. The States were taken under the protection of the British Government, who promised that the Chiefs should remain in possession of the rights and authority exercised hitherto by them. The Cis-Sutlej Chiefs on their part promised to remain faithful and obedient to the Government. After that, Maharaja Jaswant Singh made a request to the Government for the remittance of Nazrana. (Here His Honour read No. XCVII from the Aitchison's treaties, page 286). The Government acceded to the requests and promised that Raja Jaswant Singh of Nabha should continue to exercise the same power and authority in his own territory which he had enjoyed before and after he had been received under the protection of the British Government. His Honour said that he wanted to draw attention to clause 5 of that document and to emphasise the words "protection" and "obedience" contained therein. His Honour further said that Nabha State had been taken under the protection of the Government at its own request, and so long as the Darbar would remain faithful and obedient to the Supreme Power, the Government would not interfere in the State affairs. But he regretted that for the last few years, i. e., since the accession of His Highness

to the Gaddi, the Darbar's relations with the Government had not remained on a satisfactory footing. They regarded themselves as equal in power of the Supreme Power. As an instance of their attitude, His Honour quoted from His Highness' letter of the 14th October, 1914, to the Political Agent. He said that in that letter the Darbar spoke of the misunderstandings as being mere "differences which may not unnaturally sometimes arise in the ordinary course of friendly dealings between two administrations" and of their relations with Government as resting "upon the solid foundations of treaties between my House and the Government." The Darbar in their note, dated 30th September, 1914, spoke of His Highness' dignity as the Ruler of a State "in friendly alliance with the British Government." His Honour remarked that the word "alliance" was used when both the powers were equal. The word Treaty was also improperly used. There was a great difference between the meaning of a Sanad and of a Treaty. His Honour emphasised the difference between the two and said that Nabha was not a Treaty but a Sanad State. He further said that the Government had upto that time kept their word, but he regretted that for some time past the Darbar were not properly disposed towards the Government. The British Government did not desire that the Darbar should obey them blindly, because after all the State was an "independent" State. They only wanted that in certain matters the Darbar should listen to and act on the advice of the Political Agent and of the Government officials which advice was given in their own interest. When all the other States followed the advice of the Government, that showed that what the Government said was quite reasonable and sound. The Government felt no difficulty in settling matters with other States, like Patiala and Jind who had the same rights and status as the Nabha State under similar Sanads. Every proposal, however, from the Government was met with objections by Nabha Darbar. He could say that the attitude of the Darbar was not friendly but in a way hostile. It was true that in regard to some minor points the Darbar had accepted the proposals of the Government but they had not done so voluntarily. They had been forced to do so. After correspondence spread over two or three years, the Darbar have at last agreed to prohibit the boiling of opium before sale, but they had agreed to do so only after the Government had threatened that they would withdraw the concessions. In like manner when the Political Agent had enquired from the State the results of appeals in the cases of certain persons who had been extradited to the State by the Government, the State had refused to comply with the Political Agent's request, on the ground that such information had never been given before; but when the Political Agent refused to extradite British subjects if the Darbar did not supply him with the decisions of the Court of Appeal, the Darbar agreed to furnish him with the required information.

The Political Agent was not listened to but insulted. No information had been given to the Political Agent of the appointment of Sir P. C. Chatterjee as Prime Minister of the State, nor had the new Minister called upon him, which courtesy required him to do. Even when the Political Agent invited him to Patiala to talk over certain State matters, the Darbar replied that the Political Agent had no right to nominate the officials who should discuss State affairs with him, and sent some other Sardars for the purpose. As a rule when a new Dewan was appointed in a State or a new officer was sent to the Agency, the former called upon the Agent to the Government. When



His Honour himself went to Hyderabad (Deccan) as Resident, Maharaj Kishan Parshad the Minister came to see him at his residence, on the very next day after his arrival. It meant discourtesy to Government if the Minister did not call on their representative.

His Honour further said that at the commencement of the present war, His Highness had sent a telegram to His Excellency the Viceroy placing thereby his troops and all the resources of his State at the disposal of the Government. His Highness had done well. But in the case of other States the way in which they had offered their services was different. They had offered their services through their Political Agent and their local Governments. He did not also know whether His Highness' offers of money etc., had been made intentionally or unintentionally in a closed cover direct to His Excellency the Viceroy and not through the Political Agent or the Punjab Government. This was a discourtesy both to him and the Political Agent. The result, however, had shown how far they were right in the action they have adopted. It was not possible to obtain success by such direct means. The Government of India had only acknowledged the Darbar's telegram, but the Darbar said that their offer had been accepted by the Viceroy. To acknowledge and to accept were two different things. An account appeared in the Civil and Military Gazette of 1st October, 1914, about the appointment of Sir P. C. Chatterjee as Dewan of the State, in which mention was made of the Darbar's offers of money and horses to the Government, and in which the Prime Minister was reported to have said that Government had accepted the offers. The matter was out in the papers before the Political Agent or the Government knew anything of it. His Highness' letter of the 14th October, making the offers, was not received by the Political Agent till the 22nd October. The result of all this was that the Government of India had refused the State's offers, and had replied that in view of His Highness' constant and persistent disregard of their expressed wishes, the Government of India regretted that they were unable to avail themselves of any of His Highness' kind offers of assistance in connection with the present war. His Highness had in his letter spoken of the refusal of his offers as a "public affront" to him. His Honour observed that though the Government of India had not accepted His Highness' offers and the decision must have caused him pain and disappointment, yet the matter had been kept quite secret by the Government. The Government would have published their decision in the papers, but as they did not wish to lower His Highness' Izzat they had not done so. Even the neighbouring Ruling Chiefs like Patiala and Jind did not know anything of the decision of the Government. At the time when His Honour had forwarded His Highness' letter of the 14th October regarding the offers to the Government of India, he had also forwarded some papers with a note of his own showing the relations of the Darbar with the Government. The decision of the Government of India and the wording of their reply had been influenced by the papers that were then before them. If they had had in their possession the further facts regarding the affairs relating to Lohat Badi and Jwala Singh which had since then come to the knowledge of the Punjab Government, their decision would have been conveyed in very different language. In the opinion of the Darbar, continued His Honour, the matters pending between the Government and the State were of a trifling nature, but the

Government thought otherwise, and the decision of that question rested solely with the paramount power. From the Government point of view the matters were most important. The Darbar did not supply Government even with the ordinary information which the other Darbars gave without any objection. For instance, the Political Agent asked the Darbar to inform him about the number of motor cars and factories in the State, but the Darbar refused to do so.

His Honour further said that last year when His Highness had gone to Mussoorie, the notice which he had given of his departure had been received by the Political Agent after His Highness had reached Mussoorie. The Political Agent had not been able to inform the Government in time, and that was a slight to the Political Agent. The Government did not mean to put any restrictions on the movements of His Highness, they only required an adequate notice. His Honour asked what His Highness would think of himself or the Political Agent if they went to his State, say for shooting, without informing him of their intended visit.

His Honour said there were some other matters also. As an instance he would mention the case of Jwala Singh. The Political Agent made some enquiries from the State in the matter. The Darbar replied that he could not make such enquiries as the matter was an internal affair of the State. His Honour characterised the Darbar's reply as one worthy of a *Doim darjeka Arzinavis* (second grade petition-writer).

At this point the Political Agent asked His Honour's permission to say something. The permission being given, the Political Agent said that His Highness had just told him that as Jwala Singh seemed to deny the execution of the agreement, which he had as a matter of fact executed, His Highness thought that it would be better if a written statement of Jwala Singh to that effect was first taken, and that he had replied that he thought that such a statement was perhaps already on the file and if not on the file it could be easily had. His Honour remarked that the Darbar should produce the *Iqrarnama* if it was with them. Jwala Singh denied the existence of any such document signed by him. Jwala Singh was a distinguished British subject, and to safeguard his interest the Government must interfere in the matter. Their interference would not be against the Sanad. His Honour then read clause 7 of the Sanad of 1860, and said that Jwala Singh was a British subject, but if the Government found that some injustice was done even to a subject of the State they would interfere notwithstanding anything contained in the Sanad. The Government would not give up the matter, so long as Jwala Singh did not obtain relief. His Honour said that Jwala Singh was a respectable person and there was no reason why his statement should not be believed.

There was another important matter about which His Honour said he wished to speak to His Highness. For sometime past a conspiracy against the Government had been going on in Lohat Badi village in the State territory. The State police could not detect the mischief. His Honour had been informed that certain discontented emigrants had been successful in inducing some men to join them in their effort to rebel against the Government. They had got bombs, guns and ammunition with them.

As soon as he had got the information he had written to his police to take the matter immediately and directly into their own hands, without seeking any assistance from the State, as he was not confident that the State would come forward to help the Government in bringing the offenders to books; he was rather afraid that it might assist them to escape. His Honour ordered his police to make independent raids, to have the culprits apprehended and to make them over to the State police to be extradited in the usual way. His object in doing this had been to see whether the Darbar were prepared to co-operate with the Government and whether they would hand over the accused to the Government without any objection. It was strange that such persons had been found in a faithful State like Nabha, persons who had been conspiring against the Government at such a critical time. They had been looting the Country all round to get money for the furtherance of their object. They had admitted their crime and the case would come up for hearing in a few days. This matter had not yet been communicated to the Government of India.

At this point His Highness said that he had been listening silently to His Honour all this time. But he was much pained to hear what His Honour had said regarding the Lohat Badi affair and he felt it his duty to enter an emphatic protest against it. With regard to the question of returned emigrants, the Darbar had all along been readily co-operating with the Government. The movements of some of them had been restricted to their villages, some had been placed under surveillance and others had been arrested and were still under custody. If two or three persons in Lohat Badi had been suspected of some crime the law would deal with them as they deserved. The Darbar had nothing to do with their action. The Darbar could not be held responsible for their misconduct. Cases of this kind occurred in Government territory every day. Even Government police failed to trace the criminals for months and years. His Highness said that if his memory did not fail him, he remembered that an approver in Delhi conspiracy case had stated that it had been arranged at Kapurthala to throw a bomb on His Excellency the Viceroy. Surely the Kapurthala Darbar was not responsible for this. The men who were evilly disposed went on doing their devilish work. But could any Government or State be blamed for that?

His Honour said that the Government did not doubt His Highness' personal sincerity and his Darbars loyalty and knew that they had no hand in the matter, but it was a case of negligence on the part of the State police.

His Honour further said that in His Highness' letter to his address he had mentioned that in his experience he had found personal interviews for the purpose of discussing controversial State matters conducive to a better understanding. But from his own experience extending to the biggest States in the Indian Empire he could say that he had never met any Chief who did not welcome the opportunity of discussing official matters with the representatives of the Government. They considered it a matter for pride if they were invited to do so. His Highness had made a request that His Honour should receive a deputation of State Sardars, but he had thought that no good purpose would be served by receiving such deputations and he had therefore refused to receive it. He went on to say that the State Sardars

should discuss matters with the Political Agent. But if matters were to be discussed with him His Highness should himself do so.

His Honour said that His Highness had written that on the occasion of his Simla visit in 1913, he was denied even the usual official courtesies due to his position. In this connection he would explain that it was a rule of the Government of India that no official courtesies were to be observed in Simla at the visit of Ruling Princes, as the circumstances of the place made it difficult to arrange for a Guard-of-Honour. The Government did not mean to show any discourtesy to His Highness. He had been treated in 1913 as all other Ruling Chiefs were treated who visited Simla.

His Highness had also written that each one of the charges imputed to him had been answered over and over again in writing. His Honour said that Government did not impute any charges personally to His Highness. But they desire that the Darbar should listen to the advice of the Government. It had been his object and effort since he came to the Punjab as Lieutenant-Governor to establish more friendly official relations with the Nabha Darbar, but he regretted that the attitude of the Darbar had not been friendly. They did not realise their subordinate position to the Government but thought themselves equal to them.

His Honour went on to remark that so far the Darbar's loyalty had been only lip loyalty; they had given no practical proof of it. The professions of loyalty to the King and the offers of money and horses for the War were of no avail so long as His Highness and his Darbar did not give practical proof of their loyalty by acting on the advice of the Political Agent. The Government advised the Darbar for their own benefit. If His Highness would consult and take advice from any other able person he was sure that he would also give His Highness the same advice which His Honour had given. If His Highness had still any grievance in connection with his installation ceremonies, the Government would be ready and prepared to forward his representation to the Secretary of State as they had already promised to do. Perhaps some mistake had been made in the matter at the time.

His Honour further said that the promises made by His Highness at the Simla interview had not been fulfilled. It was there in black and white that the appointment of the Agency Vakil would be approved by the Political Agent, but His Highness had appointed the new Vakil without consulting the Political Agent in the matter.

His Honour also referred to two old cases. He said that Sir Louis Dane, late Lieutenant-Governor, before his retirement from office, had asked His Highness to allow him to pay His Highness a visit at his capital, but His Highness had declined to invite him to his State; neither had His Highness gone to Simla to say farewell to Sir Louis Dane before his departure. Again, when he had himself asked His Highness to go to Simla to see him in 1913 His Highness had at first refused to do so. He had thus shown disrespect to Rulers of the Punjab.

Colonel Gurdon here asked His Honour to permit him to say something. The permission being given, he said that the State Vakil had not accompanied His Highness to Lahore on the present occasion. Consequent-

ly when he went to conduct His Highness to the Government House, he went by mistake to the old Nabha House. Had the Vakil been with him he would not have been put to this trouble. Whereupon His Highness enquired whether the Vakil was told by the Political Agent to be with him in Lahore. Colonel Gurdon replied that the Vakil had not been asked to be in Lahore, but it was necessary that he should have been present there; or that his duties should have been entrusted to His Highness' Foreign Minister or Chief Secretary. His Honour remarked that the presence of the Vakil in Lahore was necessary, that his absence had put Colonel Gurdon to inconvenience and was discourteous to the Political Agent. He did not say that His Highness meant to show any discourtesy to the Government officials but perhaps the officials of the Darbar delighted in showing discourtesy to them.

His Honour further said that the Government had guaranteed the integrity of Nabha State, and so long as the interests of the State and the Chief were identical, Government would not interfere; but if the interests of the State and the Ruler clashed no regard would be paid to the person or the Chief, because his interests were of secondary importance, and Government would not hesitate to take strong measures against the Chief whether temporarily or permanently. His Honour went on to say that in the presence of Chief Secretary, Political Agent, and His Highness' Foreign Minister he would offer his advice and warning, that the Darbar should change their attitude, that they should listen to the advice of the Government which was given in their own interests and give practical proof of their co-operation with the Government. His Highness would be aware of instances in which strong steps had been taken in other States. His Honour asked whether His Highness would give him some assurance. His Highness replied that he had already and repeatedly assured the Government of his loyalty and attachment to the British Throne and what more he had to say he would say in writing. At the end His Honour asked whether His Highness would like to have a copy of the note which he intended to record on the interview. His Highness replied in the affirmative.

After the conversation recorded above which lasted for an hour and a half the interview closed. His Honour came upto the door of the drawing-room and after shaking hands with His Highness wished him good-bye. His Highness said good-bye to His Honour and left Government House in his motor-car.

(Signed) Atma Ram,  
Offg. Foreign Minister.

Lahore,  
28th April, 1915.

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( 36 )

Confidential D. O.

Chail,  
The 10th of June, 1915.

MY FRIEND,

Your Highness may remember that you replied in the affirmative when His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor asked whether you would like to have a copy of the note he intended to record on the interview which took place on the 28th April last.

I am now desired to forward a copy of His Honour's note for Your Highness' private information on the understanding that Your Highness will make no official use of or reference to it.

Trusting Your Highness is well,

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon.

To

His Highness Maharajah RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malvindar Bahadur,  
Maharajah of Nabha.

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*Note by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on his interview with the Maharajah of Nabha at Lahore on the 28th April, 1915.*

In their letter No. 573 D., dated the 4th December, 1914, the Government of India directed that the Maharajah of Nabha should be informed that in view of his constant and persistent disregard of their express wishes Government regret that they are unable to avail themselves of any of his kind offers of assistance in connection with the present war.

At the same time they suggested that I should invite His Highness to Lahore and make a further effort to come to an understanding with him, and to bring him to a proper sense of his position and obligations, giving him a further opportunity of unburthening himself freely and disclosing where his grievance lies.

2. On the 30th January, 1915, I wrote to His Highness suggesting that, if convenient, he should come to Lahore in February after the 10th, and saying I should be glad of the opportunity of discussing personally with him the matters in controversy with the Darbar and any others he might wish to bring forward. Thereupon His Highness, through the Political Agent, asked me to receive a deputation of his Sardars and hear their representation in the matter of the Darbar's "War" offers.

I replied to the Political Agent on March 1st that I saw no necessity for the deputation of Sardars in regard to matters on which the Government of India had so recently passed final orders and hoped to have an early reply to my letter of the 30th January to His Highness. Sometime after I received His Highness' lengthy letter of the 9th March in which he traversed the reasons given by Government for declining to accept his offers, desired to be excused from a discussion of official and controversial matters at a personal interview with me as not conducive to a better understanding, repeated the request that the discussion of those matters be held over and that his offers should be accepted and finally agreed to come and see me at Lahore if I still desired it.

3. In my letter to His Highness, dated the 17th March, I replied that in view of His Highness' objections to personal discussion I would not have pressed the matter had I not realised from personal experience how little had been accomplished by the very lengthy correspondence with the Darbar. I further pointed out that, during many years' dealings with Indian Ruling Chiefs, I had never met one who did not welcome the opportunity of personal discussion with the representative of the King-Emperor or the Viceroy, that I, therefore, hoped to see him at Lahore between the 22nd and the end of April, and that if he desired he might bring his Chief Minister to assist him at the interview.

The Maharajah informed me through the Political Agent that he would come to Lahore about the end of April and he sent me a lengthy letter dated the 18th April. The main points in this are :—

- (a) That his "War" offers should have been accepted irrespective of the inability of the Darbar to see eye to eye with Government on all occasions in matters affecting the traditions of the State, or trifling difference of opinion in details of administration ;

- (b) That the charges imputed to him had been refuted over and over again in writing;
- (c) That he had done nothing to merit the *public* affront involved in the rejection of his offers, but for the time being could hope for no redress;
- (d) That he and his Darbar recognised that they had clear and unequivocal rights as well as duties and responsibilities under the *Sanads*, but that he was unfortunate in being unable to make himself and his legitimate grievances understood;
- (e) That discussion with his officials, who were willing to discuss and able to represent his wishes, had been refused;
- (f) That at his visit to me in Simla he had not received the courtesies to which he was entitled;
- (g) That for himself he preferred to be judged rather by the written than his spoken word and he desired me at our interview at which he would be accompanied not by the Chief Minister but by another official, to avoid discussion with him as his feelings had already been hurt by the refusal of his offers, and he had no wish to incur new wounds.

I have summarised at some length His Highness' views as expressed in writing, because at our interview I did not (in deference to his strong wishes) press him to express himself verbally.

4. His Highness came to see me at Government House at 2-30 p. m. on the 28th April. He brought his acting Foreign Minister, Lala Atma Ram, with him. Colonel Gurdon, Political Agent and Mr. Barron, Chief Secretary were also present.

To start with, I told his Highness that it was my duty and his to endeavour to put the relations between the Nabha State and the Government on the same friendly footing as those of other States; that those relations were based on the various *Sanads* and agreements to which His Highness had himself referred; and that I would briefly cite those documents as reproduced in Aitchison, Volume VIII., to show what were the rights of the Nabha Darbar, and what were its duties and responsibilities towards the Supreme Government.

5. The historical position was this. At the beginning of the last century Nabha, Patiala, Jind and other Cis-Sutlej Sikh States, threatened by the increasing power and aggression of Ranjit Singh of Lahore, applied to the British Government at Delhi for protection.

The Treaty\* of Lahore was in consequence negotiated in 1809 between the British Government and Ranjit Singh, and in Article 2 the latter bound himself not to increase his forces Cis-Sutlej "nor commit or suffer any encroachments on the possessions or rights of the Chiefs in its vicinity." At the same time on the 3rd May, 1809, a Proclamation† was addressed by the British Government to the Cis-Sutlej Chiefs which stated "that detachment of British troops to this side of the Sutlej was entirely in acquiescence

\* Aitchison's "Treaties Sanads" &c., Volume VIII. page 144.

† Ditto, page 196.



to the *application* and *earnest entreaty* of the Chiefs and originated solely through friendly consideration in the British to preserve the Chief in their possessions and independence".

Articles 1 to 3 of the Proclamation show—

- (1) That the Chiefs having come under the British protection were guaranteed against Ranjit Singh's authority or control;
- (2) Would be exempt from tribute; and
- (3) Would enjoy the same rights and authority in their own possessions as they had enjoyed prior to the British protection.

The remaining articles define the liabilities of the Chiefs to assist the British Government with supplies, troops, &c.

6. The relations of the Nabha Ruler to Government were more fully defined in the replies \* given by the Governor-General in 1810 to his various "Requests": of these 2 and 5 are the most important. In reply to Request 2 the then Chief was assured "that he shall continue to exercise the same power and authority within the limits of his own territory which he has enjoyed since he has been under the protection of the British Government".

Request 5.

"That British Government is my asylum, I am hopeful, therefore, that the circumstances of my sincere attachment and devotion will be viewed with a favourable eye."

Reply.

"The British Government considers Raja Jaswant Singh to be among the number of its faithful friends and well wishers, and he may rely with confidence on the continuance of its favour and protection *so long as his conduct shall continue to be regulated by the principles of attachment and obedience.*"

These questions show the Raja as an anxious suppliant, the British Government as the powerful protector and guarantor of his position as long as he shows attachment and obedience.

His son Davindar Singh failed to show these qualities in the last Sikh War (1845)† withholding supplies and refusing to attend to requisitions. The favour of Government was at once withdrawn. The erring Chief was deposed in 1846 and one-fourth of his territory was confiscated.

The good behaviour of his son and successor in the Mutiny led to the grant of valuable territories, to his elevation to the status of a salute Chief (11 guns), and to the bestowal of the *Sanad* which defines the present status ‡ of the Nabha State. From the preamble it will be seen that the Raja applied for the renewal of the *Sanad* (of 1810) regarding his ancestral territory as well as of that newly granted to him "by way of royal favour and kindness," and the Viceroy approved of the grant of the *Sanad* dated 5th May, 1860. The relevant clauses are:—

*Clause I.*—Guarantees his sovereignty and that of his successors generation after generation in perpetuity with all powers and rights internal and external, and declares that *his* bro-

\* Aitchison's "Treaties Sanads" &c., Volume VIII, page 286.

† Ditto, page 182.

‡ Ditto, page 287.

thers, feudatories, jagirdars, dependents, &c., will according to old custom obey the orders and commands of the Raja and his successors.

*Clause IV.*—Withdraws the previous rule requiring reference to the Commissioner by the Chief before inflicting a capital sentence, and declares that the Raja will exert himself in every possible way to prevent *sati*, slavery and female infanticide, to promote the welfare of his people, and redress the grievances of the oppressed and injured.

*Clause V.*—Declares that the Chief and his successors will never fail in their faithfull and devoted obedience to the Queen Empress and her successors.

*Clauses VII and VIII.*—Guarantee that the Rules made by the Raja for *internal* management and the affairs of his brother's household and relatives will not be interfered with by the British Government and that complaints against the Raja from *his* subjects, mafidars, jagirdars, dependents, brothers and servants will not be listened to by Government.

*Clause IX.*—Provides for military co-operation, furnishing supplies and transport, and also for the provision of land, free of charge, for roads and railways.

*Clause X.*—Is quoted in full :—

“ The Raja Sahib will always pursue the course of *obedience and loyalty* to the powerful Government, who will likewise continue to uphold his honour, respect, rank and dignity in the manner it is done at present.”

In granting to the Chief the adoption *Sanad* \* of 1862 the assurance is repeated “ that nothing shall disturb the engagements thus made to you so long as your House is loyal to the Crown and faithful to the conditions of the (a) Treaties, Grants or Engagements which record its obligations to the British Government.”

7. I pointed out to His Highness that those Sanads † show the Chief of Nabha to be in the position of a feudatory, whose internal independence in his ancestral possessions and in those granted to him as a reward after the Mutiny was guaranteed at his own request and solicitation by the Supreme Power, subject to the usual conditions of maintaining a decent standard of administration and also on condition of continued attachment and obedience to the Paramount Power. The term “ Obedience ” did not contemplate a blind subserviency to every wish of the Supreme Government. The British Government did not require this, and the carefully worded guarantees against unnecessary interference in internal affairs were a sufficient proof of their desire to maintain the Chief's status ; but it did imply that the Chief should, in other than purely internal matters, receive and—in the last resort if Govern-

\* Aitchison's " Treaties Sanads " etc., Volume VIII., page 291.

(a) Note—The use of the words Treaties in this *Sanad* does not imply that Nabha is a Treaty State. The words quoted are of a set form and have been used in the *Sanads* granted to the petty Chiefs. e.g., the *Sardars*

Aitchison's " Treaties and Sanads " etc. Volume VIII page 294.

of Kalsia, who have very restricted powers and no salute.

† Aitchison's " Treaties Sanads " etc., Volume VIII. page 291.

ment insisted—accept the advice of Government or its authorised representative. I went on to explain that this position appears not to have been understood by His Highness and his Darbar, and some of their communications were worded as if they claimed a position of complete independence from, and equality with, the Supreme Government, *e.g.*—

- (a) In his letter of the 14th October, 1914, to the Political Agent, His Highness writes of the misunderstandings as “mere differences arising in the ordinary course of friendly dealings between two administrations.”
- (b) In the same letter he speaks of his relations with Government relating “upon the solid foundation of *treaties* between my house and the Government.”
- (c) The Darbar in their memo. dated 30th September, 1910, speak of “His Highness’ dignity as the Ruler of a State in *friendly alliance* with the British Government.”

I told His Highness that these claims were quite inconsistent with the status sought by the Darbar in the past and conferred by the Government *Sanads*, and that on more than one recent occasion the attitude of the State was that of an independent and neighbouring but not altogether friendly power. This attitude of suspicion and obstruction had become steadily more marked since His Highness’ installation in 1911. In my interview with His Highness at Simla in October, 1913, I had endeavoured to arrange for a settlement of existing differences and to make His Highness realise and fulfil his obligations for the future. The notes of that interview, which His Highness had signed in token of acceptance and of which he had received a copy, encouraged the Government of India and the Punjab Government to hope that this result would be attained by His Highness conforming to the attitude of loyalty and obedience prescribed in the *Sanads* as the condition for the continuance of the protection of the Supreme Power.

8. I was, however, compelled to admit that there had been no change in the Darbar’s attitude towards Government. It was true that a few matters had been adjusted, *Viz.*:—

- (a) The Darbar, after years of obstruction, had now agreed to fall into line with adjoining States in co-operating with the policy of Government by prohibiting the boiling of opium, but only when Government had threatened to reduce the supply of opium to the State;
- (b) The Darbar, having for months refused to afford the Political Agent information of the sentences inflicted on British Indian subjects by the Appellate Courts of the State, subsequently agreed to give the information, but only when the Political Agent, under the orders of the Government, informed them that no further extradition would be allowed until the information was afforded.

It was clear that the acquiescence of the Darbar to these eminently reasonable requests was not voluntary, but was due to the threat of retaliatory measures.

9. As instances of the obstructive and unfriendly attitude of His Highness and his Darbar towards Government and its representatives, I referred to—

- (1) His Highness' refusal to receive a farewell visit from, and his failure to pay a farewell visit to, the late Lieutenant-Governor.
- (2) His unwillingness to discuss official matters with the Lieutenant-Governor or the Political Agent.
- (3) His refusal to allow the newly-appointed Chief Minister last year to pay the courtesy call—which the universal practice of Native States prescribes—to the Political Agent. This was a slight not only to the Political Agent but to the Government he represented.
- (4) His rejection of the Political Agent's written suggestion that the Chief Minister should be sent to discuss official matters with him (the Political Agent).
- (5) His general refusal to give notice to the Political Agent of his intention to leave his State even for visits of several months to parts of British India outside the Punjab, and his failure to give *timely* notice of such departures on the single occasion when the information was given. On the 16th April, 1914, the Foreign Minister wrote to the Political Agent—then at Chail—that His Highness would leave for Mussoorie on the 17th. The Political Agent received the letter on the 18th. There was no time to inform either the Political Agent or the Punjab Government, and the suggestion that this *notice* was a compliance with a rule, which both courtesy and convenience dictate, is a quibble worthy of a petty legal practitioner.

I hoped that His Highness, who so jealously preserved the integrity and even the isolation of his own State and would resent any high British official suddenly appearing there, without ascertaining that the visit was convenient to His Highness, would realise that the British Government had a right to expect timely notice of his visits to parts of British India especially outside the Punjab.

- (6) Persistent failure to accept the advice of Inspecting Officers in regard to his Imperial Service Troops, which were consequently found unfit for active service at the beginning of the war.
- (7) Failure of the Darbar to show the usual courtesy to the Political Agent and Punjab Government by not informing them of the offer of the services of the Imperial Service Troops made by His Highness in his telegram of 7th August to His Excellency the Viceroy.
- (8) Statement by His Highness in his *Murasila* of the 14th October 1914, to the Viceroy that the offer of his troops had been accepted, whereas His Highness had been informed in accordance with Foreign and Political Department letter No. 1452 I-A., dated the 14th August, that his troops could not be utilised as the latest reports showed them to be unfit for Foreign Service.
- (9) Account in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, dated the 1st October, 1914, of a Darbar in Nabha in which the Chief Minister is reported to have announced the "War" offers of the Darbar with the suggestion that they had been accepted by Government,

though His Highness' letter of the 14th October to the Viceroy containing those offers was not despatched by the Darbar till the 19th and was not received by the Political Agent till the 22rd. It was pointed out to His Highness that his premature announcement of an offer not yet formally made savoured of an attempt to force the hand of Government, and would have justified Government in giving publicity to the fact that Government had been unable to accept both his offer of troops and his supplementary offers. But to save his credit Government had made no such publication, and his contention that he had been *publicly affronted* by the refusal of his offers was, therefore, peculiarly groundless.

- (10) Persistent refusal to supply even the most ordinary statistical information regarding this State—such as independent Governments supply to one another as a matter of courtesy—while Government is willing to supply the Darbar with its annual Administration and other reports.
- (11) Failure of the Darbar to inform and obtain the Political Agent's approval to the recent change in the Agency Vakil, though this was a formality to which His Highness had agreed in the note of the 13th October.
- (12) Discourtesy shown to the Political Agent in neither the Vakil nor any substitute accompanying him to Lahore at this important visit on State business.
- (13) Denial of the right of the Political Agent to enquire into the allegation of a distinguished Sikh Sardar in British territory that the Darbar refuses to pay him a sum of one lakh of rupees, deposited at interest in the State Bank subject to six months' notice of withdrawal according to the receipts he produces. The Darbar holds that this enquiry on behalf of a distinguished British subject is an interference in the internal affairs of the State, and is barred by the Sanad. It was pointed out that the Sanad only bars interference on the representation of *State* subjects, and even they, in case of serious oppression are entitled to appeal to the Paramount Power. That Power would insist on its right to pursue enquiries on behalf of its subjects till the Darbar could satisfy it that there was no serious ground of complaint.
- (14) Failure of the Darbar to discharge its elementary duty to the Supreme Government. The village of Lohat Badi in Nabha territory had been used for months recently by Nabha subjects and others as a base for the revolutionary movement against British rule, where arms, ammunition, materials for bombs were accumulated, meetings of revolutionaries held, dacoities on villages in British territory and in the adjoining State of Malerkotla organised, and stolen property—the proceeds of those outrages—secreted. I agreed with His Highness that the Darbar was of course in no way privy to these plots, but they had been warned in regard to the intentions of the returned emigrants, and the inaction or apathy of their administration had allowed the

conspirators to organise for months against the British Government. The Punjab Government when it discovered what was going on hesitated, in view of the general obstructive attitude of the Darbar, to invite their co-operation, fearing that delay would give the criminals an opportunity of escaping. Hence the British police took independent action by raiding the revolutionary Head-quarters, seizing the arms, ammunition and bomb materials concealed there, and arresting the chief promoters. One informer and at least two of the accused in the conspiracy case now under trial are Nabha subjects.

10. Though many other instances of the Darbar's refusal or failure to discharge their obligations to the British Government could have been cited, I thought it was unnecessary to do so, and I asked His Highness if he could honestly say that these cases were, in the words of the Darbar's note of the 11th January, matters of "comparatively minor importance." I said it must rest with the protecting power to decide, and that Government regarded many of these instances as grave and serious failures on the part of a protected feudatory State to discharge its obligations of loyalty, attachment and obedience. The reference to the Lohat Badi affair aroused His Highness from his studious silence. He emphatically protested that the Darbar had taken all reasonable measures against the returned emigrants and their adherents, pointed out that plots and mutiny were also organised in British territory against the British Government and that the Lohat Badi affair should not count against the traditional loyalty of his State. I repeated that no imputation against that loyalty was intended, but that loyalty was to be shown by deeds rather than by words, and that it was want of confidence in the ready co-operation of the Darbar which had decided Government not to solicit it in the Lohat Badi affair. That want of confidence was the result of the persistently suspicious and obstructive—one might even say unfriendly—attitude of the Darbar as shown in the other matters above noted.

11. I then replied briefly on the lines above indicated to the point raised in His Highness' letter of April 18th (paragraph 3 *supra*) pointing out :

- (a) That it was not "trifling differences of opinion in administrative details, but persistence in an unjustifiable line of policy and in discharging its advice that had compelled Government to decline his offers ;
- (b) that no charges were imputed to him personally ; Government recognised that he was loyal at heart, but expected him to show it in practical form ;
- (c) that Government had been most scrupulous in screening him from any public affront, and had not even contradicted the rumour that Government had asked the Darbar for the services of the Imperial Service Troops, but the Darbar had refused them ;
- (d) that the object of my inviting him to a personal interview at Lahore was to give him every facility for making his legitimate grievances understood ; and that as far as I knew his grievance originated from the installation ceremonies, and Government had repeatedly undertaken to consider any further representation of his in regard to them, but so far had received none ;

- (e) that the Political Agent was the proper official to discuss matters with his Sardars, and it was unreasonable to expect me to enter on a discussion with them in regard to a matter already settled;
- (f) that it was laid down by the Government of India that Chiefs' visits to Simla were to be considered private, and that at his visit in October 1913, he had been treated in exactly the same way as other Chiefs of even higher status visiting Simla;
- (g) that while I should welcome a discussion with him on the matters above explained, I would not of course press him to speak if he preferred silence.

12. As His Highness showed no disposition to accept the suggestion for discussion or the invitation to unburthen himself of his own grievances, I explained to him that Government had no desire to interfere with his rights, but it expected him to fulfil his reciprocal obligations. Government had no harsh or unfriendly disposition towards him or his Darbar. It experienced no serious difficulty in dealing with his brother Chiefs of similar status, whose rights were based on the same Sanads as his. Differences of opinion might and did occasionally arise with such Chiefs, but they were settled satisfactorily by amicable discussion. That fact indicated that the responsibility for the present unsatisfactory relations with Nabha rested not with Government but with the Darbar.

Professions of loyalty, however genuine, to the King-Emperor, even when backed by the offer of troops and resources of the State, did not counterbalance or palliate a series of acts and persistence in an attitude which were quite inconsistent with the spirit of attachment and obedience due to Government as the price of its favour and protection.

13. In conclusion I said to His Highness that I desired in his own interests to repeat and emphasise the advice given him on the 13th October, 1913, that the Darbar's past attitude, which was generally obstructive, often discourteous, and in some cases unfriendly, had led Government regretfully to decline the offer of troops and of other services, and if persisted in—and some of the most serious cases, *e.g.*, (13) and (14) in paragraph 9, had arisen quite recently—would lead to even more serious results. Government as the Paramount Power had guaranteed the integrity and perpetuity of the Nabha State and desired to maintain its honour and dignity. The permanent interests of the State must take priority of the temporary interests of the Chief for the time being, and where the conduct of the Chief adversely affected the interest of the State, Government would have no hesitation in deciding that the former must give way to the latter. While it was my duty, and an unpleasant one, to utter this solemn warning, I trusted that the situation described would never arise, if His Highness, while there was still time, would adopt a reasonable and friendly attitude towards Government and its representatives, who would for their part be always willing to consider any reasonable representation from him.

14. With this the interview, which had lasted over 1½ hours, terminated. I paid His Highness a return visit at his house on the morning of the 29th and found him affable and courteous.

Lahore:

M. F. O'Dwyer,

Lieutenant-Governor, Punjab.

Dated the 29th and 30th April, 1915.

Nabha,  
17th June, 1915.

DEAR SIR,

I am desired by His Highness to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, with a copy of the note recorded by His Honour on the interview which took place at Lahore on the 28th April last. By His Highness' order immediately on his return home from the Government House what passed at the interview was put in writing for the purpose of reference when necessary. So far as His Honour's note is concerned it is true, as you say, that when His Honour His Highness whether he would like to have a copy of the note which His Honour intended to record on the interview, His Highness replied in the affirmative, for to a question like that there was in courtesy only one answer possible, *viz.*, that which His Highness gave. But you will remember that at the same time of the interview neither His Honour made nor did His Highness accept any such condition as is now proposed in your letter under reply, *viz.*, that His Highness "will make no official use of or reference to it".

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) Atma Ram,

Offg. Foreign Minister, Nabha State.

To

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C. I. E., D. S. O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States,  
Chail.

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Nabha,

Dated the 4th October, 1915.

SIR,

I herewith beg to enclose a letter and a representation from His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and request the favour of your kindly forwarding it to His Excellency, through the proper channel.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) Gurdial Singh,

Secretary.

To

Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C. I. E., D. S. O.,  
Political Agent,  
Chail.

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To

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble  
Charles Baron Hardinge of Penshurst,  
P. C., G. C. B., G. M. S. I., G. C. M. G.,  
G. M. I. E., G. C. V. O., I. S. O.,  
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I respectfully beg to approach Your Excellency with the accompanying representation for justice at your hands. Though I fear my request must imply serious encroachment upon Your Excellency's precious time, but I would very earnestly entreat Your Excellency to kindly peruse it. I would base my appeal on two grounds: the importance of the issue to myself: the fact that I am to my misfortune personally unknown to Your Excellency: in which view, perhaps, I may claim an attention which otherwise I would not venture to ask for.

My explaining the position and approaching Your Excellency I am afraid cannot naturally be pleasant to those against whom I am appealing, but situated as I am I had no alternative left but to approach Your Excellency when ordinarily I would not have troubled Your Excellency at such a time, for which I beg to be excused.

I beg to remain,  
Your Excellency's respectfully,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

The Palace,  
Nabha,  
Dated the 4th/10 1915.

To

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble  
Charles Baron Hardinge of Penshurst,  
P. C., G. C. B., G. M. S. I., G. C. M. G.,  
G. M. I. E., G. C. V. O. I. S. O.,  
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

1. There took place an interview between His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, and myself at Lahore on the 28th April last with reference to which I desire to approach Your Excellency. Immediately after the interview which—with the exception of the closing warning in English of strong measures against myself—was carried on in Urdu, my Acting Foreign Minister, Lala Atma Ram, B. A., who was throughout present, recorded in writing what had been said. This was sub-

Subject matter of appeal: His Honour's interview at Lahore, 28th April, 1915.

mitted to me and I endorse its substantial accuracy. A copy of that record I attach. [Appendix A.]

2. The following is a brief statement of the circumstances which led **Facts leading to the interview.**

3. In consequence of Government's refusal to accept my State's offer of troops, horses, money, houses and all its resources placed unreservedly at their disposal for the purposes of the present war, my Darbar orally requested the Political Agent on the 12th January last at Nabha, and by writing on the 21st January, that he would ask His Honour to receive a deputation of State officials in order to produce, if possible, a reconsideration of an order which hurt, not merely my personal honour, but the loyalty of my Darbar and people and the military aspirations of my soldiers. To these representations no reply was received before the 30th January, 1915, when His Honour wrote inviting me to meet him at Lahore, notwithstanding that the Political Agent had, on the 12th of January, on his questioning my Sardars "whether His Highness was going to see the Lieutenant-Governor," been told by them that "His Highness would not go but that the State officials whom the Maharajah Sahib Bahadur would be pleased to depute would wait upon His Honour to represent matters to him." (Vide Appendix C, Exhibit 2.) Twice, therefore, before His Honour's invitation I had solicited and been refused the request to send my officials to offer such explanations as may be necessary regarding pending matters to the Lieutenant-Governor. On the 5th February the Darbar wrote repeating for the third time their request for the deputation. On that same date the Political Agent informed us by letter that the matter was "the subject of correspondence between His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and His Highness the Maharajah." On the 7th February the Darbar wrote that "in the letter of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, dated the 30th January, 1915, addressed to His Highness the Maharajah Sahib Bahadur there is no reference to the Darbar's request," and requesting that His Honour might fix a date to receive the State officials and hear their representation. On the 9th February the Political Agent replied, "nothing has since occurred which would justify a request to the Supreme Government to consider a decision which is so recent and is intended to be final." This referred to my offers. He concluded by stating he was "unable to take any further action in regard to the reception by His Honour of the proposed deputation." On the 18th February I wrote to the Political Agent asking him to request the Lieutenant-Governor to fix a date on which my State Sardars might present to His Honour a letter from myself in reply to His Honour's letter of the 30th January. The Political Agent replied on the second March that His Honour saw "no necessity for a deputation of State officials to wait upon him, as the Political Agent is the recognised channel of communication with the Darbar." On the 9th March I forwarded a long letter to His Honour in which I stated, among other things, my strong disinclination to an oral discussion of official matters though to safeguard against the possibility of any misunderstanding I expressed my willingness to call on His Honour at Lahore. To this His Honour replied by his letter of the 17th March in which he again pressed for an interview and invited me to meet him at Lahore between the 22nd and 30th April, 1915. On the 18th April I replied by letter to His Honour reiterating my views at length. I append hereto copies of letters of 9th March and

18th April in case Your Excellency should care to peruse them (Appendices B and C.)

4. As I wish to be perfectly frank and to keep back nothing which may lead to a just appreciation of my motives, I would state that my objections to an interview with His Honour were based *firstly*, on the fact that whatever may be the practice of other States, there is not one single instance which can be cited of an invitation from any previous Lieutenant-Governor to the Ruler of Nabha to discuss questions relating to matters connected with the daily administrative work of the State: *secondly*, on the fact that my officials, long in the service of the State, were better qualified than I to expound and argue the view adopted by the State: *thirdly*, on the fact that I had already exhaustively reduced to writing all that I had to say on the topics which were to be touched on at the proposed interview: *fourthly*, on the fact that, being slow of speech and by temperament, I realised that I should be unable at an oral discussion to express my views and wishes, if I had any to formulate, with the clearness and certainty they deserved, and would to that extent be at a disadvantage with an officer well versed in diplomatic usage and habituated to skill of speech: and, *lastly*, on the knowledge born of experience that these invitations to discussions assume the character of disciplinary lectures, I regret to say interspersed with threats, which are not in keeping with my sense of self-respect, which do not advance the topics on which discussion is invited beyond their then position, which do not better mutual official goodwill and which, on the contrary, invariably leave a sting behind. The latest interview has only added to the disinclination I have always felt towards these meetings. It has confirmed my previous belief in the inutility of interviews which do not promote harmony of political views and that which sometimes, as in the present instance, political sentiments are expressed in language I venture to think unbecoming on the occasion.

5. It may be—though I do not think so—that I am wrong in some of the reasons which induce me to abstain from oral discussion. But I would pray Your Excellency to make some allowance for an inherited conservatism which makes me reluctant to assent to departures from established usage in this State. “The Ruling Chiefs”, writes a well known retired high Government official, “are sensitive and conservative; they take a deep interest in the controversies to which such phrases as suzerainty, subordinate alliance, independence and dependence have given rise. It is through our habitual bearing with ours that we build up relations either of confidence or reserve.” The methods to which I am at present subjected are not conducive to the promotion of confidence. The East moves slowly, and I am of the East. I cannot at one stroke lay aside all I have been taught from my birth or free myself from tenets—prejudices if they may be so called—which I ask Your Excellency to ascribe not to any antagonism to the allegiance in which I glory but to the subtle influences of the surroundings among which I was born, reared and educated and which now have crystallised to a part of my very nature. I write this because both myself and my people have been censured and punished—let me in all respect repeat undeservedly—for “constant and persistent disregard” of the “expressed wishes” of the Government of India, whereas I

have never departed in intent or by proof from the rule of rendering intelligent and loyal obedience to the paramount power. If any proof were needed of my loyal attitude I might be permitted to mention one single instance. As I said in my letter of the 9th March, 1915, to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor (Appendix B), "in order that I might be able to show my respect to" Your Excellency "by attending the State Entry at Delhi and to prevent the possibility of any adverse interpretation being put on the Darbar's position on the question of my 'installation' I agreed—although the original invitation sent by the Punjab Government was not conditional and it was only subsequently that the Government made my 'installation' a condition precedent to my taking part in the State Entry at Delhi—to receive the Political Agent, and through him the Government *Khullat*, on a day—the 10th of *Muhurram*, which is observed as a day of mourning by my Mohamedan subjects, which was not auspicious according to our Calendar and on which I would not ordinarily have performed the ceremony." I hope Your Excellency will appreciate what it caused me to overcome my objections to go through the "installation" ceremony on the day of the *Muhurram*, in order that I might be able to show my loyalty to His Majesty by taking part in the State Entry.

While His Honour assures me that the British Government does not require from any Ruling Prince a "blind obedience" it is only because I am unable to accord such obedience to every request which issues from the Political Agent that I find myself and my Darbar described as being unfriendly and disrespectful. My inability to offer unreasoning obedience, which I am told is not needed, is based upon my honest intellectual inability to agree off-hand with every item of advice tendered me by the Political Agent. But I am both willing and ready to reason. The moment I do this I am depicted as wishing to "insult" your officers. If, being open to ultimate conviction, I raise an objection by way of argument, I ought to be doing that which His Honour assures me is gratifying to the Paramount Power as not being mere "blind obedience". None the less, I simultaneously incur his censure because I venture to exercise those poor intellectual faculties the exercise of which affords, I am told, gratification to the Government. I stand thus between the Scylla of blind and the Charybdis of reasoning obedience. In all respects I make the complaint that I have all along been misunderstood by those who have reported ill of me to the Government of India.

6. His Honour's long historical disquisition into the origin of the relations of the State with the Government, I respectfully submit, was unnecessary. With that portion of it which is accepted history I have been long familiar, and I have never sought to deny its accuracy. With some, however, of His Honour's historical deductions and interpretations, I respectfully but firmly disagree; but I will not enter upon any discussion of them here to-day.

7. But I venture very respectfully to submit that His Honour had no justification to tell me that this State did not regard itself subordinate to the Supreme Government but as their equal in power. I court reference to any line I have ever written or spoken which supports a charge of this tenor. I and my people recognise, and have always recognised, with gratitude that we are subordinate to His Majesty the King-Emperor. No protest I raised with regard to the

"Blind obedience" His Honour said, not demanded.

His Honour's historical preface.

Charge 1. My alleged claim to be co-equal with British Government.

procedure at my installation but gratefully admit suzerainty of England. But when England re-affirmed to the Ruler of this State certain plain conditions on which its tenure was based, it is surely not inconsistent with the most profound loyalty to the Throne to assert the view that the Throne intended each Ruler to acquire by birth a vested interest in the State. I have always made a full admission of my subordinate position. From that admission I have never resiled nor wish to resile. If my interpretation of my *Sanad* be wrong, either that I succeeded by birth or that in matters domestic I have plenary jurisdiction free from interference from the Government then I am willing to be set right. But I trust Your Excellency will not question the sincerity of my attachment to British Rule if in the protection of my own interests and in affirmation of the righteousness of my own belief I desire to secure the pronouncement of the highest tribunal open to me in England. I have deferred my appeal to the Secretary of State, because I have not wished Differing interpretations of my rights must await an appeal to the Secretary of State. to trouble British Statesmen with my private grievances while Europe was convulsed in war. I would not have referred to this topic at all here had not His Honour himself drawn it into the interview.

8. As instances of the Darbar's alleged ambition to be placed on an equality with the Government His Honour quoted three phrases—two from a letter of mine to the Political Agent, dated 14th October, 1914, and another from a note of the Darbar enclosed with the said letter. The first spoke of "differences which may not unnaturally sometimes arise in the ordinary course of friendly dealings between two administrations". I cannot even now grasp what there is objectionable in this. The British Government possess an administration; so does the State. I submit that it is accurate and respectful to describe communications between the officers of the two Governments as communications between the "two administrations." There is no suggestion or implication that the two are of equal power or importance.

Administration is but a synonym for Government, and if the use of the latter be permissible in referring to the controlling power over any community of men, it follows the use of the former is equally permissible. Aitchison's Treaties and Resolutions of the Government of India furnish many instances where the paramount power has itself spoken of the subordinate administration as a "Government". I will content myself with three excerpts :—

(a) My Adoption Sanad of 1862 states in its preamble that "Her Majesty being desirous that the *Governments* of the several Princes should be perpetuated." (Aitchison's Treaties, Vol. VIII., page 291, edition 1909.)

(b) The Canal Treaty of 1873 in paragraph 2 says that the British Government will give every possible attention "to the wishes of the *Governments* of the other States."

(Vol. VIII, page 211.)

(c) Clause 2 of Government of India resolution No. 1862—L. A., dated the 13th May, 1904, requires Political Agents not to issue warrants except on the request of the person "administering the *Executive Government of the State* for which he is a Political Agent."

Of what the highest authority has sanctioned His Honour, I submit, cannot deprive me of the use. Besides, the same letter from which His

Honour quoted the expression "two administrations" also contains the following sentences: "It is not necessary for me to repeat my assurance of loyalty and devotion to the British Throne. I am ever ready to do my duty loyally and faithfully by the Government." There is also at the end of the same letter reference to "the unshakeable loyal and friendly devotion of my house and myself to the British Throne." In face of these expressions I submit respectfully it was not fair to me to take out two isolated words from their context and to draw adverse deductions of claims of equality on my part with the British Government.

9. His Honour sees in the use of the word "treaties" a veiled claim to equality of power. I can best answer by stating that I find my Sanad describes itself in its own preamble as a "*Sanad by way of Treaty.*" (See Aitchison's Treaties, Vol. VIII., page 287.)

10. Lastly, His Honour animadvertes on the use of the term "friendly alliance" in a note from the Darbar of the 30th September, 1914, enclosed with my letter of the 14th October. I submit that there is both custom and authority to support this use. As an instance of customary use I excerpt the following from the "Tribune" of Lahore, of the 17th December, 1914, page 2, column 4:—"I need not remind you," said His Highness the Ruler of Sirmoor (Nahan) in December last in a public speech, "that since the close of the Nepal War in 1815, the Sirmoor Darbar has become an *ally* to the British Government. We are bound since that time, by compact, to side with the Government and in case of need to assist with our force as a faithful *ally.*" His Highness the Ruler of a smaller State than mine, used without reproof a phrase which in the mouth of this State is treated by His Honour as evidence of an unpardonable ambition.

As evidence of the use of the word *ally* in connection with my own State I may be permitted to quote from "The Native States of India" (Macmillan & Co., London, second edition, 1910) by Sir William Lee Warner, who is regarded in official circles as an authority on the subject of Indian States. At page 184 he writes:

"The visits of Members of the Royal Family of Great Britain and Ireland to India... have tended to draw closer the bonds of union. The results are written in the Treaties and Engagements of the period of India's History under the Viceroys. Omitting 160 Sanads of adoption given by the first Viceroy, to which Lord Lansdowne added 17 in 1890, most of the remaining engagements of the past fifty years deal with matters of internal sovereignty, in regard to which the protected *allies* (the italics are mine) have joined hands with the British Government in promoting the common welfare of the Empire. Some of the instruments testify to the loyal assistance rendered by the States of Hyderabad, Nepal, Gwalior, Bhopal, Patiala, Jhind, *Nabha*, Rampur and Bikanir during the stress of rebellion"

Sir William was not likely to use in connection with my state a phrase which he thought would ignore, misdescribe, or expunge its subordination to the British Throne.

11. I submit that if on such slight grounds His Honour can attack the good faith of the Darbar for a written phrase, the danger of misunderstanding would be enhanced when in lieu of writing I am called on for impromptu speech, His, Such charges justify my dislike of interviews:

Honour directly charged my State with pretensions to regarding itself as an equal with the British Government. This is a complete misunderstanding of anything I or my officials have ever written. They and I—in this instance and are refuted inseparable—must be judged not by isolated phrases de- by my writings. tached from the context but by the whole tenor of the -correspondence to which I and my officials have been a party since I succeeded as Ruler of Nabha. The Lieutenant-Governor assures me he does not doubt my personal sincerity. With that admission, I draw Your Excellency's atten- tion to extracts from two letters I addressed so long ago as 1912 to the Political Agent, Mr. Atkins, and to one which I addressed to His Honour -early this year. The first is dated 28th October, 1912. There I wrote :—

“The ritual of installations adopted in the cases of my fore-fathers has always been essentially religious, and ceremonials observed subsequent to that ritual adequately evidenced and assured *their loyalty and subordination to the British Rulc*. I regret I am unable to see what need there is for any departure, in my instance from precedents which have served their purpose well, and which I should rejoice to follow in testifying *my own loyalty and subordination to His Majesty the King-Emperor*.”

“My contention, based upon the unalterable belief of my House, on pre- cedents beyond dispute, is that my succession rests wholly, and solely, upon my *Sanad*, and that the gracious presentation of the *Khillat* by the British Government, is but an acknowledgement that I am where I am by virtue of my flawless right, while its grateful acceptance by myself is a public admission of *my holding under a higher power*.”

“The principle I have never contested, and never shall contest, is that *I owe allegiance and fealty to the King-Emperor*, and that I am bound to testify both in a fashion which shall place the evidence as to each beyond the reach of doubt, of suspicion or of misinterpretation”

The second is dated 15th December, 1912 :—

“.....I would rather that the formal installation Darbar be held on the 19th instant subject to the condition aforesaid, so as to *enable me to show my due sense of allegiance* at the approaching Delhi Darbar *thereby rendering impossible for all time any hostile or unfriendly criticism of the attitude I am constrained to adopt*.”

The last-mentioned hope has, I regret to tell, not been attained. In- spite of my repeated, my strongly-worded and, as His Honour is good enough to admit, my sincere assertions to the contrary, I am now attacked for that which I hoped could never be held in judgment against me.

On the 9th March last, I wrote to His Honour :—“I would now again request Your Honour that such controversies as have not already been settled—and I am happy to think that they are neither numerous nor pres- suring—be laid aside for the present and *the Darbar permitted to render to their Suzerain what little service they can at the present juncture*.... I request that *our humble offers which are a token of loyalty and devotion to the throne*, may be kindly accepted and our troops which have been trained and main- tained for many years at great expense to be of use to the Government at a time like this, may be ordered to proceed to the front.....the Darbar desire to serve the King-Emperor and the Government from a sense of their sacred duty, and they earnestly hope that they will be permitted to do so.”

The letter concluded as follows:—

“To the great British Government which commands the resources of world-wide Empire, the humble offers of a small State like Nabha are of no importance. To us, however, the matter is of deep concern and I must, therefore, earnestly request Your Honour to kindly move the Government of India to reconsider their decision” . . . . . and “to accept my offers which, though humble have been promoted by feelings of warm and *dutiful devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's person and throne.*”

I request Your Excellency to judge how little justification there is, in face of these and many similar expressions of our allegiance to the British Crown, for the serious charge hurled at me by His Honour that I do not realise my position under the British Government and that I entertained pretensions to equality with it.

12. I take grave exception to His Honour's statement that the Political Agent has ever been “insulted” by the State. His Honour seemed to suggest that the Political Agent was “insulted” because his advice was not accepted. But not to accept proffered advice is not to insult the profferer. On such occasions as when we have not been able to attach the same value as the Political Agent to his tendered opinion the State has acted honestly in the belief that its view was the right one. I respectfully protest against reading an intention to offend into action capable of another and an innocent intention. Another illustration of “insult” was to be found, so His Honour said, in the failure to give notice to the Political Agent of my intention to appoint my Prime Minister, Sir P. C. Chatterjee: a third, in the failure of that Minister to call on the Political Agent: a fourth, in the objection raised by the Darbar to the request by the Political Agent that the Minister should confer with him at Patiala and the substitution for the Prime Minister of other officials. All the three last instances rest on the undeviating custom of my State. No precedent can be found for notice to the authorities of the appointment of Ministers, nor for a call by the Ministers on the Political Agent. As to the third of these points, as has always been the case and custom the selection of official to visit the Political Agent rests exclusively with the State and not with the Agent. In short the State has throughout acted in strict conformity with long established custom and precedents, and such conformity, I submit, is incapable of being transformed into any “insult”. I respectfully deny that adherence to ancient rules can fairly be quoted as evidence of disrespect.

13. His Honour expressed dissatisfaction with me for having telegraphed my offer of loyal co-operation direct to Your Excellency. My explanation is very simple. On the 7th August, 1914, I saw in the “Pioneer” the announcement that War had broken out between Great Britain and Germany. Acting on the impulse of the moment and anxious to be among the earliest to give evidence of my loyalty to the Throne, I telegraphed placing my “humble services”—scarcely the language of one



claiming co-equal sovereignty—at the disposal of the King in the present crisis. If I erred I have erred, I feel sure, in the company of many other Indian Princes who, so far as I know, have not been reproved for their over-mastering sense of devotion at a time when men's pulses beat quick. On the 13th August Colonel Gurdon, the Political Agent, who had taken no steps to inform me of the war with Germany—a silence which, valuing as I do his strict recognition and discharge of his duty to the Ruling Princes I can only ascribe to his knowledge that I, like others, had already been in telegraphic touch with Your Excellency—wired me that war had broken out with Austria. I at once telegraphed back to the Political Agent repeating to him my offer to Your Excellency. That offer the Political Agent forwarded to Your Excellency, and on the 20th August informed me Your Excellency's Government had noted my offer and thanked me both for it and my assurances of loyalty. I not merely fail to detect any impropriety in my action, but I cannot but express my wonder and regret that so minute a technical—if deviation it be—from official routine should be magnified into a charge of insult or disrespect.

14. Further disrespect or insult is discovered and preferred in the charge (f) my sending that my letter to Your Excellency making the offer of my offers of money etc., in answer to Your Excellency's communication money etc. to to me of His Majesty the King-Emperor's message was Your Excellency direct and not sent, as it should have been, through the Political through the Agent and the Local Government but direct to Your usual channel. Excellency. This was not so. The letter was in truth sent to and through both the customary channels. I adopted the usual course, and His Honour has no room for complaint. It now appears that the letter was sent in a closed envelope through the Political Agent and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, but that does not, I submit, affect the situation. I neither wrote nor saw the covering letter, I had no predilection for secrecy. No possible reason can be suggested why this information should be kept back from the Lieutenant-Governor either by myself or my Darbar. The greater the number of persons cognizant of my offers, the greater the advertisement of my loyalty and the less the existence of any reason for secrecy. Most assuredly no disrespect was intended and no secrecy desired. His Honour never referred to this incident, until his interview at Lahore, as an instance of our want of respect. There remains one very remarkable circumstance to which I would invite Your Excellency's attention. I wrote and signed what, for brevity's sake, I will call the "closed letter" at Mussoorie on the 14th October, 1914. I sent it on to the Foreign Office at Nabha for despatch. Thence it was forwarded by my Foreign Minister to the Political Agent under his letter of the 19th October. Taking it as I do that my letter was sent closed, the Political Agent had three courses open to him. To return it, or open it, or send it on with a protest to me against what His Honour now says was an insult. The Political Agent adopted none of these courses. On the 26th October he acknowledged my letter, made no allusion to its being closed, preferred no complaint thereon, but informed us he had forwarded it to the Punjab Government. Evidently it did not then strike the Political Agent that we were insulting him or his official superior. When His Honour received my letter he sent it on. He, too, had the choice of three courses if he believed we were insulting him or his official junior. His Honour chose none of these. He too, therefore, did not apparently then think that the closed letter indicated any want of respect in myself or my

Darbar to him or his official subordinate. On the contrary, he forwarded the letter to Your Excellency. On the 16th December, 1914, the Political Agent acknowledged the receipt of my letter of the 14th October, 1914, "forwarded to me for transmission in a closed cover," and ended by conveying to me Your Excellency's inability to accept my offer because of my "constant and persistent disregard" of Your Government's expressed wishes. From the 19th October to the 16th December both the Lieutenant-Governor and the Political Agent held their peace to me about any insult or disrespect being intended by the incident of the "closed letter." If the feelings of His Honour or the Political Agent were hurt, by reason of any supposed discourtesy on our part I regret that exception was not taken to the incident till after the expiry of six months, and then at a personal interview. One accused of discourtesy foreign to his birth, his nature, his tastes, and his education, may be forgiven if he presses it that the accusation loses much of its intrinsic worth when it is perferred after a long delay. Here, too, a little charitable hesitation on the part of the Local Government to place a hostile and unpleasant interpretation upon a wholly innocent incident would not only have assuaged His Honour's wrath against the State but have dispensed with the unfortunate communication of that wrath to Your Excellency so as to cause my alleged offence to become probably one of the reasons which influenced Your Excellency's decision against me thus leaving my State perhaps the one and only State in India held unworthy of contributing to the greatest and most righteous war that history shall ever have recorded.

15. I and my Darbar are further charged with disrespect or insult in that:—

(g) My Minister's speech communicating my offer to the public before His Honour was aware of it:

(a) my Minister made a speech in open Darbar in which he prematurely announced my offer to Your Excellency;

(b) my Minister stated this offer had been "accepted" by Your Excellency;

(c) this discourtesy was published in the "Civil and Military Gazettee" on the 1st October, 1914;

(d) at a time when my letter of the 14th October to Your Excellency was not despatched.

I will deal *seriatim* with the alleged offences:—

(a) I did not instruct the Minister to make that reference. I did not know he intended to make it. But in any case such an offer by myself could not be made without becoming public property, however much desired the secrecy of its communication to the authorities.

(b) I append a copy of the report from the "Civil and Military Gazette" (Appendix D.) which shows that my Minister nowhere referred directly or indirectly to any "acceptance" by the Government of my offers, and that His Honour was, therefore, misinformed.

(c) This is not so: the publication, for which, I submit, Your Excellency will find no cause for censuring either my Minister or my Darbar did not take place till the 1st November, 1914. His Honour, it seems, fell into an error as to date.

(d) My Minister spoke on 18th October. I despatched my letter of the 14th October to Your Excellency on that same date and so far as I am personally concerned I had discharged myself, from the aspect of intent, from all responsibilities as to its time of reaching its addressee. The letter ought to have reached Nabha on the 15th. If it had been forwarded on the 16th it would have reached the Political Agent on the 17th before the Minister spoke. That it was delayed formed no part of any preconceived plan on my part or of my unfortunate Darbar. Lastly, on the facts, my letter of the 14th October *was* in the hands of the Political Agent, as His Honour said at the Lahore interview, on the 22nd or 10 days before my Minister's speech appeared in the public press.

16. Commenting on the shortness of notice given as to my intended visit to Mussoorie, in 1914,—which I submit was slender, if any, foundation on which to rest a charge of obstruction and unfriendliness to Government—His Honour enquired what I would think and do if he visited my State without notice. My answer is, in thought he would be welcomed, in act he would be entertained. It is the unbroken rule in Nabha that His Honour is always the State's guest. If he arrives without notice, we should feel flattered by an indication of his appreciation of our attentions if not of our society. While an unexpected guest cannot blame his host for rooms unready and delicacies uniced, I have no doubt the State's resources would even then be equal to providing for His Honour's physical comfort. On the other hand, my intrusion into British territory would inconvenience no host. I am always my own host and could take no hospitality by surprise.

(h) My short notice of my visit to Mussoorie in 1914, and His Honour's visit to Nabha without notice.

17. As to withholding information as to the number of motor-cars and factories in the State, the Darbar, it is true, at first did not furnish what was asked for. Its attitude was due to jealousy of interference with the internal affairs of the State. When the reason for which the information was asked for was explained to the Darbar and they were satisfied that this was not an interference in their internal affairs they complied with the request of the Political Agent.

(i) My Darbar's refusal to supply number of motor-cars and factories.

18. His Honour complained that I or my Darbar had not informed the Political Agent previous to appointment of Sardar Bakhshish Singh as Agency Vakil. I submit that it was not necessary to do so. His Honour stated that my promise to that effect was in black and white. I made no such promise and, referring to His Honour's memorandum, of the interviews of the 13th and 14th October, 1913, at Simla, I find no such promise recorded there. His Honour's paragraph dealing with this matter reads thus:—

“As to the presence of a Nabha Vakil at the Agency I pointed out to His Highness that the usual and proper course is for the Vakil to attend at the Headquarters of the Agency which, even though in another State, is in British jurisdiction, as long as desired by the Political Agent. And that the Political Agent should approve of the person to be appointed, it being essential that the

Vakil should have the confidence both of the Darbar and of the Political Agent. His Highness considered the view I put forward and asked me to consider the representation made by the Darbar before passing orders on the matter.

[I have since seen the representation made in the Darbar's letter of 24th September to the Political Agent, and I still think it is essential for the prompt and proper disposal of work that the Vakil should attend regularly on fixed days on the Political Agent. It is immaterial to the Political Agent and to Government whether the Vakil lives in Patiala or comes in from Nabha, the point is that he should regularly attend. His Highness agrees to this, also the Political Agent.]

The passage between the brackets, which I have added here, was written in his Honour's own hand on the 14th October, the earlier portion of the paragraph having been written on the 13th October, 1913. The paragraph as a whole indicates two points clearly: the first that I "considered the view" put forward by the Lieutenant-Governor, the second, that on consideration I agreed to the regular attendance of the State Vakil at Patiala and nothing more. I never accepted the suggestion that the Political Agent should approve the Darbar's nominee. It is clear His Honour made a confusion between my consideration of and my agreement to a suggestion that was made. He made no such confusion at the date of the Simla interview. His Honour's memorandum itself draws the distinction between consideration and agreement. When dealing with the item of the proposed approval it states correctly that I "considered the views" "put forward" by His Honour. When dealing with the item of the Vakil's regular attendance it again states correctly that I agree to this.

I have carefully gone through the State correspondence prior in date to the Simla interview embodied in the memorandum quoted. It is strictly confined to the proposed place of residence of the Vakil. It contains no reference to any claim to approve our nominee. That claim was for the first time advanced by His Honour at the Simla interview.

Since the date of the above memorandum the Darbar had twice exercised their right of exclusive appointment and selected two several Agency Vakils, Kishan Singh at the end of October, 1913, in the same month in which the Simla memorandum was drawn, and the present incumbent Bakhshish Singh in November, 1914, not only without any reference to but without any remonstrance by the Political Agent. Both before and after the date of the memorandum we have therefore exercised our right to nominate the State Vakil without approval. Our claim to act thus rests on the invariable custom of my State which has never been questioned until April, 1915.

19. I and my Darbar were next collectively accused of discourtesy to the (h) Agency Political Agent because neither the Agency Vakil nor a Vakil not in substitute for that officer had been deputed to accompany attendance at the Political Agent to Lahore.  
Lahore.

The facts are that on the 16th, 20th and 23rd April, 1915, the Agency Vakil saw and spoke with the Political Agent at Patiala who then knew of the approaching interview at Lahore and had known of it from the 10th April, on which date I had communicated my intention to him. I did not leave for Lahore till the 26th April. No wish was expressed by the Political Agent for the Vakil's attendance at Lahore. His only use at Lahore would have been to superintend the arrangement of any ceremonies and to carry messages

between the Political Agent and myself. My Chief Secretary, an officer superior in rank to the Vakil, accompanied me to Lahore, and he actually performed the duties of the Vakil, as the letters from the Political Agent to my Chief Secretary attest. I submit that His Honour or the Political Agent have no cause of complaint. An officer of superior rank was in attendance and was utilised to do what the Vakil could have done. The importance of the occasion has no bearing on the complaint. The Vakil would not have been present at the interview. His functions outside the room were effectively and competently discharged by his superior.

20. Colonel Gurdon, the Political Agent, intervened at the interview with an additional and personal grievance to the effect that the absence at Lahore of the Agency Vakil resulted in his driving from Government House in the first wrong house: instance to the wrong house. I think the Political Agent will admit that at his request my Chief Secretary was with him only about fifteen minutes before he came to my house. "Will you come and see me", writes the Political Agent from Government house to my Chief Secretary on the 28th April, 1915, "now, *i. e.*, before 1-30 p. m.; I have a message for His Highness". The hour for my interview with His Honour had been previously fixed for 2-30 p. m. The Political Agent came to my house at 2 p. m. He could have easily asked my Chief Secretary to drive him to my house. He did not do so. That the Political Agent, through no fault of mine, should have uselessly traversed a quarter of a mile in a motor car is no doubt regrettable. But I equally regret I can see no connection between that incident and any discourtesy to the Political Agent.

21. His Honour taxed me with refusals to receive a farewell visit from and to accord a farewell visit to his predecessor as instances of my unfriendliness to the Government. This is a resuscitation of an old grievance formulated and explained at the Simla interview in 1913. I understood my explanation was accepted and the incident closed. Two years later it is reproduced in order to lengthen and inflame His Honour's catalogue of my misdoings. I will ask that His Honour's note of the Simla interview be allowed to speak for itself:—

"His Highness says that he had no intention of showing any discourtesy to the late Lieutenant-Governor and indeed had written expressing the hope to see him before he left India, and says he received a letter from the Political Agent that it was unnecessary for Chiefs to come to Simla to see the departing or greet the new Lieutenant-Governor. He regrets if his action in not being able to receive the Lieutenant-Governor's visit in the spring was opened to the construction of discourtesy".

22. His Honour also re-opened my alleged discourtesy in declining to visit him at Simla in 1913. His Honour's own memorandum is conclusive as to what was said and final, as I thought and as I submit it should be, as to His Honour's attitude towards me on that point. It is to me both surprising and painful that though His Honour recorded his decision that "*this matter need not be again referred to*" he has now unburied it and given it fresh substance and a new lease of life. Once more I quote from His Honour's own Simla memorandum. Says His Honour.—

“ As regards my own invitation to His Highness to visit me in Simla and His Highness' reply, His Highness has now given me personal explanation which I regard as quite satisfactory and this matter need not be again referred to.”

I submit to Your Excellency that there must be a term to alleged misdeeds and that in this instance the grievance lies rather with me that the same alleged misdemeanour should be called upon to do duty on two separate occasions divided by an interval of two years than with His Honour who summons up and quickens closed incidents to swell the measure of his present dissatisfaction.

In this connection my memory recalls with sadness a conversation which occurred at the end of the Simla interview. When I was about to leave Barnes Court His Honour said that he was confident that in times of need the British Government could always rely on me for giving it the same aid which my ancestors have rendered in the past on several important and critical occasions. I replied that the Government could certainly always count on my loyal and wholehearted support in any emergency that might arise. I little thought at the time that within a short twelve months an opportunity would occur for me to make good my word, and still less that my humble assistance would become unacceptable to His Honour in so short an interval.

23. His Honour informed me that had the Government of India been aware of the situation regarding Lohat Badi and Jwala Singh, their decision regarding my offer of troops and money would have assumed a still severer form. An examination of these incidents discloses no foundation for censure or reproof.

Lohat Badi is a village in Nabha. His Honour charges that my State, though not in complicity with revolutionaries and other bad characters, was so careless and supine as to what was occurring there that he himself directed the arrests of various culprits by the British police because he was afraid that if State's intervention were asked for it would facilitate the escape of the offenders. I ask leave to protest strongly against such a calumny, and I would request Your Excellency to invite His Honour to adduce proof in support of the charge or to withdraw it. The facts as I have taken them from the report of my Executive Council attached hereto (Appendix E), are briefly stated below.

On the 11th February, 1915, two Sub-Inspectors of the Malerkotla State came to Lohat Badi and asked in the usual course that the houses of Achhra Singh and Narayan Singh and a public place known as the “ Gurumat Fund House ” should be searched. The Malerkotla police could not have acted independently in my State. This was done with the assistance of the Nabha Police. Nothing was found but in the Gurumat Fund House a trunk was discovered containing some goldsmith's instruments, the Malerkotla Police asked for and were given, and at their request four men were handed over to them. In this operation the British Police never had a hand.

Two days after this three officers of the Punjab Police accompanied the Malerkotla officers in connection with a dacoity in Ludhiana District. They asked, as they were bound to ask and they received the assistance of the Nabha Police. After search some letters and clothing were handed to the Government Police by the State Police. Here the Nabha Police so far from screening offenders, gave active help to the British Police.

Later in the same month Narayan Singh was brought to Lohat Badi. With the assistance of the Nabha Police his house was searched and certain things were found and handed over. Here, too, the Nabha Police discharged their duty honestly and efficiently.

On the 2nd of March, in consequence of certain places being pointed out by various inhabitants and some of the arrested persons, a search was instituted by the British, Malerkotla and Nabha Police combined, and all the articles discovered were handed over to the Malerkotla Police. There was no attempt by Nabha Police to retard investigation or to help criminals to flee the jurisdiction.

On the 3rd and 4th of March another search was made with the aid of the Nabha Police. Further articles discovered were taken possession of and handed over to the Malerkotla Police. Here, too, the most critical must approve the work of the Nabha officials.

The Punjab Government demanded the persons of Achhra Singh and Narayan Singh from the Malerkotla State, who contended that the men in the first instance should be returned to the Nabha State. This contention prevailed. The men were returned to Nabha with all the articles that had been recovered and made over to the Malerkotla Police, with the exception of a few articles which they kept in connection with a dacoity which they were investigating. Later the Political Agent applied to the Nabha Darbar for extradition, and the men were sent at once to Ludhiana with the articles which had been returned by the Malerkotla Police. There is nothing here to support His Honour's apprehensions of complicity between the Nabha Police and wrongdoers or of any desire on the part of my State to lend its protection to dangerous offenders against the peace of British India.

This summary exhibits no want of activity or sympathy with the Government on the part of the Nabha Police. It establishes that they did their duty and did it well. If they did not originate the searches and arrests, their want of action is attributable, unless and until the contrary be shown, to want of information and not to want of zeal. Wherever they could help the British Police they did so willingly. His Honour remarks it is strange that such doings could be carried on in Nabha without the cognizance of the Nabha Police. That line of reasoning would lay many a British Police officer open to condemnation; but no one has yet suggested that the British Police are wilfully supine and seditious in not exposing conspiracies of which they have no knowledge. If Nabha is to be adjudged treacherous only because, when occasional offenders use her territories either to escape British justice or to hatch new offences without her knowledge, she does not forthwith arrest them, I can only respectfully submit that no portion of India will escape His Honour's ban. So recently as on the 24th June last the Political Agent wrote to inform my Foreign Minister that certain "absconders for the arrests of whom substantial rewards have been offered by the Punjab Police," had visited Barnala (the head quarters of a district in Patiala State) "on the 8th June and made the usual offerings at the *Chohas* (*sic* Chullhas?) of (Baba) Ala Singh," and had then proceeded to Jind State "where they became *Chelas* of the Guru." He added that "Randhir Singh, a travelling Agent" of the revolutionaries "who visited Gurdit Singh at Patiala, is believed to be in league with the five absconders mentioned." He also

informed us that " there is a goldsmith of Patiala who is ready to supply " these fugitives " with cartridges when they are required ". Not Nabha alone, therefore, furnishes a temporary if unwilling refuge to sedition. In connection with conspiracy cases reports are being published in the public press of trials of offenders for sedition who hail from Patiala, Jind, Malerkotla, Mandi and Kapurthala. Is each of the Rulers or Darbars of these respective States to be suspected of concealed sympathy with sedition against Your Excellency's Government? If not why am I and my Darbar suspect? I was so moved at the interview when this charge was made that I intervened somewhat indignantly to refute it. The accompanying note Appendix A, repeats what I said. His Honour acquitted me and the Darbar of personal disloyalty, but insisted, I submit, contrary to the facts, that the State Police had been careless. The underlying stigma is that my officials, if not myself, being cognizant of, took no steps to exterminate conspiracy and sedition. To a charge unsupported by any evidence, as here and as in the case of the alleged use of Nabha as a jumping off ground for opium smugglers, what answer can I be expected to give? In law a criminal is accounted innocent till he is proved guilty. In courtesy, is a Maharajah to be in a worse position than an old offender?

His Honour spoke of " independent " raids by the British Police. This is not a fact. No British Police can raid, or in fact raided, Nabha independently. Their presence in Nabha is accompanied by the presence of my Police. If His Honour intended to suggest that the British Police acted independently of the Nabha Police, he is contradicted by the facts. If he intended that the two acted in union, the charge against Nabha falls.

I cannot leave this topic without comment as to the fashion in which it was sprung upon me. Neither orally nor in writing before the interview of the 28th April, did His Honour or the Political Agent refer to the Lohat Badi affair. Without a word of warning, I was by surprise confronted with accusations which not only I consider of a very serious character, if true, but which His Honour himself regarded as of such importance that he informed me, Your Excellency with knowledge of the Lohat Badi affair would have enhanced the severity of your language in rejecting my offer of troops, money and horses, &c. His Honour came prepared. He had and used notes. I had received no notice. If this matter stood alone, which it does not, I should not hesitate to press it to Your Excellency that it amply justifies and explains my aversion to oral discussion on matters of State administration.

24. His Honour next developed against me at the interview a very strong resentment for my treatment of one Jwala Singh  
**Jwala Singh.** a resident of the Karnal district in the Punjab. The facts are simple. The man had vainly entreated my father to let him invest monies in the State Bank. More than once I also refused. Eventually I gave way. The man saw me personally, told me his intention was to preserve the estate against the spendthrift propensities of a grandson, and induced me to consent to a deposit at an enhanced rate of interest over the Bank's rate because the money was to be deposited in *perpetuity* subject to only one condition that if the money could be invested



in lands this was to be done either on the application of the grandson or of the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal (who was Jwala Singh's choice not mine), *provided* that I first satisfied myself that such an investment would be more remunerative than the deposit in the Bank. All this was reduced to writing and signed by Jwala Singh. I append a copy of a decision dated the 26th May, 1915, of my Finance Minister which gives the facts of the transaction. (Appendix F.) I also append copies of two letters dated the 15th March and 26th September, 1912 (Appendices G. and H.), from Jwala Singh to myself, which I particularly request Your Excellency to peruse. Your Excellency will note that in these letters I am approached in the most servile and cringing terms on behalf of the grandson. For a time things worked smoothly. Suddenly the grandson, my prospective *protege*, married and took service in Patiala. Your Excellency cannot but be aware of the present rift between Patiala and Nabha. I dislike hasty inference. But has the transfer of the boy's allegiance any connection with the altered tone of his once suppliant relative? Jwala Singh suddenly claimed the money back. The Darbar decline to accede to his request as the arrangement precluded the return in cash and as Jwala Singh had no *locus standi* in his application and was entitled to no hearing. He complained to the Political Agent who wrote asking for particulars. My Foreign Minister—I think rightly—regarded this as an interference with the internal concerns of the State and protested against this request. The *Iqarunama* (agreement) constitutes me a *quasi* trustee to the inheritance and forbids the return of the deposit in kind to any one. His Honour said that Jwala Singh was a British subject, but if the Government found that some injustice was done even to a subject of the State, they would still interfere, notwithstanding anything contained in the Sanad. Such interference I submit would be against the terms and spirit of the Sanad of 1860, and I feel sure that His Honour's view will not receive support at Your Excellency's hands.

It has been the invariable practice of Government in the past whenever any complaint regarding a breach of contract has been made to it against the State not to take any notice of it beyond referring it to the Darbar for disposal as relating to the internal affairs of the State. Besides several British subjects, other than Jwala Singh, have their monies deposited in the State—some of them in perpetuity too—just as many subjects of the State have invested their monies in Banks in the British territory or in Government paper. Moreover several British subjects carry on business in the State territory, and several firms, which have their head offices or branches in British India, do business in my State and are daily entering into transactions with my subjects as also with my Darbar. If in disputes arising out of these transactions Government were to interfere on the ground that British subjects were involved therein, it would besides undermining the solemn guarantees given by the Sanad seriously affect the independent internal administration of the State. So far as Jwala Singh's case is concerned, if he is dissatisfied I submit it is open to him to prosecute his claim in the ordinary course of law.

The Lieutenant-Governor said that Jwala Singh was a "distinguished British subject" and a "respectable person." In what direction his "respectability" lies I am not sure, but he did not scruple falsely to deny that he had ever entered into any written engagements with myself. Without desiring to compete with Jwala's prestige, I claim that if my position is not as "distinguished," my character is as honourable as his.

Nor can my protest end here. I venture to assert, whatever our social and political *status*, that it was outside the limits of courtesy for His Honour to characterize my Darbar's reply as being worthy only of a "*Doim Darge ka Arznavis*" (second grade petition writer), in the presence of two British officials and my acting Foreign Minister. His Honour, I submit, was not entitled to address me as he did in language which was discourteous and in tone which was insulting. I am unacclimatised to such departures from ordinary courtesy. Against it I claim Your Excellency's protection.

25. It is true that I remonstrated against the absence of courtesies on the occasion of my visit to Simla in 1913. The State Vakil wrote on the 27th September, 1913, to Major Elliott the then Political Agent as follows:—

"I am directed by His Highness to intimate that in response to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's invitation, he will reach Simla on Saturday, the 11th October, and that you will therefore be good enough to arrange for his public arrival and due observance of the formalities attendant on the visit and the return visit, etc."

To this letter writing to me Major Elliott replied on the 2nd October as follows:—

"In his letter of 27th September, 1913, to me, the Vakil, Nabha State, has asked me to arrange for Your Highness' public arrival and due observance of the formalities attendant on the visit and return visit, etc. In reply, I am directed to say that under the circumstances, which render Your Highness' visit to Simla obligatory rather than voluntary, none of these formalities can be observed, nor can any visit to His Excellency the Viceroy be arranged, nor any return visit from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor."

At the Lahore interview in April last His Honour, however, informed me that it was a rule of the Government of India that no official courtesies were to be observed in Simla at the visit of Ruling Princes, as the circumstances of the place made it difficult to arrange for a Guard-of-Honour and they were not entitled to courtesies there. He added that the Government did not mean to show any discourtesy to me and that I had been treated in 1913 like all other Ruling Princes who visited Simla. It would seem that there is a departure in principle between these two declarations which I cannot reconcile. In Major Elliott's letter of the 2nd October, 1913, he states that he was *directed* (the italics are mine) to inform me that none of the usual formalities could be observed for the reasons assigned. The word "*directed*" shows he had communicated my wishes in the matter to and had heard in reply from His Honour. His direction, therefore, emanated from His Honour Sir Michael O'Dwyer whose authoritative official pronouncement in 1913 expressly founded his refusal of the usual courtesies on the ground that my visit was "*obligatory*" and not "*voluntary*", implying that the denial of the courtesies had special reference to my case and was intended as a sort of punishment for my alleged misdeeds.

His Honour's declaration of 1913 regarding the refusal of official courtesies to me at Simla, has now in 1915 been founded on a rule of Your Excellency's Government, of which I know nothing, that the Ruling Princes visiting Simla were not to be accorded the treatment they received elsewhere. I respect-

fully invite Your Excellency's consideration to the two conflicting and contradictory explanations given about the omission of official courtesies to me on the occasion of my Simla visit.

The difficulties which necessarily arise in consequence of my inability to reconcile to different and inconsistent explanations of the same incident at to different times by His Honour, lend peculiar emphasis and significance to the omission of official courtesies which I regret to state I was forced to encounter at my visit to Lahore in April last for the interview with Sir Michael O'Dwyer. I contrast for a moment my treatment in April, 1915, with my treatment in November, 1913, when also my arrival at Lahore was public as on this occasion. Then I was received at the Railway Station by the Political Agent and other officers in uniform. In April, 1915, the Deputy Commissioner attended me at the Railway Station attired in lounge suit, his companion in a morning coat, and the Political Agent was not present. There was no Guard-of-Honour and no explanation of its absence. I am sure at Lahore there could be no such difficulties in providing a Guard-of-Honour as His Honour said stood in the way of providing one at Simla. (In November, 1913, also no Guards-of-Honour were provided, as to which separate protests were made by the Maharajas of Patiala and Jind as well as myself and the matter is still pending.) When I recalled the annoyance expressed by Mr. Atkins, the then Political Agent, to my State officials in December, 1912, when my Sardars received him robed in dresses not strictly formal on account of the shortness of notice of his arrival; I feel I am bound to lay an equal stress upon occurrences which otherwise might appear too trivial for comment. Further I was given a Cavalry escort of six only. Once more when I recalled that Mr. Atkins on a visit to Nabha miscounted and resented what he supposed was not his full number of guns by two I feel that I must also enter formal exception to a shortcoming of Sowars in my escort. On the importance attached by the political officers to the rendering of complete courtesies I cannot also refrain from quoting the conduct of Major Elliott when he visited Nabha in November, 1913. Owing to the direction of the wind Major Elliott failed to hear the salute which had in fact been given. He refused to enter the Darbar hall, kept me waiting for twenty minutes, and then waiving objection entered and told me he did so only because my Military Minister had pledged his personal word of honour that the entire salute had been fired. So long as guns and escorts are made the visible exponents of official courtesy, a diminution in the number of either if resented by Your Excellency's political staff, the teachers of political education, it must necessarily be noticed and complained of by their pupils.

Against this indifference to official courtesies I am also compelled to protest because of the tendency which it has to excite in on-lookers the belief that I have done something to arouse if not deserve the public expression of Government's disfavour.

26. His Honour complained that my Darbar had confined their loyalty to mere speech: they had not translated this into action. I feel very strongly that this attack is unwarranted and, I must submit, in my view ungracious. I cannot say what better evidence of loyal action can be given than to place my troops and all the resources of my State unreservedly

Charge III.  
Our loyalty "lip  
loyalty," not  
acted upon.

at Your Excellency's disposal : to contribute funds and materials to the ever-growing expenses of the war : to hand over my houses at Simla, Amballa and Lahore for military necessities. In all cases where its help was called for my Police gave its loyal co-operation ; and when the Political Agent requested my Darbar to watch the movements of returned emigrants, to arrest some, to intern others, the State, as its record will attest, accorded an immediate and whole hearted response to every request. I challenge contradiction on this point. When the Government suggested I should appoint a certain officer to the command of my troops in order to hasten their improvement and when they suggested a British officer should superintend their training, I assented. Both suggestions were carried out. Both are instances of advice accepted and both of action. It was no empty promise to place all my State and its resources during the war under Your Excellency's control. I meant and mean what I said. I cannot be blamed if Government's rejection of my offers has made it impossible for me to translate words into deeds. They stand : and are even to-day at Your Excellency's disposal.

27. His Honour assured me that so far from my having been subjected to any " public affront " scrupulous care had been taken to hide my humiliation from the public knowledge, I fear he under-rated the facts and over-rated the care. The offers of my neighbours in Patiala, Jind and Malerkotla were accepted and the world knows their respective troops have gone to the front. My neighbours see my troops still at Nabha. The reason for their retention in India is the common topic of comment in every bazar in the Punjab. I am willing to believe it was intended to advertise my exclusion as little as possible. But the fact remains that I am advertised all over India.

28. In commenting in December last my late Prime Minister, Sir P. C. Chatterjee, on alleged differences between my father His late Highness Maharaja Hira Singh Sahib Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., and myself in our respective attitudes to the Government, Your Excellency informed him, so you had heard, that my father, had the request been made, would have divested himself of all he possessed by way of gift to the British Government. I have no reason to doubt that the anecdote is characteristic of my father's loyalty to the Throne. Such a gift could under no circumstances be lightly made. But were England's political needs at any time so serious as to necessitate a similar request on the part of the Government and a similar loyalty on my part, I can only say in perfect good faith that I do not think England would find the son less unselfish than the father.

29. All that I can do to manifest attachment to the Throne and loyalty to the Government I have done. Reviewing my own mental attitude and the records of my State I can discover no ground for the charge that I and my Darbar have confined our sympathies and sentiments of loyalty to mere speech. Criticisms unfounded in fact hurt : they hurt the more keenly when they are uttered by one who holds the high office of being Your Excellency's representative and subsequently repeated, as I presume they have been, to Your Excellency without chance of explanation from myself. In favour of such representations all the weight of trusted authority is heavy against me. Your Excellency does

*All that I could do I have done.*

not know me personally. Your Excellency has never seen me. Your Excellency's judgment has been *ex-parte*. I have always been examined and condemned through the official lenses of Your Excellency's subordinates.

The experience of the Lieutenant-Governor naturally carries special respect with Your Excellency whose views are framed and judgments passed upon statements against the official value of which I have so little to offer. And yet it seems to me my little is more than sufficient to establish how *ungenerously* I have been treated. The Lieutenant-Governor can approach Your Excellency direct without the aid of any intermediary. I cannot. It is there that I sometimes feel the hopelessness of my position. As His Honour told me at the interview at Lahore his representations in writing to Your Excellency had influenced Your Excellency's rejection of my offer. The very paper of appeal by which I seek to free myself from underserved censure passes officially through the channel against which I appeal and is commented upon with notes and explanations of which I never have cognizance. If the exigencies of good Government necessitate such a procedure I must not complain. But if for one moment I may appeal to Your Excellency as man to man, may not I very respectfully pray consideration to the grave disadvantages under which I labour?

30. Looking dispassionately, as I can, at the charges I am meeting and the complete absence of any justification for their presence, there is only one possible conclusion. No one My want of "blind obedience" ferment, there is only one possible conclusion. No one rootcause of my I am told doubts my personal sincerity. I have made troubles. certain offers, and they have been rejected. For that I am not blamable. What then remains to support the charge that my loyalty is "lip loyalty" unconverted into action? Apart from my protest against the innovations at my installation, only my unfortunate inability to accept at sight every piece of advice offered me by the Political Agent. In other words, I am in effect censured again for the want of that moral quality which in the same sentence His Honour stigmatises as a moral defect. "The Government does not ask for blind obedience: yet unless you give it you are disloyal. It is true you cannot be censured for the Government's refusal to accept your offer. But you constantly decline to act upon advice tendered to you in regard to your internal affairs. Simultaneously you proclaim your loyalty. Your proclamations are cancelled by your want of blind obedience". This, I think, correctly condenses His Honour's reasoning and attitude of mind towards me and presents the true reason for the attack upon myself.

31. Even when, after consideration to which I claim I am entitled, I yield to the reasoning of the political authorities I find myself taunted with the reproach that I only yield after threats of reprisal. The taunt is unjust. My State's objection to the inhibition against boiled opium was founded upon its genuine belief that boiled opium was less injurious to the individual than unboiled and that acceptance of British policy would act to the detriment of its finances. We firmly repudiate the charge, of which no evidence has been at any time tendered though invited, that the State was the nursery of opium smuggling into Burmah. I believe it to have originated in malicious hearsay on the part of those whose policy it is to

Even my conformity to Government's wishes ascribed to fear, not reason:

(a) e.g., on the opium question.

keep wide a breach between the political authorities and myself.

When we finally agreed to the Imperial policy His Honour credited our agreement to the fear of reprisal. In the region of my intentions I claim to be the best, if not the sole, Judge. I gave way not because of threats, but because I did not desire to be the one obstacle, as I was told I was, to the homogeneity of British opium policy. This occasion on the opium question His Honour now designates as the concession of a "minor point". It is difficult to reconcile this declaration with the Political Agent's statement on the same question when at the interviews at Patiala on the 25th and 26th March, 1915, only a month before His Honour spoke at Lahore he informed my officials—as their contemporaneous note shows—that "the question of opium" was "the most important" (Vide Appendix C., exhibit 3).

So, too, on the question of information demanded with regard to extradition it is imputed that the Darbar only gave way because of the threat to refuse extradition of British subjects. I can only say that the facts are not so. They are quite simple. Until February, 1914, information of results of trials in the first Court only used to be supplied by the Government to the State in the cases of persons extradited by the latter to the former and *vice versa*. For the first time the Political Agent inquired on the 18th February, 1914, the result of an appeal in the case of Ala Singh and Bhagat Singh. At first my Foreign Minister demurred to supplying the information asked for on the ground of its being against the then current practice, but later on my Foreign Minister by his letter of the 31st August, 1914, agreed to do so "on the understanding that similar information will be supplied to this State in the case of persons extradited by it to the Government." Your Excellency will observe that the Darbar agreed to supply the results in appeal cases on reciprocal grounds and not on account of any threats as said by His Honour. These imputations of motive should, I submit, be avoided. When preferred, as at the interview at Lahore, in speech I feel that had I given His Honour a flat but respectful denial, I should have laid myself probably open to a rejoinder inconsistent with the courteous relations which, I hope Your Excellency will agree with me, should accompany and control personal intercourse between His Honour and myself.

On the argument as presented by His Honour, if I do not forthwith agree, I am disrespectful; if I forthwith agree, I am contemptible as a *blind obeyer*; if I ultimately agree I am a coward; if I refuse to agree I am disloyal. It is only in the event of my "blind obedience" that I am acceptable to authority and worthy to stand in line with the "other States". This I think is a resume of the unavowed argument underlying His Honour's scattered accusations.

32. To the constantly reiterated injunction that I should follow the example of other States and accept without protest all advice tendered me, I can only reply that all men are not fashioned in the same mould, and temperaments vary as widely as constitutions. Some allowance must be made for the personal equation. I gauge my position and my responsibilities by the light of such inherited intelligence as I possess and the education I have received. Matters which may appear of no moment to other Rulers may loom large in

The example of "other States" not relevant.

my view. If—and I can see no alternative—I rightly interpret my duties to my dynasty and my people to be that on matters of principle I must contend to the end or become a convert to them only when my reason has been satisfied, it is not of use to quote the idiosyncrasies of others as regulating factors which I must blindly obey. The easiest path for me would be acquiescence. If I do not follow that path it is not because I am more “obstructive” by nature than my fellow men, but because I am most earnestly anxious to do what according to the light within me seems to be best both for my people and myself. His Honour assumes too lightly that I or my State are animated by unfriendliness towards authority. It is not so. We are animated by the desire to hand on my heritage, subject to the necessary claims of progress, in all material respects sheltered, protected, blessed and unchanged by the wise provisions of my Sanad. I do not feel that that ambition should incur Your Excellency’s disapprobation.

Moreover, our honest unwillingness to accept proposed innovations in our internal affairs is backed by high official utterance. His Excellency, Lord Minto, said in his letter to His Highness the late Nizam of Hyderabad dated 6th August, 1909, and subsequently published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary of 22nd January, 1910, page 3:—

“I wish to assure Your Highness that I do not contemplate or counsel the adoption of any general course of action. The circumstances of different States vary so greatly, the Treaty relations which unite them to the paramount power are so diverse, that any general policy would create endless difficulty, even were a general policy desirable. Your Highness will probably agree with me that *each State must work out its own policy* with reference to local conditions. Should it be necessary to combine in some matters such as in circulating information, and the surveillance of individuals suspected of propagating sedition, *I shall still be firmly of opinion that each State should deal with its own problems.*”

The italics are mine. This letter was presented to His Highness the late Nizam of Hyderabad by His Honour as Resident, who now as Lieutenant-Governor would appear to put in force different precepts in the Punjab.

33. In one respect I am placed in a somewhat invidious position. I am affixed with knowledge of what His Honour, I presume, has communicated to Your Excellency in connection with my interview with him at Lahore in April last. He supplied me on the 10th June last with a copy of the record made by him of the said interview, but at the same time he forbids me to make any “use of or reference to it.”

His Honour objects to my making any use of or reference to his note of Lahore interview.

What happened was this. At the end of the interview at Lahore His Honour asked me whether I would like to have a copy of the note which he intended to record on the interview and I replied in the affirmative. But His Honour then neither made nor did I accept any condition that I would make no “use of or reference to it”. This letter concerns itself solely with the charges as mentioned in the memorandum made by my Foreign Minister (Appendix A.) If I here omit to answer allegations or comments contained in His Honour’s note of the interview I have at any rate made the reasons for my silence clear.

34. It is not for me to suggest how Your Excellency’s officers should conduct personal commerce with the Ruling Princes of India. Writing for myself, I feel constrained to complain that on the occasions where we have officially met His

My plea for more of the *sua-viter in modo.*

Honour discloses too much of the iron hand and exposes too little of the velvet glove. To turn, for instance, as His Honour at the Simla interview in 1913 turned, and pointing to the map of India to say "Hyderabad and Mysore have their own colouring, where is Nabha?" is, to express a valuation of claims to justice in terms of mileage and income rather than to found it on ethical considerations. It lends little force to argument to be told to contrast one's landed inferiority with the territorial amplitude of Hyderabad or one's modest purse with the overflowing coffers of Mysore. Grievances, if legitimate, should, I submit, be adjusted irrespective of stature or of wealth. It is a common place that I and others similarly placed are very humble spots on England's sun. But I conceive her policy to be to weld even such insignificant portions into one powerful whole under that protective direction which is always the admiration and often the envy of civilised mankind.

I claim no more than the courtesy which England's power proffers and less of the unasked to her dependents and that intellectual toleration *fortiter in re*. which higher education willingly extends. I struggle after my own fashion to the light. It does not help my efforts to be constantly warned that unless I place my reason without question at the disposal of Your Excellency's political staff, I will find myself either ruling with restricted powers or not ruling at all. It is my pride to believe that my State is well administrated, unshackling herself slowly from the fetters of the past in order to be fit to receive and enjoy the larger enlightenment of the future. If occasionally I or my Darbar may err in judgment it is only because we have all of us the common failings of humanity. The true remedy, if I may be permitted the expression, lies in toleration for slips which are not intentional and in an intercourse broad-based upon an honest and sympathetic desire to render assistance. The long list of charges, in some instances grave, in others, if I may say so, unintelligible, preferred against me by His Honour are, where grave, based upon inaccurate surmise and, where unintelligible, unfortunate. Both lead to irritation which could be so easily avoided if those who deal with me officially, conscious of their own honesty, would but recognize in some measure some honesty in myself. If Your Excellency has had the time and patience to examine with care a letter which has occupied much of my own time and thought, I would dare believe that I have satisfactorily refuted every claim to offence and established my own title to be held an honest, if at times misunderstood exponent of my personal rights, of my official responsibilities to my State and of my relations with Your Excellency's Government.

35. In conclusion, I appeal to Your Excellency to review the whole situation regarding me and my State and to do us justice.

**Conclusion.**

Under my Sanad my two obligations are, loyalty to my Sovereign and justice to my people. At the interview at Simla in 1913, His Honour, as will appear from his own memorandum, assured me, that both the Punjab Government and the Government of India were satisfied as to both these points. In these circumstances, I would very respectfully ask with what justice His Honour spoke to me in the terms in which he did at the interview I had with him at Lahore in April last.

I pray Your Excellency, while pardoning the length to which this letter has extended, to relieve me of the imputations levelled against me by His Honour; to hold that I have not deserved either his censure or the tone and method of its expression; to free me and my State of all intent to be



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disrespectful, unfriendly or insulting ; to accept the practical and reiterated evidence of our loyalty to and co-operation with your rule and to that extent to permit me to benefit in the care and anxiety with which Your Excellency has controlled the affairs of the many millions committed in India to your trust.

I beg to remain,

Your Excellency's respectfully,

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,

Maharajah of Nabha.

The Palace,

Nabha,

Dated the 4th/10, 1915.

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## APPENDIX A.

*Note of an interview between His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab at Lahore on the 28th April, 1915.*

Present :

Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Barron, Chief Secretary.

Colonel Gurdon, Political Agent.

His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur.

Lala Atma Ram, B.A.,

Foreign Minister.

The time of interview having been previously fixed, Colonel Gurdon, the Political Agent came to His Highness' residence at 2 p.m. to conduct him to Government House. His Highness accompanied by the Political Agent and his Foreign Minister, Lala Atma Ram, motored to Government House, where he was received in the porch by Colonel Bayley, Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor. His Honour received His Highness at the entrance to the drawing room and conducted him to a seat on his right hand.

His Honour began by saying that he was sorry that for some time past the relations of the Nabha Darbar with the Government had not been on the same friendly footing as those of other States. In their correspondence with the Government the Darbar often referred to the Sanads. He would, therefore, briefly go through those documents, as reproduced in Aitchison's treaties, Volume VIII., on the foundation of which their relations with the Government rested.

His Honour said that when Maharaja Ranjit Singh began to lay hands on the possessions of the Cis-Sutlej Chiefs, the States of Patiala, Jind and Kaithal invited the assistance of the British Government to protect them from the high-handedness of the Maharaja. The Government came forward to their help. The negotiations were then conducted perhaps by Mr. Metcalfe, who entered into an alliance with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The Maharaja engaged not to commit any encroachment on the possessions or rights of the Chiefs on the left bank of the Sutlej. The States were taken under the protection of the British Government, who promised that the Chiefs should remain in possession of the rights and authority exercised hitherto by them. The Cis-Sutlej Chiefs on their part promised to remain faithful and obedient to the Government. After that, Maharaja Jaswant Singh made a request to the Government for the remittance of Nazrana. (Here His Honour read No. XCVII from the Aitchison's treaties, page 286). The Government acceded to the requests and promised that Raja Jaswant Singh of Nabha should continue to exercise the same power and authority in his own territory which he had enjoyed before and after he had been received under the protection of the British Government. His Honour said that he wanted to draw attention to clause 5 of that document and to emphasise the words "protection" and "obedience" contained therein. His Honour further said that Nabha State had been taken under the protection of the Government at its own request, and so long as the Darbar would remain faithful and obedient to the Supreme Power, the Government would not interfere in the State affairs. But he re-

gretted that for the last few years, i. e., since the accession of His Highness to the Gaddi, the Darbar's relations with the Government had not remained on a satisfactory footing. They regarded themselves as equal in power of the Supreme Power. As an instance of their attitude, His Honour quoted from His Highness' letter of the 14th October, 1914, to the Political Agent. He said that in that letter the Darbar spoke of the misunderstandings as being mere "differences which may not unnaturally sometimes arise in the ordinary course of friendly dealings between two administrations" and of their relations with Government as resting "upon the solid foundations of treaties between my House and the Government." The Darbar in their note, dated 30th September, 1914, spoke of His Highness' dignity as the Ruler of a State "in friendly alliance with the British Government." His Honour remarked that the word "alliance" was used when both the powers were equal. The word Treaty was also improperly used. There was a great difference between the meaning of a Sanad and of a Treaty. His Honour emphasised the difference between the two and said that Nabha was not a Treaty but a Sanad State. He further said that the Government had upto that time kept their word, but he regretted that for some time past the Darbar were not properly disposed towards the Government. The British Government did not desire that the Darbar should obey them blindly, because after all the State was an "independent" State. They only wanted that in certain matters the Darbar should listen to and act on the advice of the Political Agent and of the Government officials which advice was given in their own interest. When all the other States followed the advice of the Government, that showed that what the Government said was quite reasonable and sound. The Government felt no difficulty in settling matters with other States, like Patiala and Jind who had the same rights and status as the Nabha State under similar Sanads. Every proposal, however, from the Government was met with objections by Nabha Darbar. He could say that the attitude of the Darbar was not friendly but in a way hostile. It was true that in regard to some minor points the Darbar had accepted the proposals of the Government but they had not done so voluntarily. They had been forced to do so. After correspondence spread over two or three years, the Darbar have at last agreed to prohibit the boiling of opium before sale, but they had agreed to do so only after the Government had threatened that they would withdraw the concessions. In like manner when the Political Agent had enquired from the State the results of appeals in the cases of certain persons who had been extradited to the State by the Government, the State had refused to comply with the Political Agent's request, on the ground that such information had never been given before; but when the Political Agent refused to extradite British subjects if the Darbar did not supply him with the decisions of the Court of Appeal, the Darbar agreed to furnish him with the required information.

The Political Agent was not listened to but insulted. No information had been given to the Political Agent of the appointment of Sir P. C. Chatterjee as Prime Minister of the State, nor had the new Minister called upon him, which courtesy required him to do. Even when the Political Agent invited him to Patiala to talk over certain State matters, the Darbar replied that the Political Agent had no right to nominate the officials who should discuss State affairs with him, and sent some other Sardars for the purpose. As a rule when a new Dewan was appointed in a State or a new officer was sent to the Agency, the former called upon the Agent to the Government. When

His Honour himself went to Hyderabad (Deccan) as Resident, Maharaj Kishan Parshad the Minister came to see him at his residence, on the very next day after his arrival. It meant discourtesy to Government if the Minister did not call on their representative.

His Honour further said that at the commencement of the present war, His Highness had sent a telegram to His Excellency the Viceroy placing thereby his troops and all the resources of his State at the disposal of the Government. His Highness had done well. But in the case of other States the way in which they had offered their services was different. They had offered their services through their Political Agent and their local Governments. He did not also know whether His Highness' offers of money etc., had been made intentionally or unintentionally in a closed cover direct to His Excellency the Viceroy and not through the Political Agent or the Punjab Government. This was a discourtesy both to him and the Political Agent. The result, however, had shown how far they were right in the action they have adopted. It was not possible to obtain success by such direct means. The Government of India had only acknowledged the Darbar's telegram, but the Darbar said that their offer had been accepted by the Viceroy. To acknowledge and to accept were two different things. An account appeared in the Civil and Military Gazette of 1st October, 1914, about the appointment of Sir P. C. Chatterjee as Dewan of the State, in which mention was made of the Darbar's offers of money and horses to the Government, and in which the Prime Minister was reported to have said that Government had accepted the offers. The matter was out in the papers before the Political Agent or the Government knew anything of it. His Highness' letter of the 14th October, making the offers, was not received by the Political Agent till the 22nd October. The result of all this was that the Government of India had refused the State's offers, and had replied that in view of His Highness' constant and persistent disregard of their expressed wishes, the Government of India regretted that they were unable to avail themselves of any of His Highness' kind offers of assistance in connection with the present war. His Highness had in his letter spoken of the refusal of his offers as a "public affront" to him. His Honour observed that though the Government of India had not accepted His Highness' offers and the decision must have caused him pain and disappointment, yet the matter had been kept quite secret by the Government. The Government would have published their decision in the papers, but as they did not wish to lower His Highness' Izzat they had not done so. Even the neighbouring Ruling Chiefs like Patiala and Jind did not know anything of the decision of the Government. At the time when His Honour had forwarded His Highness' letter of the 14th October regarding the offers to the Government of India, he had also forwarded some papers with a note of his own showing the relations of the Darbar with the Government. The decision of the Government of India and the wording of their reply had been influenced by the papers that were then before them. If they had had in their possession the further facts regarding the affairs relating to Lohat Badi and Jwala Singh which had since then come to the knowledge of the Punjab Government, their decision would have been conveyed in very different language. In the opinion of the Darbar, continued His Honour, the matters pending between the Government and the State were of a trifling nature, but the

Government thought otherwise, and the decision of that question rested solely with the paramount power. From the Government point of view the matters were most important. The Darbar did not supply Government even with the ordinary information which the other Darbars gave without any objection. For instance, the Political Agent asked the Darbar to inform him about the number of motor cars and factories in the State, but the Darbar refused to do so.

His Honour further said that last year when His Highness had gone to Mussoorie, the notice which he had given of his departure had been received by the Political Agent after His Highness had reached Mussoorie. The Political Agent had not been able to inform the Government in time, and that was a slight to the Political Agent. The Government did not mean to put any restrictions on the movements of His Highness, they only required an adequate notice. His Honour asked what His Highness would think of himself or the Political Agent if they went to his State, say for shooting, without informing him of their intended visit.

His Honour said there were some other matters also. As an instance he would mention the case of Jwala Singh. The Political Agent made some enquiries from the State in the matter. The Darbar replied that he could not make such enquiries as the matter was an internal affair of the State. His Honour characterised the Darbar's reply as one worthy of a *Doim darjeka Arzinavis* (second grade petition-writer).

At this point the Political Agent asked His Honour's permission to say something. The permission being given, the Political Agent said that His Highness had just told him that as Jwala Singh seemed to deny the execution of the agreement, which he had as a matter of fact executed, His Highness thought that it would be better if a written statement of Jwala Singh to that effect was first taken, and that he had replied that he thought that such a statement was perhaps already on the file and if not on the file it could be easily had. His Honour remarked that the Darbar should produce the *Iqrarnama* if it was with them. Jwala Singh denied the existence of any such document signed by him. Jwala Singh was a distinguished British subject, and to safeguard his interest the Government must interfere in the matter. Their interference would not be against the Sanad. His Honour then read clause 7 of the Sanad of 1860, and said that Jwala Singh was a British subject, but if the Government found that some injustice was done even to a subject of the State they would interfere notwithstanding anything contained in the Sanad. The Government would not give up the matter, so long as Jwala Singh did not obtain relief. His Honour said that Jwala Singh was a respectable person and there was no reason why his statement should not be believed.

There was another important matter about which His Honour said he wished to speak to His Highness. For sometime past a conspiracy against the Government had been going on in Lohat Badi village in the State territory. The State police could not detect the mischief. His Honour had been informed that certain discontented emigrants had been successful in inducing some men to join them in their effort to rebel against the Government. They had got bombs, guns and ammunition with them.

As soon as he had got the information he had written to his police to take the matter immediately and directly into their own hands, without seeking any assistance from the State, as he was not confident that the State would come forward to help the Government in bringing the offenders to books; he was rather afraid that it might assist them to escape. His Honour ordered his police to make independent raids, to have the culprits apprehended and to make them over to the State police to be extradited in the usual way. His object in doing this had been to see whether the Darbar were prepared to co-operate with the Government and whether they would hand over the accused to the Government without any objection. It was strange that such persons had been found in a faithful State like Nabha, persons who had been conspiring against the Government at such a critical time. They had been looting the Country all round to get money for the furtherance of their object. They had admitted their crime and the case would come up for hearing in a few days. This matter had not yet been communicated to the Government of India.

At this point His Highness said that he had been listening silently to His Honour all this time. But he was much pained to hear what His Honour had said regarding the Lohat Badi affair and he felt it his duty to enter an emphatic protest against it. With regard to the question of returned emigrants, the Darbar had all along been readily co-operating with the Government. The movements of some of them had been restricted to their villages, some had been placed under surveillance and others had been arrested and were still under custody. If two or three persons in Lohat Badi had been suspected of some crime the law would deal with them as they deserved. The Darbar had nothing to do with their action. The Darbar could not be held responsible for their misconduct. Cases of this kind occurred in Government territory every day. Even Government police failed to trace the criminals for months and years. His Highness said that if his memory did not fail him, he remembered that an approver in Delhi conspiracy case had stated that it had been arranged at Kapurthala to throw a bomb on His Excellency the Viceroy. Surely the Kapurthala Darbar was not responsible for this. The men who were evilly disposed went on doing their devilish work. But could any Government or State be blamed for that?

His Honour said that the Government did not doubt His Highness' personal sincerity and his Darbar's loyalty and knew that they had no hand in the matter, but it was a case of negligence on the part of the State police.

His Honour further said that in His Highness' letter to his address he had mentioned that in his experience he had found personal interviews for the purpose of discussing controversial State matters conducive to a better understanding, but from his own experience extending to the biggest States in the Indian Empire he could say that he had never met any Chief who did not welcome the opportunity of discussing official matters with the representatives of the Government. They considered it a matter for pride if they were invited to do so. His Highness had made a request that His Honour should receive a deputation of State Sardars, but he had thought that no good purpose would be served by receiving such deputations and he had therefore refused to receive it. He went on to say that the State Sardar

should discuss matters with the Political Agent. But if matters were to be discussed with him His Highness should himself do so.

His Honour said that His Highness had written that on the occasion of his Simla visit in 1913, he was denied even the usual official courtesies due to his position. In this connection he would explain that it was a rule of the Government of India that no official courtesies were to be observed in Simla at the visit of Ruling Princes, as the circumstances of the place made it difficult to arrange for a Guard-of-Honour. The Government did not mean to show any discourtesy to His Highness. He had been treated in 1913 as all other Ruling Chiefs were treated who visited Simla.

His Highness had also written that each one of the charges imputed to him had been answered over and over again in writing. His Honour said that Government did not impute any charges personally to His Highness. But they desire that the Darbar should listen to the advice of the Government. It had been his object and effort since he came to the Punjab as Lieutenant-Governor to establish more freindly official relations with the Nabha Darbar, but he regretted that the attitude of the Darbar had not been friendly. They did not realise their subordinate position to the Government but thought themselves equal to them.

His Honour went on to remark that so far the Darbar's loyalty had been only lip loyalty; they had given no practical proof of it. The professions of loyalty to the King and the offers of money and horses for the War were of no avail so long as His Highness and his Darbar did not give practical proof of their loyalty by acting on the advice of the Political Agent. The Government advised the Darbar for their own benefit. If His Highness would consult and take advice from any other able person he was sure that he would also give His Highness the same advice which His Honour had given. If His Highness had still any grievance in connection with his installation ceremonies, the Government would be ready and prepared to forward his representation to the Secretary of State as they had already promised to do. Perhaps some mistake had been made in the matter at the time.

His Honour further said that the promises made by His Highness at the Simla interview had not been fulfilled. It was there in black and white that the appointment of the Agency Vakil would be approved by the Political Agent, but His Highness had appointed the new Vakil without consulting the Political Agent in the matter.

His Honour also referred to two old cases. He said that Sir Louis Dane, late Lieutenant-Governor, before his retirement from office, had asked His Highness to allow him to pay His Highness a visit at his capital, but His Highness had declined to invite him to his State; neither had His Highness gone to Simla to say farewell to Sir Louis Dane before his departure. Again, when he had himself asked His Highness to go to Simla to see him in 1913 His Highness had at first refused to do so. He had thus shown disrespect to Rulers of the Punjab.

Colonel Gurdon here asked His Honour to permit him to say something. The permission being given, he said that the State Vakil had not accompanied His Highness to Lahore on the present occasion. Consequent-

ly when he went to conduct His Highness to the Government House, he went by mistake to the old Nabha House. Had the Vakil been with him he would not have been put to this trouble. Whereupon His Highness enquired whether the Vakil was told by the Political Agent to be with him in Lahore. Colonel Gurdon replied that the Vakil had not been asked to be in Lahore, but it was necessary that he should have been present there; or that his duties should have been entrusted to His Highness' Foreign Minister or Chief Secretary. His Honour remarked that the presence of the Vakil in Lahore was necessary, that his absence had put Colonel Gurdon to inconvenience and was discourteous to the Political Agent. He did not say that His Highness meant to show any discourtesy to the Government officials but perhaps the officials of the Darbar delighted in showing discourtesy to them.

His Honour further said that the Government had guaranteed the integrity of Nabha State, and so long as the interests of the State and the Chief were identical, Government would not interfere; but if the interests of the State and the Ruler clashed no regard would be paid to the person or the Chief, because his interests were of secondary importance, and Government would not hesitate to take strong measures against the Chief whether temporarily or permanently. His Honour went on to say that in the presence of Chief Secretary, Political Agent, and His Highness' Foreign Minister he would offer his advice and warning, that the Darbar should change their attitude, that they should listen to the advice of the Government which was given in their own interests and give practical proof of their co-operation with the Government. His Highness would be aware of instances in which strong steps had been taken in other States. His Honour asked whether His Highness would give him some assurance. His Highness replied that he had already and repeatedly assured the Government of his loyalty and attachment to the British Throne and what more he had to say he would say in writing. At the end His Honour asked whether His Highness would like to have a copy of the note which he intended to record on the interview. His Highness replied in the affirmative.

After the conversation recorded above which lasted for an hour and a half the interview closed. His Honour came upto the door of the drawing-room and after shaking hands with His Highness wished him good-bye. His Highness said good-bye to His Honour and left Government House in his motor-car.

(Signed) Atma Ram,  
*Offg. Foreign Minister.*

Lahore,  
28th April, 1915.



APPENDIX B.

The Palace,

*Nabha, dated the 9th March, 1915.*

To

His Honour Sir Michael Francis O'Dwyer K.C.S.I., I.C.S.,  
*Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.*

YOUR HONOUR,

I thank Your Honour for your kind letter of the 30th January, 1915, which I received on the 3rd February and from which I learnt with much pain and regret that the Government of India's decision not to accept my loyal offers of assistance in connection with the present war is in Your Honour's view intended to be final. An acknowledgment of this letter was sent to the Political Agent on the 6th February, but as the matter dealt with by it was of some importance I took time to consider it ; and, after looking up the papers relating to the interviews which I had the pleasure of having with Your Honour at Simla in October, 1913, I wrote to the Political Agent on the 18th February requesting that Your Honour might be pleased to fix a date when my Ahalkars might hand over my reply to Your Honour personally. My object in writing that letter was that before I went to Lahore my Sardars might verbally communicate to Your Honour a few matters in regard to the interview suggested by you in your letter. In reply to my letter of the 18th February, I have now learnt from the Political Agent's letter No. C1-11 of the 2nd instant that Your Honour has not been pleased to accede to my request. The above explains the delay that has occurred in replying to Your Honour's letter, and I hope you will be pleased to excuse it.

2. Soon after the war broke out, in accordance with loyal traditions of my house, I offered services of the Nabha Darbar to the Government, and His Excellency the Viceroy was pleased to " warmly thank " me for my loyal offer, and to say that he would remember it if occasion arose.

The Political Agent conveyed to me by his letter, dated the 14th September last, the message of His Excellency the Viceroy communicating to me the gracious message which His Majesty the King Emperor was pleased to address to the Princes and peoples of India. In dutiful response to that gracious message I made the offers which are now the subject of correspondence. With reference to these offers the Political Agent informed me by his letter dated the 16th December, 1914, that the Government of India were unable to avail themselves of them on account, it was said, of my " constant and persistent disregard of their expressed wishes." In view of our long-established loyal and friendly relations with the Government and the messages which had been exchanged between the Darbar and the Government since the commencement of the war, I had not the remotest anticipation that I would receive such a letter, and was naturally greatly surprised and pained by it. I am not aware of those expressed wishes of Government, the alleged disregard of which on my part is stated to be the cause of the Government's refusal of my offers. If, however, a reference is intended to the memorandum of "guarantees" proposed by the Political Agent dated the 4th August, 1914, I would point out that a detailed reply was sent to Political Agent so far back as the 14th October, 1914, and no further communication has been received from him on the

subject. Permit me to assure Your Honour and through you His Excellency the Viceroy that if the Darbar have made representations to the Government, in certain matters they have done so, according to their judgment, in the interest of the State, placing full reliance in the justice of the British Government and its policy of toleration of honest differences of opinion. These representations should not, I submit, be construed as showing want of regard for the wishes of Government to which I am bound by the closest ties of loyalty, allegiance and friendship.

3. Your Honour is pleased to say in your letter that the Government of India have arrived at the decision in question "after full consideration." It seems, however, from Your Honour's letter that the several representations made by the Darbar through the Political Agent since the receipt of his letter dated the 16th December last have not yet been brought to the notice of the Government of India. I am not even sure that before the Government of India arrived at their decision they had before them for consideration the Darbar's letter with its enclosures dated the 14th October last in reply to the Political Agent's memorandum, if that memorandum embodies those expressed wishes of the Government, a constant and persistent disregard of which is imputed to me. I submit that before any decision of the Government of India may be said to be final, they should be in possession of the Darbar's views on the question which might have influenced their decision. Your Honour will be pleased to observe that long before the receipt of Your Honour's letter of the 30th January suggesting personal interview between Your Honour and myself the Darbar made a request through the Political Agent on the 12th January that a deputation of State officials might kindly be allowed to wait on Your Honour and lay the views of the Darbar on the question of offers before you. Your Honour however, did not deem fit to accede to this request. But in this connection I would take the liberty of pointing out that it was not an unusual request which was made to Your Honour. Your Honour's predecessors in office had always been pleased to receive the deputations sent by the State from time to time. The deputation in question would have been fully able to lay the Darbar's views before Your Honour on any question on which they might have been desired to do so, and I am sure that they would have been able to explain matters far better than I can.

4. Your Honour, while acknowledging that the State "in the past has been conspicuous for its close and friendly relations with Supreme Government," has expressed regret that the present relations of the Darbar and the Government of India "should be such as to compell the Government of India to come to a decision which cannot but be painful and disappointing to the Ruler" of such a State. I sincerely thank Your Honour for your sympathy, but I am unable to see that there is anything in our mutual relations to compel the Government to come to such a decision. So far as the Darbar are concerned I am happy to say that we have not wavered an hair's breadth from our devotion and loyalty to the Government. If any proof were needed of the Darbar's attitude, I might be permitted to mention one single instance. In order that I might be able to show my respect to His Excellency the Viceroy by attending the State Entry at Delhi and to prevent the possibility of any adverse interpretation being put on the Darbar's position on the question of my "installation," I agreed—although the original invitation sent by the Panjab Government was not conditional, and it was only subsequently that the Government made my "installation" a condition precedent to my taking part in the

State Entry at Delhi—to receive the Political Agent, and through him the Government Khillat on a day—the 10th of Muharram—which is observed as a day of mourning by my Muhammadan subjects, which was not auspicious according to our Calendar and on which I would not ordinarily have performed the ceremony. Your Honour can hardly appreciate the strength of these objections to a people conservative like ourselves, and what it cost me to overcome them in order that I might show my loyalty to the Paramount Power by taking part in this State Entry.

The State could only show and prove the loyalty in the past, because it was allowed to serve the Government. But if, as on the present occasion, the State had not been given opportunities to serve, it could not have established its reputation, which it highly values, of loyal devotion to the British Throne. Honest differences of opinion between the representatives of the Government and Nabha Darbar on questions of administrative policy or procedure, which will always be capable of fair adjustment, should not, I submit, be allowed to weigh in the estimation of the Government of India against the unbroken and glorious record of our loyal friendship and devotion extending over a century, and cemented and consecrated with the blood which the soldiers of my State have shed on many a battlefield in the service and for the honour and glory of the British Government.

5. Your Honour has been pleased to suggest that I may see you at Lahore to fully state my views and frankly discuss with you personally "the matters which now give rise to controversial correspondence with the Nabha Darbar and any other matters which" I "may wish to bring forward."

So far as interviews of a non-business character are concerned, it will, I need hardly say, always be a pleasure to me to meet Your Honour. But it is my earnest wish and request that Your Honour may be pleased to excuse me from discussing official and controversial matters at a personal interview with Your Honour, because I do not feel quite at ease in a personal discussion, and there is also the risk of misapprehensions being created by it. Further, in my humble opinion it does not seem to be a practical procedure that whenever there may be a few matters under consideration between the Government and the Darbar, Your Honour and I should meet to discuss them. Much as I respect Your Honour's suggestion, I have not found in my own experience personal interviews for the purpose of discussing controversial matters conducive to a better understanding. Your Honour was pleased to invite me to Simla in October 1913 for a similar purpose. On that occasion I was denied even the usual official courtesies due to my position. And Your Honour's refusal to allow my Secretary and Vakil to be present at the interview to help me, as the Political Agent was present to help Your Honour, also placed me in a position of great difficulty and disadvantage. Besides, in a free discussion things are sometimes liable to be said which do not leave quite a pleasant impression behind. I believe Your Honour also recognised this when, writing about our Simla interview in your letter to me of the 17th October, 1913, you referred to the "plain and blunt language", used by Your Honour at these interviews.

I have frankly stated my views to Your Honour, I sincerely hope you will not misunderstand me in the matter. I desire to avoid a personal discussion so that "our personal relations" should be always "friendly and kindly" "even if we do not see eye to eye now and again in official matters."

6. The Controversial correspondence alluded to in your Honour's letter has not been, I submit, of our seeking. I wrote to the Political Agent so far back as 25th August last, *i.e.* soon after the outbreak of the war, suggesting that it seemed to me proper that the consideration of our minor differences should be suspended during the period of the war and that all our energies should be devoted to the service of the King-Emperor. But I am sorry to say that the Political Agent did not agree to this suggestion and insisted on my sending him a reply to his memorandum dated the 5th August, 1914, which I, therefore, had to do by my letter of the 14th October and its accompaniments. I would now again request Your Honour that such controversies as have not already been settled—and I am happy to think that they are neither numerous nor pressing—be laid aside for the present and the Darbar permitted to render to their Suzerain what little service they can at the present juncture. I submit that the request which I am now making is not unreasonable. It is in conformity with the wise policy enunciated by the Right Honourable Mr. H. H. Asquith, the Prime Minister and His Excellency the Viceroy, both of whom have advised putting aside all controversial questions during the war and devoting all our thoughts and energies to the defence of the Empire.

If, however, Your Honour does not see your way to agreeing to this, I would submit that the Darbar have already expressed their views in detail in regard to the matters still under correspondence. If any further explanation is required with regard to any matter I would request that the Darbar may be kindly informed of it, and they will gladly submit their explanation in writing. After that, I would request, the Punjab Government may be pleased to pass orders on each question individually. If the Darbar feel aggrieved against any particular decision, an appeal to the Government of India will be open to them.

7. Your Honour has been pleased to remark that I may bring forward any other matters that I may wish at the interview. Please accept my assurance and convey the same to the Government of India that the Darbar do not wish to bring forward any other question for the consideration of the Government while the war lasts. We desire only one thing, *viz.*, that we may be allowed, as in the past, to fight in the service of the King-Emperor. I request that our humble offers, which are a token of loyalty and devotion to the throne, may be kindly accepted, and our troops which have been trained and maintained for many years at great expense to be of use to the Government at a time like this, may be ordered to proceed to the front. (I may mention here that I am informed by my Military Minister that Captain Anderson has told him that the Nabha Infantry is quite fit and ready for active service.) We want nothing more. The Darbar desire to serve the King-Emperor and the Government from a sense of their sacred duty and they earnestly hope that they will be permitted to do so.

To the great British Government, which commands the resources of a world-wide Empire, the humble offers of a small State like Nabha are of no importance. To us, however, the matter is of deep concern, and I must, therefore earnestly request Your Honour to kindly move the Government of India to reconsider their decision. I hope that on a reconsideration of the matter Your Honour will be pleased to accede to my request and move the Government of India to accept my offers, which, though humble, have been prompted by feelings of warm and dutiful devotion and loyalty to His Majesty's person and throne.

8. Before concluding I wish to make it clear that there is not the least desire on my part and there cannot be any, to avoid "friendly intercourse" with the representatives of the Government, and I trust Your Honour will not misunderstand me in any of the remarks which I have made above in regard to the utility or practicability of the procedure of discussing official matters personally. In the end I have only to add that I shall be glad to go to Lahore to meet Your Honour at any time, convenient to Your Honour, which you may be pleased to appoint.

9. Apologizing again for the delay which has occurred in replying to Your Honour's letter and trusting that Your Honour is in the enjoyment of good health,

I beg to remain,

Your Honour,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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APPENDIX C.

The Palace,  
Nabha, 18th of April, 1915.

To

His Honour Sir Michael Francis O'Dwyer, K. C. S. I., I. C. S.,  
*Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab.*

YOUR HONOUR,

As I have already informed Your Honour through the Political Agent, I shall, in response to your invitation, call up on you at Lahore on the 28th instant.

2. The second paragraph of Your Honour's letter under reply, seems to imply some reproach at supposed delay in answering your earlier invitation. I must be permitted to explain the position. Your Honour's letter of the 30th January reached me on the 3rd February. It invited me to visit you at Lahore after the 10th February, and the invitation foreshadowed a desire on Your Honour's part for a personal discussion with me on "matters which," in your own language, "now give rise to controversial correspondence with the Nabha Darbar and any other matters which," I might "wish to bring forward". Let me here repeat that I wish to bring forward no matter. The letter further communicated to me Your Honour's painful and unpleasant refusal to convey my request to the Government of India to reconsider their inability to accept my offer of troops for the service of His Majesty in the present War. The letter needed consideration—and you know I move slowly by temperament—the more so that it was followed up by a letter from the Political Agent on the 5th February in which, echoing your words, he expressed the hope "that a frank and friendly discussion between His Honour and Your Highness will, as His Honour says, help to remove misunderstandings and promote more friendly official relations." The Political Agent suggested my visit to yourself should take place between the 10th and 28th February. I caused to be briefly acknowledged both these letters by a letter of the 6th February addressed to the Political Agent, stating I would send a fuller reply later. The next day the 7th February my Foreign Minister wrote to the Political Agent in continuation of a request originally made so far back as 12th January through the Political Agent, asking permission for my State officials to call upon Your Honour so as to place before you the Darbar's views with regard to my offer of troops. I do not know whether this request ever reached you. But on the 9th February the Political Agent replied that "nothing has since occurred, which would justify a request to the Supreme Government to reconsider a decision which is so reasoned, and is intended to be final". Following as this did upon previous requests in writing, under date the 21st January and the 5th February, for the favour of a similar interview to which the Political Agent replied on the 5th February, that the matter "has since been the subject of correspondence between His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and His Highness the Maharaja." I felt that I was bound in justice to myself to consider carefully what steps I should take to exclude at our intended meeting at Lahore any further reference to an

offer which, submitted in terms of heartfelt loyalty, had been thrust aside in terms which left behind them a sting the more painful that it was undeserved. On the 18th February I wrote myself and asked the Political Agent to ascertain from you whether Your Honour will be pleased to receive my State officials for the purpose above mentioned on any date after the 23rd February, and also receive from them my written reply to your letter of the 30th January. On the 21st February the Political Agent informed me that he had written to you on the subject. By a further letter of the 2nd March I went more fully into the matter with the Political Agent. That officer's letter of the 2nd March crossed mine. It informed me that you had declined my request. On the 9th March I forwarded on to the Political Agent the long letter to which Your Honour replied by your letter itself now under reply. Under the circumstances I trust Your Honour will agree with me, that I am not obnoxious to any reproach for delay, if indeed your letter intended to convey any such reproach.

3. For Your Honour's information, I enclose copies of Notes of the interviews which took place on the 11th and 12th January and 12th instant between my Sardars and the Political Agent. With the explanations given by my officials to the various topics upon which they were addressed by the Political Agent I am in complete accord. Above all I wish, once for all, respectfully but firmly, to associate myself with their attitude upon the question of my State's offer of troops. I acted in unison with all the other Ruling Princes in India, who at a time of national crisis offered all that they owned in support of a Monarchy and a race of men whose connection with India is almost as much a matter of pride and gratitude with the Princes and Noblemen of India as it can be with themselves. But I have been assured that the rejection of my offer by the Supreme Government is final and will not be reconsidered. Of my alleged faults I will say no more. For I feel that each one of the charges imputed to me, has been answered over and over again in writing, and that any inability on my part and the part of my Darbar to see eye to eye with the Government of India on all occasions on matters, which either affect the ancient traditions of my House, or deal with comparatively trifling differences of opinion upon details of an executive administration, does not deserve the stigma, to which I and my people have been subjected by the refusal to permit both to take our share in the war. I hope Your Honour will be able to understand in some measure my feelings on this point. I have done nothing to merit the public affront which has been meted out to me. But I feel that for the time I can hope for no redress. Barred from the splendid honour of being numbered among those, whose contributions to a great effort have been publicly acclaimed by the Parliaments and Press of Great Britain and of Greater Britain, my people, I must summon what of philosophy we can to our aid, and believe that "they also serve who only stand and wait."

4. With the other details of topics, and as to which it is stated that the Government and I are "in disagreement," I will only here once more beg to remind Your Honour, that each and every one of these has been already dealt with fully on paper. The notes of the interviews with the Political Agent enumerate the various points of the alleged discord. I respectfully deny that that term is applicable. My Darbar has stated its views. If they be not in accord with the views held by the Government, I feel certain any

fresh communication from the Government will meet with the courteous and definite treatment. I submit that free discussion and an honest divergence of views on questions of administrative and executive expediency, has always been the right of every Indian Ruler—great or small—within the confines of this land, a right not merely conceded to him, but a right which British education has inspired him to believe in, to exercise and to admire. In spite of honest disagreement, if the Government insist upon imposing its views on the State, the Darbar will have no help but to submit, because against the ultimate exertion of authority backed by the British Raj, there is no alternative to submission.

5. I am not aware of any disagreements between my Darbar and the Government which cannot be cleared away by frank discussion with that body. The Darbar and I are at one in our belief that they and I as Ruler have certain clear and unequivocal rights as well as duties and responsibilities under my Sanad. In my humble opinion the correspondence necessary to define our views has not been too lengthy. It certainly now presents clear issues. It is for Your Honour to deal with these as you choose. When I read your statement that the present impasse would not have arisen if I had consulted the Political Agent more frankly, I am only the more convinced of the hopelessness of my ability to present my views successfully by word of mouth. There has been no reserve in the Darbar's consultations with the Political Agent. He is in full possession of our wishes, our views and our wants. We have stated to him all we had to state in writing. If after all this correspondence we are still open to misconception, I am convinced that oral discussion will only aggravate my present situation and multiply the main obstacles which to-day envelope and impede my progress to any final solution. I may be pardoned if I view with alarm the prospect of conversations which, finding me unready by temperament and not quick of spoken word will open more wide than ever the door to charges of promises unredeemed. Written words remain. I am content to be judged thereby. I propose to bring not the Diwan but another official when I call upon you.

6. Outside the matters enumerated in the Notes of the interviews with the Political Agent which are herewith enclosed, I am not aware of any open for discussion between Your Honour and myself. Those therein enumerated have been discussed threadbare. I have, it would seem, been most unfortunate in my inability to make myself and my legitimate grievances understood by those to whom I am so immeasurably inferior. Discussion with my State officials, who are willing to discuss and who embody my wants and represent my wishes, is refused. I frankly appeal to Your Honour to avoid discussion with me, who do not seek it. I am sore hurt on certain points which are outside your restorative powers. Your Honour has decided that the line is ruled black and firm across my offer of service to the Throne. I do not desire to re-open old wounds. I have no wish to incur new wounds. And when we meet I pray Your Honour will respect my desire, if unhappily you are not in sympathy with the reasons, for silence.

I remain,  
Your Honour's sincere friend,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

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## APPENDIX C.

## Exhibit 1.

*Note of an interview between the State Officials and the Political Agent at Nabha on the 11th January, 1915.*

At 4 p.m. the Prime Minister, Members of the State Council, the Chief Secretary to His Highness, the Deputy Foreign Minister and State Vakil met the Political Agent by appointment to discuss matters pending between the Darbar and the Government.

The principle point pressed on Col. Gurdon was the offer of troops, money and horses, &c., made by His Highness towards the end of October in response to His Majesty's gracious message communicated by the Viceroy. The Prime Minister said that this offer had not been accepted by the Government on account of His Highness' alleged disregard of certain wishes of the Government of India but that the offer was quite a distinct matter from the other cases, it was made in response to the gracious message of the Sovereign and ought to have been accepted without reference to previous negotiations relating to administrative matters of comparatively minor importance. As His Highness' loyal devotion to the Suzerain power was demonstrated by the offer, his feelings were wounded by its rejection. When the King demanded of the Princes and peoples of India that they should stand round and help him in a time of stress and difficulty and they offered all they owned for the use of their Sovereign, it was hardly the right thing to do to bring in other questions pending between the Government and the person making the offer. The offer stood by itself and should be considered on its own merits. When His Highness was considered a fit and proper Prince to whom the message should be sent it was not right to reject his offer on extraneous grounds. Khan Sahib Muhammad Munawar Ali Khan reiterated in Urdu the propriety of keeping the question of the offers separate from administrative discussions, and pointed out that for more than a century, since its connection with the Paramount Power began, Nabha State had been foremost in helping the Government with men and money in times of emergency. The Campaigns of Kabul, Tirah, Mohmand, Africa and Delhi bore testimony to this loyalty and devotion. It was for the first time that our offers were not being accepted simply because we had not fallen in with certain views of the Government in matters of comparatively minor importance, which had no connection with the Darbar's offers, and should therefore be kept quite distinct and separate. We had been keeping the Imperial Service Troops at considerable cost for several years past to help the Government at a critical time like the present. We hoped the Political Agent would be good enough to have our offers accepted; otherwise we would have to move higher authorities in the matter.

Colonel Gurdon spoke of the difference of opinion which arose on the occasion of His Highness' installation after the death of His late Highness. The Prime Minister pointed out that according to his own interpretation of the Sanad succession opened out in favour of His Highness on the death of his father, but His Highness was not at present raising this question and the matter did not require any consideration at present.

Colonel Gurdon next referred to the question of excise opium which he said was a public question, and said that in the Punjab all Native States had adopted the policy formulated by the Government of India. The Prime Minister said that the concession made in this respect by the Government was not being abused and there was no smuggling of opium carried on within Nabha territory, but that the larger consumption was due to the fact that Nabha opium was boiled, and was preferred by the people, and that crude opium was often injurious to the human constitution and often caused gripes and a feeling of sickness. Colonel Gurdon said that Nabha Darbar should agree to the wishes of the Government. The Prime Minister then referred to the question of pecuniary loss which the State would sustain by boiling of opium being discontinued. Colonel Gurdon replied that the question of compensation could be considered.

The Political Agent next referred to the question of notice about His Highness' movements outside his territory. He said that he wanted a reasonable notice but we could, while giving him the assurance which he wanted, take exception to the rule and reserve our rights to move Government to rescind or modify it. He admitted that many Chiefs disliked this rule. The Prime Minister put the question as to whether Rulers in Europe travelling incognito in other territories gave information of their movements. Colonel Gurdon said it was a matter of courtesy; there were standing orders on the subject and he had to give information to the Punjab Government.

Colonel Gurdon said that ordinary proposals by him were regarded with suspicion by the State, which gave rise to prolonged correspondence. The Prime Minister explained that some of the correspondence was due to unnecessary action taken by Government, for example in the matter of the surrender of lands for railways made nearly fifty years ago. His Highness was required to sign forms which were obviously incorrect. His Highness was justified in asking that if a new document was wanted from him it should be correct in all particulars, *e.g.*, in saving the sovereign rights of the State, &c. Colonel Gurdon conceded that in regard to this matter we were right. The Prime Minister also referred to the question of compensation for lands given for railway purposes and said that since we surrendered such lands free of cost there seemed to be no necessity why Government should press for our receiving compensation. It was a matter entirely in the discretion of the Nabha State to ask for compensation for such lands. Colonel Gurdon did not say anything on the subject.

The Prime Minister referred to the offer of the troops which he said was prior to and independent of the present offer. Colonel Gurdon said that the troops were not at first in good condition. On this the Prime Minister said that the defects having been removed the troops were in excellent condition for service and should now be accepted. Colonel Gurdon said the troops were now in good condition but the Government had not till then decided the matter.

The deputation repeatedly pressed the argument that the loyal offers of troops and subsequently of money and horses &c., in response to the King-Emperor's message were totally distinct matters from the administrative questions pending between the State and the Government. Colonel Gurdon questioned the Prime Minister; "you consider it improper to mix up the offers with questions previously in issue between the Nabha State and

the Government?" The Prime Minister said "they ought to be certainly kept separate and disposed of separately." Colonel Gurdon expressed satisfaction at the long and open conversation he had with the deputation. After this the State officials left.

(Signed) P. C. Chatterjee,

*Prime Minister.*

Muhammad Munawar Ali Khan,

*Member Council.*

Hazura Singh,

*Member Council.*

Tipar Chand,

*Chief Secretary.*

Atma Ram,

*Deputy Foreign Minister.*

Bakhshish Singh,

*Agency Vakil*

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## APPENDIX C.

### Exhibit 2.

*Note of conversation between the Political Agent and State Officials at Nabha on the 12 January, 1915.*

As directed we called upon the Political Agent at the State Guest House and told him that the Vakil had said that he (the Political Agent) wanted to know the result of the conversation we had with him the previous day, but that the deputation had already requested him that he might kindly move the Government to accept the loyal offers made by the Darbar to His Majesty's Government in connection with the present war and that the other matters of a routine nature which were being mixed up with the question of our offers might be kept separate from it. We further said that that was the time for us to serve our King-Emperor with troops and money and that we ourselves were anxious to know from him whether according to our request he had moved the Government to accept our offers and to deal with all other matters separately. We, therefore, again requested the Political Agent to kindly have our offers accepted by the Government, or to arrange with the Punjab Government for a time when our officials might wait upon His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and make our request to him. The Political Agent thereupon asked whether His Highness was going to see the Lieutenant-Governor. We replied that His Highness would not go but that the State officials whom the Maharajah Sahib Bahadur would be pleased to depute would wait upon His Honour to represent matters to him. The Political Agent said that he would write to the Punjab Government.

(Sd.) Hazura Singh,

*Member Council.*

Atma Ram,

*Deputy Foreign Minister.*

Bakhshish Singh,

*Agency Vakil.*

## APPENDIX C.

## Exhibit 3.

*Note of conversation between the Political Agent and State Officials at Patiala on the 25th and 26th March and 12th April, 1915.*

Under orders of the Darbar we called upon the Political Agent at Patiala on the 25th and again on the 26th of March last. We asked the Political Agent to be good enough to mention the matters pending between the Government and the Darbar which were considered to be the cause of the refusal of State offers. The Political Agent referred to the question of opium as the most important and said that he would write to the Punjab Government and would let us know on receiving their reply.

On receipt of the list of seven pending cases from the Political Agent under cover of his letter of the 7th instant addressed to His Highness, first the Vakil on the 10th, and again we on the 12th instant under directions from the Darbar, called upon the Political Agent to talk over the matters in the said list and discussed each matter with him seriatim.

## OPIUM.

On the question of prohibition of boiling of opium before sale we informed the Political Agent that, in deference to the wishes of the Government, the Darbar would prohibit the boiling of opium in the State territory from the 1st July next, but the Darbar hoped that they would receive compensation and also the concessions that had been given to the other States. We told him that the date of 1st July had been fixed with a view to making arrangements for the introduction of the new system and the disposal of the stock in hand.

The Political Agent said that he would report to Government the Darbar's decision but that a communication on the subject might be sent to afford them an opportunity to consider the question of concessions, &c., which would no doubt be considered by the Government.

## 2. NOTICE OF HIS HIGHNESS' JOURNEYS OUTSIDE THE STATE.

We explained to the Political Agent that the discussion on this question had been practically closed. But on a new question of 15 days' notice being raised the matter was again opened unnecessarily.

The Political Agent said that it was not the object that 15 days' notice should be given for each and every journey. Adequate notice with regard to the special circumstances of the particular journey intended would be sufficient. The notice did not need to be in writing. It might be given verbally through the Vakil. We said that the notice will be given according to the circumstances of each case either orally or in writing.

## 3. COAT OF ARMS.

We explained to the Political Agent that the State Coat of Arms was adopted many years ago, that its specimens were sent to the Government at their request in 1882 and that the banner granted by Her late Majesty the Queen Empress Victoria to the late Maharajah Sahib Bahadur at the Imperial Darbar of 1877 bore a gold crown almost similar in shape to that which

was represented on the State Coat of Arms. As regards the correspondence which passed between Mr. Atkins and the then State Vakil it was followed only a few days after by a personal interview between Mr. Atkins and the State Vakil, at which Mr. Atkins on being informed, in accordance with His late Highness' directions, of the facts of the case, dropped the question and we heard no more about the matter till the receipt of your letter of 10th February last.

The Political Agent said that a communication might be addressed setting forth the facts which would show the continued use of the Coat of Arms since it was first adopted.

#### 4. KILN.

We explained the Political Agent that the question of the kiln was a question between the Darbar and contractor who had encroached upon and occupied State lands without having first obtained permission from the State authorities, and had thus violated State laws. His late Highness had imposed a penalty and the State desired that those orders should be upheld. It had been said by the Canal Officer that the contractor alone was responsible for his act. The subsequent purchase of the bricks by the Canal authorities from the contractor did not alter the situation. As soon as Rs. 500 due to the State from the contractor were received the Darbar would have no objection to the removal of the bricks.

The Political Agent remarked that from what he had heard from the Vakil and also from what we told him he understood that the compensation demanded was in the nature of a penalty which was imposed by the late Maharajah Sahib Bahadur on the contractor for occupying State lands without authority and that the Darbar desired that the orders passed by the late Maharaja Sahib Bahadur should be upheld.

#### 5. SIGNING OF FORMS.

We explained to the Political Agent that the Darbar desired that the points on which both the Government and the Darbar were agreed, *viz.*, the reservation of sovereign rights to the State and the affording of facilities by the Railway Administration to the State authorities in preventing crimes, &c., might be incorporated in the agreement. A reply to that effect had been sent long ago with a form of cession in Urdu. We gave to the Political Agent an English translation of the form at his request.

#### 6. DELAY IN SENDING REPLIES.

We asked the Political Agent if there were any cases in which replies were still due. The Political Agent referred to his communication about the Coat of Arms and said that the only reply which he had till then received from the State Foreign Office was that records had been ordered to be put up. In cases which required time for consideration he said it would be well if he were informed of the fact through the Vakil; he would then be able to answer Government reminders. In regard to the instance given by the Political Agent in the list of cases regarding the delay that occurred in sending samples of liquor to the Financial Commissioner we explained that the delay was due to the fact that the sister States had to be consulted. We also added that we understood that the Jind Darbar had not even yet been able to comply with the Political Agent's request, and that the Patiala Darbar had also taken a long time in sending their reply.

We suggested to the Political Agent that in cases of delay he could remind the Foreign Office through the Vakil. The Political Agent accepted the suggestion.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

We reminded the Political Agent of the conversation which the State Vakil had with him in May 1914 and on the 10th instant when the Vakil had informed him that the State had objections to supply the information which the Political Agent wanted. We added that from what the Political Agent had said to the Vakil in May 1914 and again on the 10th instant we gathered that if the State had objections he would not press the matter. The Political Agent said that if the Darbar were not willing to give such information they might not give it; this need not produce any unpleasantness and the case would not be considered as pending.

8. GENERAL.

We explained that as the Vakil had already told the Political Agent and as had been intimated in the letter which we had brought with us, His Highness proposed to be in Lahore on the 27th instant. But His Highness desired it to be clearly understood that, as had been said in his letter of the 9th March last to His Honour, His Highness would not enter into any discussion on controversial matters at this visit. The Political Agent said that he had already sent a telegram to enquire about the date and time of meeting and he would write to His Honour that His Highness would not discuss controversial questions. He further said that he himself did not consider it likely that His Honour would discuss controversial matters with His Highness. His Honour would only have a private and friendly talk with His Highness to remove any suspicions that might be in His Highness' mind and to place the relations of the Government with the Darbar on a better footing, but if His Highness would take up concrete instances then of course His Honour might reply.

9. In the end we remarked that the main object of the deputation was to interest the Political Agent in the State Infantry which had been under orders so long. The inordinate delay in the troops being sent to the front was disappointing and the officers and men felt it most keenly. The Political Agent said that the matter was not in his hands: but after some further conversation he added that he would do what he could. Meanwhile, he advised, the men might be allowed to proceed on furlough as recommended by Captain Anderson. The men he said would like the change, but they should, of course, be warned to join in 48 hours when required to do so.

(Signed) Hazura Singh,  
*Member Council.*

„ Saligram,  
*Military Minister.*

„ Bakhshish Singh,  
*Agency Vakil.*

Nabha,  
15-4-15.

## APPENDIX D.

*The Civil and Military Gazette, Sunday, November 1, 1914.—*

The Hon'ble Sir P. C. Chatterjee, C. I. E., &c., was installed as Prime Minister of Nabha State on the auspicious day of *Diwali*, the 18th October. The ceremony was performed in a public Darbar held in Diwan Khana by His Highness Maharaja Ripudaman Singh. The Maharaja drove in the State carriage from Hira Mahal to Diwan Khana and reached there at 11 a.m. On His Highness alighting from the carriage a salute of 21 guns was fired, whilst the guard-of-honour presented arms, and the band played the National Anthem. On the Maharaj's entrance all present stood up and remained standing until His Highness had taken his seat on the golden chair of State placed on a golden embroidered *Masnad*. A few minutes after Sir P. C. Chatterjee arrived at the Diwan Khana, escorted by an A.D.C. of His Highness, whom the Maharaja had sent as a special mark of honour to bring the Diwan designate from his residence. He was received at the top of the staircase by the Private Secretary to His Highness. On entering the Darbar Hall Sir P. C. Chatterjee presented a *Nazar* to His Highness and took his seat on the chair set apart for the purpose on the right hand row of the State officials. Then the other officials and State servants presented *Nazars* in order of their rank and precedence, after which His Highness invested Sir P. C. Chatterjee with the powers of his office as Prime Minister, and conferred a *Khillat* on him. On receiving the *Khillat* Sir P. C. Chatterjee rose and thanked His Highness in the following words :—

“Your Highness,—I am very thankful to Your Highness for the honour conferred on me on the occasion of this ceremony of my installation as Prime Minister of the State. I shall try my best to do the duties entrusted to me, and to carry out the enlightened measures of reform which lie nearest to Your Highness' heart to the best of my ability. I have no doubt your subjects will greatly benefit by these measures, and will bless Your Highness for your munificence and fatherly care for them. Your Highness comes of an illustrious line of ancestors, who have done much for the benefit of their State and who ever since their connection with the British Government began have distinguished themselves by loyalty and devotion to the British Throne. True to the traditions of your noble house Your Highness at the very outbreak of the present European war unreservedly placed your troops and the resources of your State at the disposal of His Majesty's Government, and contributed a sum of Rs. 10,000 towards the Indian Relief Fund and Rs. 15,000 towards the Prince of Wales' Fund. Inspired by sentiments of loyalty and devotion, your people have also subscribed about Rs. 35,000 to the Indian Relief Fund. In addition to this Your Highness has been pleased to put at the disposal of His Majesty's Government a sum of £20,000 or Rs. 3,00,000 to defray the expenses of expeditionary forces, and 100 horses for the use of the army in war, and placed your own residential house at Simla and your houses at Lahore and Ambala at the disposal of His Excellency's Government for the accommodation of the wounded during the present war. These sentiments and princely donations are a proof of Your Highness' unflinching loyalty and devotion to the British Throne. Your Highness is well known throughout India for Your noble and enlightened views about your duties as Ruling Prince, and for your

exalted character, and you have gathered experience by working on the Imperial Council and by your visits to Europe. The concessions you have already announced to your subjects are a standing monument of your enlightened views and your efforts to organise the administration by importing new men at a great cost to the State bear testimony to Your Highness' liberality. I rejoice that I have to serve a State ruled over by such a Prince. I do not wish to say more at present, as the work I have to do is yet all before me, but I conclude by wishing Your Highness a long life, health and prosperity to enjoy your own, and to reap the reward of your beneficence and good-will towards your subjects and to the public at large."

The Prime Minister then stepped forward and presented a *Nazar* a second time, as is usual. After this His Highness graciously granted Sir P. C. Chatterjee a golden sword and the letter of appointment. Other *Khillats* were bestowed on certain State officials. His Highness also announced an increment in the pay of the three servants of the State, *viz.*, Khan Sahib Muhammad Munawar Ali Khan, Sardar Hazura Singh and Lala Nathu Lal, for their long and meritorious services to the State.

The ceremony being over the Darbar was declared closed, and His Highness left Darbar Hall under the usual Salute. Photographs were then taken of those present on the occasion.

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## APPENDIX E.

*Note submitted to His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Malvendra Bahadur of Nabha by the Executive Council of Nabha State, regarding the Lohat Baddi searches.*

On the 30th of Magh 1971 (11th February, 1915) Muhammad Khan and Ata Ullah Khan, Sub-Inspectors of Police of the Malerkotla State, came to Lohat Baddi (a village in the Nabha State) and in the usual course asked that the houses of Achra Singh and Narain Singh, zamindars of the Village, and a public place known as the "Gurumat Fund House," should be searched. Search was accordingly made with the aid of the Local Nabha Police. Nothing incriminating was found in the houses of Achra Singh and Narain Singh but in the "Gurumat Fund House" a trunk was discovered containing some gold-smith's instruments and moulds ordinarily used for casting gold and silver. The Malerkotla Police asked for and were given these instruments and at their request four men, Achra Singh, Narain Singh, Ganga Singh and Jogendra Singh, were also handed over to them on 5th Phagun 1971 (16th February). These men, the Malerkotla Police said were required for purposes of investigation in connection with a dacoity which had been placed in the village of Jhuner in the Malerkotla State.

On the 2nd of Phagun (13th February, 1915) at 5 p.m. Sardar Kartar Singh, Mohammad Khan and Shiva Sahai, Officers of the Punjab Police, and Mohammad Khan and Ata Ullah Khan of the Malerkotla Police came to Lohat Baddi in connection with a dacoity in Ludhiana District. They said they wished to search the houses of Achra Singh, Narain Singh, Ganga Singh, Sewa Singh and Arjan Singh and the "Gurumat Fund House" and asked the assistance of the Nabha Police. Search was accordingly made of these houses. Nothing was discovered from the houses of Narain Singh, Ganga Singh and Arjan Singh. Some papers in Gurmukhi were taken from the house of Achra Singh and the "Gurumat Fund House" and two black coats, two pantaloons, a pair of breeches and a pair of trousers from the house of Sewa Singh. These articles were made over to the Government Police at their request.

On the 11th of Phagun (22nd February) Narain Singh was brought to Lohat Baddi. With the assistance of the local State Police his house was searched and on his pointing out, six silver bars and a silver piece weighing in all 331 tolas were found under a heap of rubbish and made over to the Malerkotla Police.

On the 19th of Phagun (2nd March) in consequence of certain places being pointed out by some residents and some arrested persons, a search was instituted by the British, Malerkotla and Nabha Police and all the articles recovered were handed over to the Malerkotla Police. Details are given below:—

Name of person who pointed out	Name of place searched	Articles recovered
Sewa Singh s/o Achra Singh	Village pond ..	1 phial, leads 5 Srs., 2 kinds of gunpowder, 6 Srs.
Man Singh .. ..	A well .. ..	2 bottles of wine.
Jogendra Singh ..	Gurumat Fund House	1 axe, 1 dagger, 2 bottle pieces.
Kartar Kaur wife of Achra Singh .. ..	House of Achra Singh .. ..	5 Kotla rupees.

On 20th and 21st Phagun (3rd and 4th March) the cattle-compound and the House of Kapura, brother of Sewa Singh, were searched with the aid of the Nabha Police and, on his pointing out, the following articles were recovered and made over to the Malerkotla Police.

(Found in the cattle-compound)

4 bars of silver weighing 178 tolas.

1 bar of gold weighing 30 tolas.

(Found in the house)

4 bars of silver weighing 169 tolas.

4 bars of gold weighing 37 tolas.

1 tin pipe.

1 rupee with a small hook at the top.

The Punjab Government demanded the person of Achra Singh and Narain Singh from the Malerkotla State. The latter said that according to the usual procedure the men should, in the first instance, be returned to the Nabha State and then extradited by the Nabha State to the Government. This view was accepted by the Government and the men were returned to Nabha State with all the articles that had been recovered and made over to the Malerkotla Police, with the exception of a few articles which were wanted by the latter in connection with the Jhuner dacoity which they were investigating.

On the 9th April, 1915, the Political Agent applied for the extradition of these men and they were then sent at once to Ludhiana with the articles which had been returned by the Malerkotla Police.

Sometime after, on Achra Singh's making a statement, a Government Inspector of Police came to Lohat Baddi to obtain some papers from Achra Singh's house. The State at once took these papers into its custody. The Political Agent by his letter No. 2998, dated the 5th of May, asked that these papers should be sent to the Superintendent of Police, Ludhiana District and they were accordingly sent to the latter.

(Signed) P. C. Chatterjee,

*President.*

„ Muhammad Munawar Ali Khan,  
*Member, Council.*

„ Hazura Singh,  
*Member, Council.*

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## APPENDIX F.

(Translation)

*Decision of the Finance Department**File regarding the deposit of money on interest in the Dharma Artha Bank by Sirdar Jwala Singh, Honorary Magistrate, Jharouli, District Karnal.*

This file has been put up to-day. It is evident that Sirdar Jwala Singh presented himself several times, at first, before His late Highness and, afterwards, before His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur and orally begged for permission to deposit about a lakh of rupees permanently in the State Bank in the name of his grandson Rajindar Singh after taking it out from the Banks in British territory where it was then deposited, in order (as he said) that his money might be safe, his posterity might not be able to waste it in extravagance, and it might remain a permanent source of income to Rajindar Singh and his descendants. But this request of his was always disallowed. Finally on his beseeching His Highness very humbly that his money might be deposited permanently in the State Bank as His Highness was the only Ruler to whom he could make a request for the benefit of his family, he was directed to submit a written agreement, which he thereupon did. The agreement is as follows:—

“Whereas on account of Your Highness’ generosity, just-mindedness and sympathy I have felt a desire that whatever moneys (of mine) are, in accordance with the will of my eldest son, the deceased Sardar Devindar Singh, deposited in Banks in the territory of the British Government in the name of Barkhurdar Rajindar Singh, may be deposited in perpetuity in the State Bank of Nabha at the rate of eight annas per cent. And the interest on the aforesaid “sum” may be paid six-monthly to Rajindar Singh; (I hereby say that) Rajindar Singh, cannot withdraw (any sum) from the principal according to the will of his father; but if any agricultural or residential property may be secured at a reasonable price and provided that its income may be expected to be larger than this interest, Your Highness may, after Your Highness has satisfied yourself, have such property purchased out of the principal on an application of Rajindar Singh to that effect or have such property purchased on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal. Except for this purpose Rajindar Singh or his successors cannot spend out of the principal for their personal expenses; for this sum has been deposited for the benefit of the family, and will remain deposited in perpetuity; Rajindar Singh or his successors will be entitled only to interest. *Finis.*

Servant, JWALA SINGH,

15th February, 1912.

Honorary Magistrate and Civil Judge, Jharouli.

(Signed) JWALA SINGH “with his own pen”.

In reply to this the Foreign Minister by order of His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur informed Sirdar Jwala Singh on the 11th of March, 1912, that in the State Bank the usual rate of interest was 3½ per cent. per annum, but that he would be allowed 4 per cent. per annum, and that if he liked he could deposit his money at this rate. The Sirdar Sahib sent a reply to this letter by his lengthy letter in Gurumukhi, dated 15th March,

1912, wherein after referring to his personal affairs, he most humbly appeals to the mercy and kindness of His Highness. He also says:— “ It is my constant anxiety that Rajindar Singh may not waste in extravagance the property of lakhs of rupees earned by my ancestors. I, unfortunate, and distressed, deserve mercy. I have entrusted (literally ‘made a present of’) of my life and property to Your Highness *for ever*. I have no objection to the order which Your Highness has been pleased to pass in regard to interest, namely, that it will be at the rate of 4 per cent. If Your Highness thinks it fit you may be pleased to order  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., otherwise I accept 4 per cent. Further I submit that regarding the lakh of rupees which I will for the present deposit in the State Bank, I will execute a will which will *always* remain in the State Office. And I will also write (therein) that the protection of the life and property of my unfortunate (literally ‘oppressed’) grandson will be in the hands of Your Highness. Although Your Highness will be put to trouble in this work, yet I believe Your Highness will, on account of race-fellowship, sympathy and godliness undertake this trouble. I am at present in distress. My family will be saved by Your Highness’ kindness. Read this letter twice so that it may be fully understood.”

In reply to this the Foreign Minister by a letter, dated 30th March, 1912, again informed Sardar Jwala Singh that, as had been already written to him, he would be given interest at the rate of 4 per cent.; he could deposit as much money as he likes at that rate of interest. Afterwards, on the enquiry of Sardar Jwala Singh as to whom the money should be sent to, he was informed that the money could be sent to the address of the Finance Minister under whose charge the Department of Bank was. On this he began to remit money to this office. On receiving from Sardar Jwala Singh the letter of the 17th June, 1912, wherein he had written that it had been settled between him and the Foreign Minister that he would receive interest at the rate of 4 per cent. this office made an enquiry about this from the Foreign Minister, who replied on the 20th Asarh Samvat, 1969, that the ordinary rule was to allow interest at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., but in the case of S. Jwala Singh interest had been ordered to be paid at the rate of 4 per cent. On the 7th of August, 1912, Sardar Jwala Singh among other things wrote to this office regarding the deposit of his money: “I am sure you will appreciate my action in depositing my money in the State, which I have done with foresight and on account of national sympathy *Hamdardi-i-qaumi (i. e., of His Highness)*. If I am alive I will submit details of my affairs when I see you.”

Moneys continued to be received on different dates from Banks in the British territory and from Sardar Jwala Singh and to be deposited in the names of Sardar Jwala Singh and Rajindar Singh, and the treasurer of the Dharam Arth Bank went on sending to Sardar Jwala Singh through this office receipts of the said moneys according to the ordinary form. By the end of June, 1913, the total amount deposited in the Bank was Rs. 1,11,412-9-3. Here it is necessary to remark that although the Foreign Minister brought to the notice of this office that Sardar Jwala Singh’s money should be deposited in the Bank at the rate of 4 per cent. interest, yet he gave no information to this office as to the terms of the agreement of Jwala Singh respecting the deposit of the money. The result of this was that in the receipts sent to the Sardar Sahib the condition that the money could be withdrawn from the Bank at six months’ notice used to be written in

accordance with the ordinary rule without the permission of the Darbar and without their knowledge and information. On the 11th of July, 1913, Sardar Jwala Singh wrote to this office a letter containing the new proposal that he had "definitely decided" that with the moneys he had from time to time deposited in the State Bank "land should be purchased at the current price in the State." "If land was *not* available in the State" he could be compelled to purchase it in the British Territory. He also wrote that he would demand the money in three or four months after making arrangements in this matter. The said letter was forwarded from this office to the Dharam Arth Bank. As has been mentioned above neither this office nor the treasurer of the Dharam Arth Bank had up to this time any knowledge of the terms which had been settled between the Darbar and Sardar Jwala Singh regarding the deposit of the money. The treasury officers, therefore, in the ordinary course made the report that the Sardar Sahib should according to the rule give six months' notice for the withdrawal of the money. This office gave information to Sardar Jwala Singh in terms of this report. After some mutual correspondence Sardar Jwala Singh by his letter, dated 26th September, 1913, informed that he would withdraw the money on the 31st of December, 1913. Whatever correspondence had taken place up to this time between Sardar Jwala Singh and this office had been in ignorance (on the part of this office) of the agreement written by Sardar Jwala Singh and the terms relating to the deposit. But as the money had in the beginning been deposited through the Darbar this office on the receipt of Sardar Sahib's letter, dated 26th September, 1913, considered it proper that before the payment of money it should be brought to the notice of the higher authorities (the *Sadar*) that Sardar Jwala Singh would withdraw his money on the 31st December, 1913. The *Sadar* was informed accordingly. The file of this office and of the Foreign Office were both put up before the *Sadar*, who ordered that it was a mistake on the part of the Foreign Minister not to have informed the Finance Minister of the terms of the agreement, and that a proper reply should be sent to the Sardar Sahib. On receipt of these files this office came to know for the first time of those conditions which Sardar Jwala Singh had written in respect of this money. Hence on the 14th Asarh and 13th Asauj Samvat, 1971, Sardar Jwala Singh was informed that as the money had, after his repeated requests, been deposited in perpetuity through the Darbar, the ordinary rules of the Bank could not under these circumstances apply to his case; only because he had deposited the money in perpetuity had he been allowed as a special favour interest at the rate of 4 per cent., instead of 3½ per cent., which was the ordinary rate. Sardar Jwala Singh replied to this by his letter, dated the 23rd of October, 1914, that he had not made a permanent deposit of his money by means of any agreement. In reply to this, this office by its letter, dated 18th Kartik Samvat, 1971, called his attention to the agreement wherein he had, for the benefit of his family, put down the condition in regard to depositing his money in perpetuity; for which reason only he had been allowed a rate of interest higher than the usual. Thereupon S. Jwala Singh, by his letter, dated the 9th of April, 1915, again applied for the return of his money, and with it also sent his Mukhtar Bawa Kirpal Singh and Abdul Gani. The copy of the agreement of S. Jwala Singh, dated the 15th of February, 1912, was shown to them and they were asked as to how the Sardar Sahib could claim the principal amount when he had deposited it in perpetuity. The Mukhtars could make no reply, and said that

they would speak to the Sardar Sahib. On the 15th April, 1915, the Sardar Sahib again sent his Mukhtars with a letter in which, affecting ignorance of the agreement executed by him, he said that the agreement which was alleged by this office to have been written by him regarding a permanent deposit should be shown in original to his Mukhtars and a copy of it be given to them. Upon this a reply was given to the Mukhtars that a person who wrote an agreement in such an important matter always kept a copy with himself, and that it was impossible that Sardar Sahib had not kept a copy with him; the Sardar Sahib intentionally affected ignorance of the agreement, and charged the State with making a false statement; the Sardar Sahib should, therefore, write plainly whether or not he admitted the execution of the agreement to keep his money permanently in the State; the original document would then be shown and a copy would also be given. It was (also) ordered that the file should be put up on the 9th of Baisakh. On the 9th Baisakh the file was again put up. As the Mukhtars had not come with any reply, Sardar Jwala Singh was written to to send his Mukhtars. On the 24th of Baisakh the *Ahalmad* again put up the file with the report that no reply had till then been received. Thereupon a reminder was sent to Sardar Jwala Singh to send his Mukhtars. To-day this file has been put up again. Neither any reply has been received from Sardar Jwala Singh in spite of reminders, nor have his Mukhtars come up till now.

It is clear from the record of the case that S. Jwala Singh for the welfare of his family and to make provision for its livelihood deposited his money in perpetuity in the State Bank. This is proved by his agreement, dated the 15th of February, 1912, his letters and his oral conversation. It was left to the discretion of the Darbar that they might, after satisfying themselves, purchase land either on the request of Rajindar Singh or on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner of Karnal if such purchase might be expected to be beneficial to the family. It is evident from this that neither S. Jwala Singh nor any one else is entitled to withdraw money against the will of the Darbar. In the State Bank the ordinary rate of interest is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. It was only because of the submissive attitude of Sardar Jwala Singh and his leaving the disposal of the money in the hands of the Darbar for the benefit of his family that special kindness was shown to him by them and 4 per cent. interest was ordered to be paid to him. There can be no doubt whatever that Sardar Jwala Singh deposited his money in perpetuity and that he knew that the money was permanently deposited. But when he saw the receipts which were issued to him from this office in ignorance of his agreement, they suggested to him the notion of taking advantage of the wrong entries therein. But the agreement, as has been said above, is between the Darbar and Sardar Jwala Singh. Sardar Jwala Singh cannot, therefore, take advantage of the wrong entries made by this office in ignorance of the agreement. The Bank was merely a place where money was to be kept, and any wrong entry made by the Bank in ignorance of the agreement which was between the Darbar and the Sardar Sahib, could not alter its terms.

The wrong entry cannot affect the agreement of which this office had even no knowledge; nor can a receipt given against the agreement have any force. Supposing an error had been committed against the interest of the Sardar Sahib, it is not possible that he could have accepted it in face of the

agreement. For instance, if a mistake had been made in entering the principal amount or the rate of interest and had escaped his notice for a long time and he had later on come to know of it, it is certain that he would have argued that this wrong entry was a mere error and that such a receipt could not override the agreement or affect the actual amount. Nor would the Darbar have had any objection to acknowledging such a mistake ; just as was done when at the request of Sardar Jwala Singh the name of his grandson Rajindar Singh, which had by oversight been omitted from the receipts was afterwards included. In fact the matter is so clear that it is absurd even to imagine that a wrong entry in any receipt can affect the terms of an original agreement. It is, therefore,

Ordered

that the application of Sardar Jwala Singh for the return of money is hereby rejected. The Mukhtars of Sardar Jwala Singh are absent; they should be informed of the order when they appear. The file should be kept in the records of the office. 13th Jeth Samvat, 1972, corresponding to 26th May, 1915.

(Signed) Nathu Lal,  
*Finance Minister.*

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## APPENDIX G.

## TRANSLATION.

(Mark of ' One ' in original).

One *Onkar Sattnam*. May His Highness Shri Maharajah Sahib, Raja-i-Rajagan, Dastar Shri Panth Khalsa (Turban of the Khalsa Faith), Aftab-i-Hind (Sun of India), Ruler of Nabha be prosperous.

With folded hands I pray (Your Highness) to accept *Vah Guru ji ki Fateh*. I was honoured by the kind letter which came through the Foreign Department. I am extremely grateful for this kindness. The two troubles I have given Your Highness, *viz.*, keeping Rajindra Singh near your feet and depositing money in the State treasury—the special reason of these is that my two sons who were obedient and able have died by my evil fate. On account of this all my ancestral arrangements have been upset. By the grace of the Satguru my ancestors and I have been walking in the right path. As a result of this the authorities have been treating me with kindness and have conferred Sanads in a language which it has never been the lot of my equals to receive. Only Bedi Khem Singh was certainly regarded as my equal. Secondly, properties of lakhs of rupees are in position of my family (literally 'are present in my house') on account of (our) good character. It is not may object that I may obtain a gain in the shape of salary, etc., by having my grandson appointed in State service or that I may obtain the benefit of interests, etc., by having my money deposited in the State treasury; I only want the help of Your Highness' lotus feet for I am now very old and only a small portion of my life is left to me. And after me my grandson Rajindar Singh will be my successor and Rajindar (Singh) has now become 20 years old. And the younger grandson Harban Singh is about 12 or 13 years old. He will be entitled to maintainance. The authorities intend to send him to England and I also agreed to this. I have left all my family matters to Your Highness' judgment, for the Satguru has favoured Your Highness with superior intellect. And it is constant anxiety that after me Rajindar Singh may not waste in extravagance the fortune of lakhs of rupees earned by my ancestors. He has received education up to the middle class. I do not intend to keep him any more at College for there are in the College *Raises* great as well as small. When the smaller (*raises*) attempt to imitate the greater (*raises*), they (the former) suffer much harm. Up till now the character of Rajindar Singh is praiseworthy and the College authorities speak well of him, and I believe that Your Highness also will be pleased with Rajindar Singh's services. And when Rajindar Singh will remain with Your Highness, his educational qualifications will increase by your grace. Although educational qualifications are very necessary, yet in my significant opinion honesty and regard for necessary duties of one's office are more essential for a man. I therefore wish to keep Rajindar Singh near Your Highness' feet. Your Highness' good counsels and good society will be beneficial to him. When a river joins the Ganges the whole is called by the name of Ganges; it is said in the Granths (Sahibji) that "a river by joining another river, becomes the Ganges"; to take another instance, the trees of the jungle by being near the sandal tree are also regarded as sandal trees. At the present time Your Highness is in place of Maharajah Vikramajit. My



distress will not be removed without your help. And for Rajindar Singh the leavings of Your Highness' dishes are enough. I do not require any other thing. When Rajindar Singh presents himself, it may be ordered for him, for the present, that he may receive education for two hours, learn work for two hours, and then presenting himself before Your Highness serve Your Highness for two hours. I, unfortunate and distressed (literally 'oppressed'), deserve mercy. I have entrusted (literally 'made a present of') my life and property to Your Highness for ever. Rajindar Singh is now at Lahore; he will come on the 25th April. I will give information at once. When Your Highness sends a *firman* to me, I will present myself before Your Highness with Rajindar Singh. And I have *no objection* to the order which Your Highness has been pleased to pass in regard to interest, *viz.*, that it will be at the rate of 4 per cent. I, too, do not think it proper to give more trouble at present. If Your Highness may, in your justice, think it fit, you may be pleased to order  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. instead of 4 per cent., otherwise *I accept 4 per cent.* Now I submit that my money is deposited in different ways in some Banks for a period of one year and will be realised on different dates. Kindly write soon by return (mail) as to whose name the money may be sent to and what the designation of the State Bank is. Further I submit that regarding the lakh of rupees which I will, for the present, deposit in the State Bank, I will execute a will which will *always* remain in the State Office. And I will also write (therein) that the protection of the life and property of my unfortunate (literally 'oppressed') grandson will be in the hands of Your Highness. Although Your Highness will be put to some trouble in this work, yet I believe that Your Highness will on account of race-fellowship, sympathy, and godfearingness undertake this trouble. I am at present a ruined (man). This family will be saved with Your Highness' help. I pray the Satguru that Your Highness' life may last till the Sun and the Moon (last). Read this letter twice so that it may be fully understood.

*Written on the 15th March, 1912.*

Servant JWALA SINGH, Jharauli, (with his own pen.)

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APPENDIX H.

TRANSLATION.

(Mark of 'One' in original.)

One *Onkar Sattnam*. May (Your Highness) Shri 101, Worthy of all Praise, Treasure of all Qualifications, Sun of India, Turban of the Khalsa Panth, Shri Maharajah, Raja-i-Rajagan Bahadur, be always prosperous. Pray accept *Vah Guru ji ki Fateh* offered by this slave of slaves to Your lotus feet. By the grace of the Vah Guru Your Highness will, I am sure, be happy and cheerful. And may the Satguru give you eternal life. For a long time Your Highness has not remembered your servant with your sacred pen. Your servant is now getting weaker day by day on account of old age. And, provided I am alive, I will present myself before Your Highness in the winter season. And my moneys deposited in the Banks in the British territory are being constantly sent to the State Bank. I am sure in four or five months the whole money will be deposited in the State treasury. I have sought Your Highness' protection, so that after me my children may have peace. I regard Your Highness as being in place of Maharajah Vikramajit Sahib and Maharaja Yudhisthira Sahib.

Dated the 26th September, 1912.

Servant JWALA SINGH, Jharauli, District Karnal.

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*Translation of a Sanad regarding possession of territory granted to the Rajah of Nabha by His Excellency (the Viceroy and Governor-General of India) dated 5th May, 1860.*

Whereas since the day of the rise of the sun of the everlasting British Empire and supremacy in this country of India, the acts of loyalty and devotion to Government of Farzand-Arjumand-i-Akidat Paiwand-i-Daulat-i-Inglisia Bararbans, Sirmor Raja Bharpur Singh Malwindar Bahadur and Raja Jaswant Singh Sahib, grandfather of the said Raja Sahib were in former times fully conspicuous, particularly in the year 1857 A.D., during the days of the insurrection and mutiny of wretched persons when the Raja Sahib Bahadur rendered and displayed worthy and conspicuous services which surpassed his previous achievement. Therefore, in recognition of such approved services, the powerful British Government, by the way of Royal favour and kindness, has conferred on the Raja Sahib Malwindar Bahadur some territory and additional title for generation after generation and descendant after descendant. The Raja Sahib Bahadur has applied for renewal of the Sanad regarding his ancestral territory as well as that granted to him by the powerful Government. In view of this His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General is pleased to approve of the grant of the present Sanad by the way of treaty with the conditions below as a memorable document:—

#### CLAUSE I.

According to the list annexed to this Sanad, the Raja Sahib Bahadur and his successors will, in the present and the future time, exercise sovereignty, with peace of mind and in perfect security, in accordance with ancient custom, over his ancestral possessions and the dominions bestowed on him by the British Government and consider the territory granted to him by the British Government in recognition of his good services as his ancestral territory with all powers and rights, internal and external. All powers great and small, administrative and criminal and in respect of the produce of revenue, etc., will, as heretofore, remain permanently vested in the power and control of the Raja Sahib Bahadur and his successors generation after generation and descendant after descendant in present and in future for ever and in perpetuity; and (his) brothers, Zaildars, Chaharumians (persons entitled to a fourth share), feudatories, Jagirdars, and dependants will, according to old custom, obey the orders and commands of the Raja Sahib Bahadur and his successors.

#### CLAUSE II.

The powerful British Government will not demand or exact anything on account of Nazrana, land revenue, administrative or criminal cesses, compensation on account of troops, etc., or on any other plea whatever, in the present or future, from the Raja Sahib Malwindar Bahadur, his successors, dependants, brothers, Zaildars, Jagirdars, Chaharumians or feudatories except as provided in Clause III.

#### CLAUSE III.

As an additional Royal favour and having regard to the loyalty and devotion of the Raja Sahib Bahadur the powerful British Government desire that this territory should always remain under the sovereignty of this family. Therefore, the power of adoption is granted for ever to the said Raja Sahib

and his successors so that in case there is no lenial descendant, they may, for the purpose of perpetuating the line of Chiefship, adopt a successor, according to their own choice from among the descendants of the Phulkian family. The powerful Government also grants permission that in case, may God forbid, the Raja on the Masnad should suddenly die, without leaving a lenial descendant or an adopted successor, the Maharajah Sahib of Patiala and the Raja Sahib of Jind in concert with the Commissioner Sahib Bahadur, may select a successor from among the Phulkian family and place him on the masnad. In that case nazrana to the extent of one third of the income of the State for one year will be paid into the treasury of the British Government by the Nabha State.

CLAUSE IV.

Formerly regarding the infliction of capital punishment, etc., a reference to the Commissioner Sahib Bahadur used to be made. Now this practice has been stopped, and in future full authority for inflicting capital punishment etc., in his own territory according to the old custom is granted in perpetuity to Raja Sahib Malwandar Bahadur and his successors. Similarly with regard to punishing subjects of the powerful British Government committing crime and apprehended in the territory of the Nabha State, the Raja Sahib Bahadur and his successors are granted power in accordance with the provisions of the despatch No. 3, dated 1st June, 1836, from the Hon'ble Court of Directors at the Capital, London. The Raja Sahib Bahadur will exert himself by every possible means in promoting the welfare of his people and the happiness of his subjects, and redressing the grievances of the oppressed and injured in the proper way. He will prevent in his territory female infanticide, Sati and slavery which are opposed to the principles of Justice and equity towards the people. In the event of any person at any time committing the above mentioned prohibited crimes without the knowledge of the officials of the Raja Sahib Bahadur, the latter will inflict the deterrent punishment on him.

CLAUSE V.

The Raja Sahib and his successors will never fail in their faithful and devoted obedience to the Empress, Queen of England, and her successors.

CLAUSE VI.

If at any time any hostile troops with mischievous intention should appear in his neighbourhood from any side or direction, the Raja Sahib Bahadur will along with his existing force sincerely and loyally co-operate with the English in repelling them in accordance with past practice. He will exert himself to the utmost of his resources, in providing supplies, grains, etc., and transport according to the requisitions of the British officers.

CLAUSE VII.

Complaints against the Raja Sahib from his subjects, muafidars, Jagirdars, dependants, brothers and servants, etc., will on no account be listened to by the powerful British Government.

CLAUSE VIII.

With regard to internal management and the affairs of brothers, household and relatives, the rules and arrangements made by the Raja Sahib Malwandar Bahadur will always be respected and not interfered with by the powerful British Government.

CLAUSE IX.

On the occasion of construction and repairs of roads in his territory the Raja Sahib Malwindar Bahadur, in accordance with the written communication of the Commissioner Sahib Bahadur, arrange from his own territory, through kardars and officials of Parganas, according to formal custom for the materials required, on payment: and at the time of the construction of a railroad or other roads the Raja Sahib Bahadur will concede, free of charge, land that comes under the roads in the same way as he has done for the Imperial road.

CLAUSE X.

The Raja Sahib Malwindar Bahadur will always pursue the course of obedience and loyalty to the powerful Government who will likewise continue to uphold his honour, respect, rank and dignity in the manner it is done at present.

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The Palace,  
Nabha, dated the 4th of October, 1915.

SIR,

I beg to enclose herewith for information copy of a representation which I have submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy through the proper channel. I do so in the hope of interesting you in my unfortunate case, and if in sending an advance copy direct to you I have parted in any way from the official routine I hope you will please excuse me. You will observe how unfairly I and my Darbar have been treated and I hope you will kindly see that justice is done to us.

I have the honour to be,  
Yours very truly,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. J. B. Wood, C.I.E., I.C.S.,  
Political Secretary to the Government of India,  
Simla.

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The Palace,  
Nabha, dated the 4th October, 1915.

SIR,

I beg to enclose herewith for information copy of a representation which I have submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy through the proper channel. If in sending this advance copy direct to you I have parted in any way from the official routine, I hope you will kindly excuse me.

I have the honour to be,  
Yours very truly,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Maharaja of Nabha.

To

Sir J. H. Du Boulay, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.,  
Private Secretary to H. E. the Viceroy,  
Simla.

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Simla,  
The 5th October, 1915.

MY FRIEND,

I have received Your Highness' letter of the 4th October together with the printed accompaniments. Your Highness will understand that, at the present stage, the Government of India can offer no opinion on the complaints which Your Highness has made against the action of the Government of the Punjab. Your representation will, however, receive careful consideration when it is received through the ordinary channel.

In the meanwhile,

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) J. B. Wood.

To

His Highness  
Farzand-i-Arjumand Akidat Paiwand  
Daulat-i-Inglishia Barar Band Sarmur  
Raja-i-Rajagan Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH  
Malvendar Bahadur of Nabha.

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Viceregal Lodge,  
Simla,  
6th October, 1915.

YOUR HIGHNESS,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of Your Highness' letter, dated the 4th October, 1915, enclosing an advance copy of a representation which Your Highness is submitting to His Excellency through the proper channel. Sir James Du Boulay, to whom your letter was addressed, is at present away, which will explain why I am acknowledging it.

I have the honour to be,  
Your Highness' most obedient servant,  
(Sd.) H. A. F. Metcalfe,  
Asstt. Private Secretary to the Viceroy.

His Highness  
Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
F. R. G. S., M. R. A. S., of Nabha

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No. 751.

From

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O.,  
Political Agent, Phulkian States.

To

Sardar Gurdial Singh,  
Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha.

Dated Chail, the 6th of October, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 4th instant, which gave cover to a letter and a representation addressed by His Highness the Maharaja to His Excellency the Viceroy.

2. I have to day forwarded His Highness' letter and representation to the Punjab Government.

3. If you can do so without inconvenience and His Highness sees no objection, I shall be glad if you will send me two more copies of His Highness' representation and its appendices.

I have the honour to be,  
SIR,  
Your most obedient servant,  
(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon,  
Lieutenant-Colonel,  
Political Agent.

---

Nabh,

Dated the 10th October, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, and as desired to enclose herewith two copies of the representation with its appendices.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) Gurdial Singh,

Secretary.

To

Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O.,

Political Agent,

Chail.

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No. 770 CI-11

From

Lieutenant-Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon, C.I.E., D.S.O.,

Political Agent, Phulkian States.

To

The Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha.

Dated Chail, the 11th of October, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of two copies of the representation of His Highness the Maharaja to the address of His Excellency the Viceroy, together with two appendices, forwarded under cover of your letter of the 10th instant.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon,

Lieutenant-Colonel,

Political Agent.

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*Note of interview between His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur of Nabha and Colonel Gurdon, Political Agent of Phulkian States on the 27th December, 1915.*

His Highness, accompanied by his Officiating Foreign Minister, Mr. Purushottam Das Tandon, drove up in his motor-car punctually at 3. 30 p. m. the time appointed, to the Guest House, where the Political Agent was stopping. The Political Agent received and shook hands with His Highness at the steps, and conducted him to the office room, in the Guest House, where they took seats. Mr. Tandon and Sardar Bakhshish Singh, the State Vakil to the Agency, also took chairs, Mr. Tandon on the left of His Highness and Sardar Bakhshish Singh at a little distance. The conversation between His Highness and Colonel Gurdon was carried on entirely in English. After some general conversation regarding His Highness' recent shoot in the Kansrao jungles, the Political Agent said that His Highness would remember that he had made a representation dated the 4th October to His Excellency the Viceroy. He had brought with him the reply to that representation, and with His Highness' permission would hand it over to him. He then made over an envelope containing the memorandum of reply, and asked His Highness to read it. His Highness asked whether it was necessary for him to read it then and there. The Political Agent said he had to say something regarding it, and would request His Highness to go through it. His Highness then quickly glanced through the memorandum of reply. The Political Agent, when His Highness had finished reading, drew His Highness' attention to and read out the first two sentences of the fifth paragraph. He then said that he had been authorised by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to say verbally to His Highness that if His Highness acted in accordance with the advice tendered by the Government, and more especially if he settled the case of Sardar Jwala Singh to the satisfaction of the Government within three months, they would employ the State troops in the present War. His Highness replied that the matter would receive the careful consideration of the Darbar. The conversation then took a turn, and several topics were pleasantly talked over, Mr. Tandon also joining occasionally. His Highness among other things, said that it was a regret to him that Colonel Gurdon's stay at Nabha was so short, and that he was going back the same day. The Political Agent said that the Kanwar Sahib of Patiala was seriously ill, and was almost collapsing. He could not for that reason stay longer. He would, however, come again at about the end of January if that suited His Highness. He also said Mrs. Gurdon was going home, and he would go with her upto Bombay on the 5th January, and would come back about the 15th. His Highness said he had provisionally accepted the invitation of the Hindu University Society to the laying of the Foundation Stone ceremony to be performed by His Excellency on the 4th February. He was not sure that he would go, but he might. He also intended, if possible, to go to Bombay for a week or so for change before going to Benares. If it was not inconvenient to the Political Agent, he would prefer that the former should come to Nabha sometime in February after his return from Benares. The Political Agent said nothing particular on the point, but he appeared to agree to the modification of his proposal. After about half an hour's stay His Highness left, and the Political Agent came up to the top of the flight of steps to see His Highness off. They after parted shaking hands.

MEMORANDUM.

On the 28th April, 1915, the Lieutenant-Governor saw His Highness the Maharaja of Nabha at Lahore, and endeavoured by verbal discussion to arrive at a friendly understanding with His Highness as to the relation of the State to the British Government and the steps which His Highness might properly take in token of his readiness to carry out the obligation imposed on him by his position as a feudatory of the British Government. The advice then offered to His Highness has unfortunately not resulted in any improvement in the attitude of His Highness, who in a memorial, dated the 4th October, 1915, addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy, has taken exception to the terms in which the Lieutenant-Governor addressed him at the interview in question, and has asked to be relieved of the imputations then levelled against him.

2. The Governor-General in Council, after careful perusal of this memorial, can find nothing in it to justify the view that the terms in which the Lieutenant-Governor placed the views of Government before His Highness in April were in any way improper or unsuited to the occasion, and he much regrets that His Highness instead of taking heed to the friendly warning addressed to him, has found in them merely a cause for bitterness and resentment.

3. These warnings having failed, it is now necessary to ask His Highness to show by some tangible proof that he recognises his practical obligations of good neighbourhood towards the Paramount Power. With this end His Highness is now strongly advised, with the approval of the Government of India, to comply with the following requirements:—

- (i) He should on receipt of information from the Political Agent allow the latter to discuss official matters of first importance personally with him, and if so invited by the Lieutenant-Governor he should arrange to meet and discuss official matters personally with His Honour.
- (ii) His Chief Minister, or the members of the State Council, with such other officials as His Highness may depute should, on receipt of intimation from the Political Agent that there are important matters requiring discussion, attend on the latter and discuss such matters with him personally.
- (iii) Statistical information, such as is ordinarily given by other Phulkian States, should be provided with reasonable promptitude on application by the Political Agent.
- (iv) Before any change is made in the Agency Vakil reference should be made to the Political Agent.
- (v) In respect of the claim made by a British subject, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Jwala Singh of Jharauli, against the Nabha State Bank the Political Agent should be provided with all such documentary or other information available as he may call for, and the State should comply promptly with any advice which the Punjab Government may offer in respect of the settlement of the claim.

(vi) In respect of all claims or complaints made by British subjects regarding the Nabha Mutual Benefit Marriage Fund, the Political Agent should be provided with all such documentary and other information available as he may call for.

(vii) On receipt of intimation from the Political Agent that he has received information of the arrest or imprisonment in Nabha of a person believed by him to be a British subject, every facility should be given to the Political Agent to satisfy himself that the case of the said person is being disposed of with justice and reasonable despatch.

(viii) In view of the existing low duty on spirit in Nabha and the consequent smuggling of liquor from Nabha into adjoining States and British territory the State should co-operate generally in the excise policy of Government and more especially should—

(a) introduce in 1916 a still-head duty of not less than Rs. 5 per proof gallon, rising in 1919 to Rs. 6-4., and adopt a sale strength of 80 of proof ;

(b) supply to adjoining British Districts lists of excise licensees and shops and names of suspected persons, and abstain from granting licenses to persons reported from British Districts as suspected persons.

4. The above requirements contain no demands that are in contravention of the *Sanads* of the Nabha States, or that are not accepted in practice by other Darbars of similar status, and they represent the ordinary forms of friendly relations existing between loyal Feudatory States and the Paramount Power. It is, therefore, hoped that before the expiration of three months His Highness the Maharaja will realise his obligations towards the Paramount Power, and will give a formal assurance of his desire to fulfil these requirements and abide loyally by their spirit. It is further hoped that, as an earnest of his friendly intentions, His Highness will within this period effect a complete settlement satisfactory to the British Government as regards the case of Sardar Jwala Singh.

5. The Governor-General in Council earnestly trusts that His Highness will accept the advice contained in this memorandum in the spirit in which it is offered. His Highness may be assured that if he frankly and fully accepts that advice, the Government of India will not be slow to welcome his change of attitude and to re-admit him to their confidence. If, on the other hand, he persist in maintaining an unfriendly attitude, the Governor-General in Council will, much to his regret, be compelled to take into serious consideration the steps that may be necessary to secure in the Nabha State a situation analogous to that prevailing in the other Native States of India of similar standing.

(Sd.) B. E. M. Gurdon,

Lt.-Colonel,

Political Agent, Phulkian States,

27th December, 1915.

COPY.

FROM

Sirdar Bachan Singh, B.A., &c.,  
Offg. Foreign Minister, Nabha State.

TO

The Political Agent,  
Phulkian States.

*Dated Nabha, the 27th of March, 1916.*

SIR,

With reference to the Memorandum, dated the 27th December last I am desired to say that on the 17th instant two State officials assured you on behalf of the Darbar that the wishes of the Government of India contained in the said Memorandum would be complied with. But on the 25th instant at the interview with His Highness you informed him that the Punjab Government wanted a written reply in the matter. You were good enough to give His Highness your personal advice that such a written reply might be sent and that it was always open to His Highness to appeal to the Secretary of State for India if the Darbar were dissatisfied with the decision of the Government of India. In compliance, therefore, with the wishes of the Punjab Government a reply to the Memorandum is enclosed herewith.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,  
(Sd.) Bachan Singh.

COPY.

*Reply to Memorandum.*

The Memorandum of the 27th of December, 1915 handed over by Colonel B. E. M. Gurdon C. I. E., D. S. O., to me personally has been read by me with feelings of great disappointment as I had hoped that the representation submitted by me to the Government of India would meet with a better fate than it has. I realise, however, that under the present circumstances it will serve no useful purpose to further discuss any of the matters set forth in the Memorandum and I, therefore, accede to the demand, which have emanated in the shape of a decision from the Government of India, subject to the right of appeal. I hope that the Government will be pleased to employ my troops and accept all my other offers made in connection with the war.

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

Nabha,

27th March, 1916.

COPY.

Patiala,

*Dated 20th February, 1917.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,

As you are perhaps aware, His Excellency the Viceroy has signified his intention of holding a Durbar in Lahore early in April. In this connection I have received a message for personal delivery to Your Highness at an early date. I cannot say that it is a pleasant message and it is a matter of regret to me that it should have fallen to my lot to deliver it just when Your Highness was beginning, as you so kindly said at our last interview, to feel personal confidence in me, which, I trusted, would develop in time enough to make you willing to discuss with me the whole question of your past relations with Government with a view to setting things right and starting afresh. The situation which I hoped would in time with the growth of mutual confidence, have developed, has now to my regret been forced upon us and I can only hope that Your Highness will, when we meet, feel able to open your heart to me and to regard me not merely as an emissary of Government but as a friend who desires to serve you personally and the Nabha State to the best of my ability. If you can do this, I shall be able to meet you with hopes for a brighter future.

I am momentarily expecting a telegram from Bombay informing me of the date of arrival of steamer on which Mrs. Crump is travelling which will involve my starting at once. Hence it will be better to defer our interview till my return. If you agree to this, I will telegraph to Your Highness from Bombay the date of my return to Patiala and I trust you will fix an early date for our interview. As far as I can see, I shall probably arrive here on the 28th February and could easily arrange to come over to see you on the 2nd or 3rd of March. I trust that in the meantime Your Highness will consider whether you cannot freely and frankly discuss the whole situation with me with a view to a complete reconciliation with Government.

With very kind regards and trusting that Your Highness is in enjoyment of good health,

I remain,  
Your sincere friend,  
(Sd.) L. M. Crump.

H. H. The Maharaja of Nabha,

(True Copy),

F. Singh.

COPY.

Patiala,

*Dated 28th February, 1917.*

MY FRIEND,

I am desired to make the following communication to Your Highness :

2. His Excellency the Viceroy has signified his intention of holding a Darbar in Lahore early in April. The Ruling Chiefs as a body will be

invited, but in the past it has not been usual to invite Ruling Chiefs, even those entitled to salutes, whose administration of their states has been unsatisfactory, or whose attitude to Government has been unconciliatory. As in His Honour's view both these conditions now obtained in Your Highness' case, His Honour is not prepared to depart from past usage and to invite Your Highness to meet His Excellency at Lahore.

3. It is conceded that there has been some slight improvement within the last few months in the relations between Your Highness and myself, but it is not yet clear to His Honour that this is due to a clear desire on your part to alter your attitude to Government nor is there any guarantee that the improvement will be permanent. At the same time it is considered that the long series of incidents referred to in the Annexure to this letter makes it advisable that the Punjab Government should mark its sense of displeasure and should discriminate between Ruling Chiefs who have given loyal support to Government and won its confidence and gratitude and those whose attitude to Government is one of suspicion and jealousy and whose offers of services have therefore been declined. Your Highness' exclusion on such an occasion would be very unpleasant duty for him but while present conditions exist, His Honour sees no way of avoiding it.

4. I am to add that if it is Your Highness' desire to make your peace with Government, the present would be a favourable opportunity for doing so, and to advise Your Highness as a first step to ask for a personal interview with His Honour at Lahore at which I should be present. If then Your Highness can make it clear to His Honour that you had altered your past policy and would eschew evil counsellors and adopt towards Government and its representatives the attitude of a loyal feudatory, His Honour would perhaps be disposed to save Your Highness and your State from the loss of prestige which would be involved in Your Highness' exclusion from His Excellency's Darbar.

5. I have to-day tendered to Your Highness my advice to seek for this personal interview with His Honour *at once* and as a preliminary to review the past on the lines indicated to you and embody your modified views in a brief representation which I could discuss formally or informally with His Honour before the interview. I should be happy to assist in drafting such a representation or to advise on one drafted by Your Highness and your advisers or to come over to Nabha at any time to discuss the matter further with you. So far from considering this any trouble, I should be honoured by such a mark of growing personal confidence.

Trusting Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) L. M. Crump.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malvindra Bahadur, Maharaja of Nabha,  
Nabha.

(True Copy).  
F. Singh.

### NABHA'S DISCOURTESIES.

(1) His Highness' refusal to receive a farewell visit from and his failure to pay a farewell visit to, the late Lieutenant-Governor.

(2) His unwillingness to discuss official matters with the Lieutenant-Governor or the Political Agent.

(3) His refusal to allow the newly appointed Chief Minister in 1915 to pay the courtesy call—which the universal practice of Native States prescribes—to the Political Agent: a slight not only to the Political Agent but to the Government he represented.

(4) His rejection of Political Agent's written suggestion that the Chief Minister should be sent to discuss official matters with him (the Political Agent.)

(5) His general refusal to give notice to the Political Agent of his intention to leave his State even for visits of several months to parts of British India outside the Punjab.

(6) Persistent failure to accept the advice of Inspecting Officers in regard to his Imperial Service Troops, which were consequently found unfit for active service at the beginning of the War.

(7) Failure of the Darbar to show the usual courtesy to the Political Agent and Punjab Government by not informing them of the offer of the services of the Imperial Service Troops made by His Highness in his telegram of 7th August to His Excellency the Viceroy.

(8) Statement by His Highness in his *Murasila* of the 14th October, 1914 to the Viceroy that the offer of his troops had been accepted, whereas, His Highness had been informed in accordance with Foreign and Political Department letter No. 1452-I-A, dated the 14th August that his troops could not be utilised as the latest reports showed them to be unfit for Foreign Service.

(9) Account in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, dated the 1st October, 1914, of a Darbar in Nabha in which the Chief Minister was reported to have announced the "War" offers of the Darbar with the suggestion that they had been accepted by Government, though His Highness' letter of the 14th October to the Viceroy containing those offers was not despatched by the Darbar till the 19th and was not received by the Political Agent till the 22nd.

(10) Persistent refusal to supply even the most ordinary statistical information regarding his State.

(11) Failure of the Darbar to inform and obtain the Political Agent's approval to the recent change in the Agency Vakil, though this was a formality to which His Highness had agreed in the note of the 13th October.

(12) Discourtesy shown to the Political Agent in neither the Vakil nor any substitute accompanying him to Lahore at his important visit on State business.

(13) Denial of the right of the Political Agent to enquire into the allegation of a distinguished Sikh Sardar in British Territory that the Darbar refused to repay him a sum of one Lac of rupees deposited at interest in the State Bank subject to six months' notice of withdrawal according to the receipts he produces.

(14) Failure of the Darbar to discharge its elementary duty to the Supreme Government—the village of Lohat Badi in Nabha Territory having been used for months by Nabha subjects and others as a base for the revolutionary movement against British Rule.

(15) Refusal of His Highness to sign cessions of jurisdiction in regard to North-Western and Rajputana Malwa Railways. (After lengthy correspondence the Darbar has signed unwillingly remarking “no one can raise any objection to comply with the orders of Government and no one can raise his voice against orders” and “when Government through kindness and even-mindedness will pay their attention to this matter the Darbar will.....seek redress for their rights”).

(16) Discourtesy to Lieutenant-Colonel Gurdon, Political Agent, on the occasion of his departure. The Maharaja failed to arrange for a farewell visit from the Political Agent, and when Colonel Gurdon wrote to the Maharaja bidding him farewell, Sardar Bachan Singh, Secretary, and not the Maharaja, replied to the letter.

(17) Maharaja's application to shoot in the United Provinces Forests. Discourteous letters from Sardar Bachan Singh to Political Agent. The Sardar instead of writing on behalf of the Maharaja wrote “I shall feel obliged by your kindly forwarding the accompanying letter to the Forest Officer.”

(18) Nabha Crest. Persistent use of emblems restricted to the Sovereign.

(19) Political Agent, Mr. Crump's visit to Mussoorie to see the Maharaja in connection with Sardar Jwala Singh's case. No official was sent to meet the Political Agent or accompanied him from the hotel to the Maharaja's residence especially as the Maharaja had changed the place of interview.

(20) Maharaja's discourtesy to the Political Agent at Delhi in refusing to receive the Political Agent's call on the pretext that His Highness had no time to spare.

(21) Failure of Darbar to inform the Political Agent of the dates of the Maharaja's arrival at, and departure from, Delhi—also their failure to inform the Political Agent of the Maharaja's place of residence in Delhi.

(22) Darbar's discourtesy in sending the memorial in Sardar Jwala Singh's case by the hand of a Subordinate official.

(True Copy),  
F. Singh.

COPY.

Nabha,

*Dated the 7th March, 1917.*

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 28th February last and have perused the same with a sense of utter despair. I have noted the 22 items of complaints summarised in the Annexure of your letter. All of these we have at different times sought to meet and explain. I had hoped that the explanation would be considered sufficient. From the summary you now give it seems that none of them have been allowed to lapse: it is useless



for me to try to repel or explain these matters over again, for I feel it is a hopeless task so far as I am concerned. Simple matters of omission are set down as deliberate acts of discourtesy. Even my loyal offers of service in the War and contribution towards its expenses, because in my enthusiasm I took the liberty to address myself directly to H. E. the Viceroy, ranked against me as acts of discourtesy to yourself or the Local Government and I find myself in the position that His Honour considers that I am one of those Chiefs "whose administration of their States has been unsatisfactory or whose attitude to Government has been unconciliatory". His Honour is pleased to characterise my attitude towards Government as one "of suspicion and jealousy". It is needless to say that I feel deeply grieved that His Honour should entertain this opinion regarding myself. Discourtesy to anybody is reprehensible, and foreign to my nature, and I can do no more than say that I have nothing to gain by discourtesy towards yourself or the Local Government. It will serve me no purpose to incur His Honour's displeasure and court my own humiliation and discomfiture. Some of the matters contained in the Annexure to your letter are purely accidental, some, as in the case of my offers of service, arising from over-zeal or ignorance, and some are matters of mere routine and ancient custom. In other matters relating to the administration of my State, though they are innovations, I have carried out the wishes of His Honour: but I can assure you that in none whatever have I ever had even the remotest idea of showing discourtesy towards yourself or His Honour.

I am glad that you acknowledge some improvement of late in our mutual relations. I have no desire to be otherwise than on the most friendly relations with yourself or the Local Government and I am sure that with better mutual understanding this improvement will continue. If, however, the slightest act or omission on my part in regard to my conduct towards yourself or the Local Government is set down to discourtesy I am helpless.

I am not a man ready of speech and having regard to my natural shyness, which might be mistaken for obstinacy I fear a personal interview with His Honour about the matters, may not be productive of much good, but if you think such an interview will be helpful, I shall go to Lahore to meet His Honour at his convenience.

It is needless for me to urge on His Honour how keenly I shall feel the exclusion of my name from among the Chiefs to be invited to the Darbar to be held by His Excellency the Viceroy; but whatever course of action His Honour may be pleased to take with reference to me in this matter, I can assure him that in all India he will not find a Ruling Prince more loyal to the King-Emperor or more devoted to His Majesty's cause. I shall be ever ready, as I have always been, to place myself, my men and the resources of my State at the service of His Gracious Majesty.

I remain,  
Your sincere friend,

L. M. Crump, Esq., I. C. S.,  
Political Agent,  
Patiala.

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH

(True Copy),  
F. Singh.

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COPY.

Patiala,

*Dated 9th March, 1917.*

MY FRIEND,

I find it hard to express the feelings of grief and consternation with which I received Your Highness' letter of the 7th instant. I have striven since I came in contact with Your Highness to produce a feeling of friendship and confidence and I believe that I was meeting with some measure of success and that Your Highness on your part was making a real effort to give the confidence which I was trying to earn. Events over which I had no control have produced a critical position which I have done nothing to create but which has to be faced.

I put before Your Highness at our last interview the view of the situation which I took and which I was and am still prepared to put before His Honour. While on the one hand I stated frankly and clearly to Your Highness that your action in investing yourself as Ruler of the Nabha State and publishing the full account thereof had created in the mind of Government the idea that Your Highness desired to claim a peculiarly independent and exclusive position for your State. I recognized that any feeling that Government was encroaching on old rights and privileges, was apt to create in a young Ruler a feeling of suspicion. I pointed out that Your Highness could urge, at any rate, your confidence in the justice of your own case and refer to the recent Chiefs' Conference as a proof of the importance attached by Chiefs to the principles you upheld. From the misunderstandings of that time, as I see the case the rest followed : and I see nothing degrading in Your Highness expressing regret if your injured feelings led you and your officials into any acts and expressions which on reflection you may regret.

Whatever the cause, however, the fact remains that the relations between the Darbar and Government have not been friendly, and it was in my mind essential that the whole atmosphere should change, and I have worked to that end. I believe that as long as I have the honour to be Your Highness' Political Agent, our personal feelings will be sincerely friendly and our official relations will be characterized by mutual respect and regard. But the important point is that in the present crisis, which has been so suddenly thrust upon us, Your Highness must take some definite step to remove from the mind of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and the Government of India the suspicion of Your Highness' motives and intentions which unfortunately still exists. My advice to Your Highness was to authorise me to put the case generally to His Honour as I have above stated it and to substantiate your readiness to work with Government in a friendly manner, which I personally acknowledge, by withdrawing your memorial in Sardar Jwala Singh's case, by asking that the general articles of the Memorandum of December 1915 should be considered ordinary principles of working between Government and your State, that as you had now ceased to protest against these articles the Memorandum containing them might be considered cancelled and that Your Highness should undertake that in the appointment of officials in your State careful enquiries should be made as to their loyalty to Government which is the real guarantee of loyal co-operation with Government on the part of

the departments committed to their charge. There is no need for me to recapitulate the arguments and views which I put before Your Highness but I once again urge Your Highness, as a practical man of affairs, to consider my advice as a matter of political tactics if nothing else. If it is your earnest desire, as I believe it to be, to co-operate loyally with Government, it seems to me the common-sense of tactics for Your Highness to take the first step to meeting Government half-way and if you can only see your way to doing so, I feel I can safely promise Your Highness a sympathetic reception from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and the Government of India. Failing this it will most certainly be the opinion of Government that, inspite of the improvement in relations which they themselves admit in the last few months, the Darbar still maintain a suspicious attitude. In the immediate future I feel confident that we can create an atmosphere of real friendliness and I can personally look to the future with confidence if Your Highness will only help me by taking the steps which I advise as a definite proof to Government that the evil days are past and a brighter-future is coming.

I am for the present taking no further action on your letter of the 7th but I trust if Your Highness still feels any hesitation in accepting my advice, you will be good enough to see me on Monday, the 12th at 11-30, but I beg of you to consider most carefully whether you cannot bring yourself to accept it and authorise me to approach His Honour on these lines before a formal interview takes place. To my personal request I must add that I shall feel most keenly the disappointment if I fail to bring about a complete and thorough reconciliation between Your Highness, the Punjab Government, and the Government of India.

Trusting that Your Highness is in the enjoyment of excellent health,

I remain,

Your Highness' sincere friend,

(Sd.) L. M. Crump.

To

His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,  
Malvindra Bahadur,  
Maharaja of Nabha,  
Nabha.

(True Copy),  
F. Singh.

COPY.

Nabha,

Dated the 21st March, 1917.

Sik,

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 9th instant. I was pained to learn that you received it with "feelings of grief and consternation." I told you that having at different times sought to meet and explain most of the items summarised in the Annexure to your letter of the 28th ultimo, I had hoped

that the explanation would be considered sufficient, and while I regretted to find that none of them had been allowed to lapse, with a view to remove every possible misunderstanding, I assured you again that in none of my acts or omissions whatever have I ever had even the remotest idea of showing discourtesy towards you, or His Honour. I had hoped that both His Honour and you would accept this assurance and acquit me of any intention to be discourteous either to you or to him. I sincerely regret that I should have caused such an impression.

I am thankful to you and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for the solicitude you have both evinced regarding my presence at the forthcoming Darbar of His Excellency the Viceroy at Lahore. I shall regard my absence from the Darbar as a misfortune which will be one of many that have in my relations with Government dogged my career as a Ruling Prince ever since my accession to the Masnad of my forefathers.

In your letter under reply, you have referred to the difference of opinion which arose between the Government of India and myself regarding certain matters relating to my installation. And you have said—"from the misunderstandings of that time, as I see the case, the rest followed." Let me assure you that though in submitting to the decision of the Government of India and in consenting to the "installation" taking place on an inauspicious day according to the Hindu Calendar and a day of general mourning amongst my Mohammedan subjects by reason of its being the tenth day of the Muharram, I reserved my right to have the points in question considered by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India at a suitable time, I have never allowed that decision in any way to affect my sentiments of loyalty and devotion towards the Government of India. What began inauspiciously has gone on unfortunately for me, and I am deeply pained to hear that you think that a suspicion of my motives and intentions still unfortunately exists, in the mind of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and the Government of India, I cannot help feeling that, if this is so, it is due to my misfortune and not to my fault. I can assure the Government that my motives and intentions have all and always been of unswerving loyalty to the King Emperor and his Government in India coupled with a natural desire to maintain the dignity and prestige of my House and State. I was one of the first to offer at the outbreak of the War the humble resources of my State in men, money and material, and because I did so in the ardour of my enthusiasm and in all simplicity and without meaning any offence, directly to His Excellency the Viceroy I unwittingly furnished a ground for suspicion of my motives and intentions. I have never been able to understand why an unintentional breach of what is after all a matter of etiquette should be so seriously noticed and similarly about various other matters which it will be useless to go into now.

I can only repeat what I said in my letter of the 7th instant that I can assure His Honour that in all India he will not find a Ruling Prince more loyal to the King-Emperor or more devoted to His Majesty's cause, and that I shall be ever ready as I have always been to place myself, my men and the resources of my State at the service of His Gracious Majesty.

You are good enough to acknowledge my readiness to work with Government in a friendly manner. But you have suggested that I should substantiate it by withdrawing my memorial in S. Jwala Singh's case. In the

first place allow me to say that the exercise of a right by an Indian Prince of submitting a memorial to the Government of India against any decision of a Local Government should not be held to indicate any want of respect for that Government. In the second place, as you were good enough to inform me at our last meeting, the Government of India have already passed their order on that memorial. The question of withdrawing it therefore no longer exists.

You have been good enough also to suggest that I should ask that the general articles of the Memorandum of December, 1915, should be considered to be the ordinary principles of the working between the Government and my State, and that the Memorandum containing them might be considered cancelled. It is nearly a year now when in compliance with the advice of the Government of India I gave a formal assurance to the Government of my desire to fulfil the requirements of the Memorandum. You are well aware that I have acted in conformity with that assurance, and it is unnecessary for me to say that I shall continue to do so. You know the relations which have subsisted between the Government and my State for over a hundred years give me the right to submit any of the questions covered by the Memorandum to the consideration of the higher authorities, and I find it difficult to believe that either His Honour or the Government of India will consider it necessary for me to abjure this right in order to establish the correctness of my attitude towards Government. But I am so anxious to remove every misunderstanding at this critical time of the War that if this is the only way in which I can do so I shall not hesitate to abjure that right.

Lastly you have suggested that I should undertake that in the appointment of officials in my State, careful enquiries should be made as to their loyalty to Government which is the real guarantee of loyal co-operation with Government on the part of the Departments committed to their charge. Here again it should hardly be necessary to assure you that the State does make and will always make enquiries into the character, which of course includes loyalty to the Government to which the State itself owes allegiance, of persons whom it wishes to appoint in its service.

In paragraph 3 of your letter of the 28th ultimo you said:—"It is conceded that there has been some slight improvements within the last few months in the relations between Your Highness and myself but it is not yet clear to His Honour that this is due to a clear desire on your part to alter your attitude towards Government nor is there any guarantee that the improvement will be permanent." I claim it as a matter of simple justice that the Government should give me credit for the improvement which they have been pleased to acknowledge in our relations, and that, in the absence of anything to justify the contrary view, they should assume that the improvement will be permanent. I fervently hope that in view of all I have said the Government will be pleased not only not to withhold from me the opportunity of doing honour to His Excellency the Viceroy at the proposed Darbar at Lahore, but also to accept my humble offers of men and money for service in the present War.

I regard it as an irony of fate that in this life and death struggle of the Empire when a ruthless and relentless enemy has essayed to assail the honour and dignity of the Sovereign whom I love with my whole being, I should be the unfortunate Prince who has been singled out to remain unrecognised by the Government and branded as one unworthy of opening his

purse and drawing his sword in the service of a cause that is dearest to his heart. It is impossible for me to convey to you how and what I have felt when in the desire to serve I had to cast about and search for non-official agencies to gratify my passion to render such assistance as may be within my humble power to give for the success of British Arms in this terrible War. Some slight satisfaction has come to me in this way but the martial spirit of my race and lineage chafes at the forced inaction I and my troops are suffering at a time when we should be facing the enemy. Believe me, I say it in all sincerity that at times I wonder whether Government could ever have considered the full severity of the punishment that has in this way fallen upon me. Please do not misunderstand me. I am simply deploring the present situation of my exclusion from participation in a struggle in which I claim my share in consonance with the great and glorious traditions of valuable services rendered by those whose place I occupy and whose name I bear. I am thankful, however, that for all the misfortunes I have suffered my spirit is not crushed and my zeal to serve the Sovereign instead of abating has intensified for I have a conviction that much as I have been misunderstood the fire of loyalty that burns within me will some day find expression.

I remain, Your sincere friend,  
(Signed) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

L. M. Crump, Esq., I. C. S.,  
Political Agent.

(True Copy),  
F. Singh.

COPY.

Nabha.

*Dated the 21st March, 1917.*

DEAR SIR,

I am grateful to you for the kindly sentiments expressed by you in your letter of the 9th instant which I have replied to-day and I appreciate your desire to lift the cloud which has so far been hovering round me. I am writing to you this as my private friend and having regard to what you wrote to me in your letter of 20th February last I feel confident that you will help me to the utmost of your ability. I think you can perhaps help me more even than I can help myself. I am thankful to you for the trouble you are taking on my behalf.

As you know I have arranged to go out for shooting towards the end of this month. I am intending to leave here on the 25th instant. I am anxious particularly not to miss the last few days of this month as the close season for all the birds and for animals of the deer tribe will commence from the 1st of April. Letters addressed to me at Dehra Dun will find me in the camp.

Trusting you are well,

I remain,  
Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

(True Copy)  
F. Singh.

COPY.

Telegram from Patiala.

To

His Highness  
Maharajah Nabha,  
N. W.

68. Propose if convenient coming to see Your Highness at 11-30 to-morrow 24th with special reference to my letter of 20th March to Your Highness and para. 7 of my letter 273-C-7-2 of 20th March to Your Secretary and to commencement of para. 4 of my letter of 28th February to Your Highness Stop Please wire if this will be convenient to Your Highness.

Political Phulkian.

23-3-1917.

(True Copy).

F. Singh.

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COPY.

Telegram Express.

To

L. M. Crump, Esq.,  
Political Agent,  
Patiala.

Your telegram 68 will be glad to see you to-morrow 24th at 11-30.

Maharajah,

23-3-1917-

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

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COPY.

Patiala,

*Dated the 24th March, 1917-*

MY FRIEND,

I am much obliged to Your Highness not only for your letter of the 21st regarding the advice which I tendered to you in the present crisis but for your private letter which accompanied it, and relying on the confidence which you have placed in me, and in accordance with expressions used both in that letter and in our conversation of this morning, I now desire to suggest that you should alter your letter to some extent so as to make clearer to Government, what I believe to be your firm intention, that you will loyally co-operate with them in the future.

2. First of all I desire to point out that although in the Annexure to my letter of the 28th February the Punjab Government did tabulate a great many past cases, yet in the body of that letter (paragraph 2) it is plainly stated that what they desire is an assurance of a clear desire on your part to alter your attitude towards Government and a guarantee for the future. Secondly, I desire to emphasise once more what this morning you acknowledged with thankfulness, the care and courtesy with which the Government of India have

dealt with the case of Sardar Jowala Singh and in particular that His Excellency by his message to you has shown that he is ready to offer the hand of reconciliation if you can see your way to accept the decision itself and the general principle of action, specified in paragraph 7 of my letter of the 19th instant to your Secretary on the subject.

3. Your reference in your letter of the 21st to Sardar Jowala Singh's case was antecedent to the consideration of my letter of the 19th and hence it is easy for you to alter that reference, and I would suggest that you now acknowledge the receipt of the orders in the case, acknowledge the care and courtesy with which it has been dealt with and in particular His Excellency's friendly message and add that you accept the decision in the case and readily recognise the principles on which Government have acted. If you can do this, I can emphasize the fact that in Miss Canagasaby's case the Darbar have in fact been acting on those very principles, by keeping me fully informed and assured that the case was being dealt with not only in accordance with equity and good conscience but with generosity.

4. Then in regard to the general articles of the Memorandum of 1915 I am glad to note in your letter itself that you regard the formal assurance you gave as one of your desire to fulfil the requirements of the Memorandum. But what I press you to do is not to abjure a right of appeal of which neither I nor the Punjab Government desire to deprive you or could deprive you even if we so desired but looking not so much to the actual facts of the past as to our hopes of a brighter future, declare your readiness to accept those articles as principles of guidance in the relations between the Nabha Darbar and the representative of Government. Here again if you can do this, I can on my part lay stress on Your Highness' careful adherence to these articles during the past few months.

5. In asking Your Highness so far to alter your letter I feel a certain diffidence but I believe Your Highness really desires a reconciliation with Government and believes in my desire to effect it. This emboldens me to say that I think that in drafting your letter stress has been laid rather on your attitude to the past than on your intentions for the future and hence if Your Highness could only make these clearer or perhaps I should say express definitely what I feel is your your real meaning, I should be on firmer ground in proposing to His Honour a meeting with Your Highness which I understand I have your authority to arrange if and when I am convinced that it will be useful and beneficial to you. If Your Highness can, as I now most strongly hope, accept my advice as to the way of treating these two subjects in your letter, I feel that time will have arrived.

I remain,  
Your Highness' sincere friend,  
(Sd.) L. M. Crump.

To  
His Highness Maharaja RIPUDAMAN SINGH,

Malvindra Bahadur,  
Maharaja of Nabha,  
Nabha.

(True Copy)  
F. Singh.



COPY.

Nabha,

*Dated the 25th March, 1917.*

SIR,

I write to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of 24th instant. The matter is receiving earnest attention of myself and my Darbar and I shall send you a reply as soon as I can.

I remain,

Your sincere friend,

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

L. M. Crump, Esq., I. C. S.,  
Political Agent.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

COPY.

Address :—

Dehra Dun.

The Camp,

*Dated the 30th March, 1917.*

SIR,

I acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant. In the first part of para. 2 of it, after referring to para. 3 of your letter of the 28th February, 1917, in which you said though it was conceded that there had been an improvement in our relations, "it is not yet clear to His Honour that this is due to a clear desire on your part to alter your attitude towards Government nor is there any guarantee that the improvement will be permanent," you say that "what they desire is an assurance of a clear desire on your part to alter your attitude towards Government and a guarantee for the future." I believed that I had furnished such assurance and guarantee when I wrote to you in my letter of the 21st instant that "I claim it as a matter of simple justice that the Government should give me credit for the improvement which they have been pleased to acknowledge in our relations, and that, in the absence of anything to justify the contrary view, they should assume that the improvement will be permanent." I have striven in the past to maintain what, according to the light within me, I believed to be the correct attitude towards the Government to which I owe allegiance, and it will be my honest endeavour to maintain the most correct attitude towards it in the future. Nothing is nearer to my heart than that my relations with the Government should be of the most cordial character.

The second matter to which you refer is the case of Jwala Singh. As you have yourself noted in para. 3 of your letter, the reference in my letter of the 21st to that case was antecedent to the consideration of your letter of the 20th. I have since perused your that letter and also the official reply to the representation addressed by me to His Excellency the Viceroy, which you have been good enough to send to my Secretary. I thank you for both. I am particularly grateful for the very

kind message which His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to send me in this connection.

It has given me much grateful satisfaction to know that the Government of India have accepted my statement of the facts of the case in question and my contention regarding the applicability of the law of my State to the case, though they have made a legal reservation on the latter point, which may require a little further elucidation. My Foreign Minister is sending you the official reply in the matter.

As regards para. 4 of your letter, apart from the question of a right of appeal, which, you have been good enough to say, neither you nor the Punjab Government desire me to abjure, it seems to me to be unnecessary for me to repeat the assurance, which I have already given in writing that I will conform in practice to the articles of the Memorandum of December 1915, "as principles of guidance in the relations between the Nabha Darbar and the representative of Government." But if you consider it necessary, I am willing to repeat the assurance.

I hope I have made all the points raised in your letter under reply quite clear, and I hope that the correspondence that has passed between us will help to strengthen and further the improvement in our relations, which the Government has been pleased to acknowledge and which is a source of sincere and grateful satisfaction to me.

Your sincerely,

(Sd.) RIPUDAMAN SINGH.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

COPY.

Telegram (State) from Patiala.

To

His Highness Maharaja Nabha,

Dehra Dun.

323-C-1-11. Your letter of 30th. Please let me know at once with reference to concluding paragraph of my letter of 24th whether I have your authority to arrange interview. Stop I now consider it would be useful provided Punjab Government will accept my views.

Political Phulkian.

2-4-1917.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

COPY.

Express (Telegram).

To

L. M. Crump, Esq.,

Political Agent,

Patiala.

Many thanks for your telegram received in Camp Stop Letter follows.

Maharaja of Nabha.

2-4-1917.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

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COPY.

PRIVATE

*Dated the 1st April, 1917.*

MY DEAR MAHARAJA SAHIB,

Provided you reply in the affirmative to telegram which I have just sent you regarding the interview with His Honour I propose to leave here for Lahore at midday to-morrow to discuss the case with His Honour and to add what I can personally to what you have written.

His Honour had previously informed me that the 5th was absolutely the last day on which he could see you; so assuming that I can persuade him to accept my view of the situation, it would be necessary for you to be in Lahore in time for an interview on that day and it would be wise of you to make your arrangements accordingly. I will let you know by telegram the date and time fixed for the interview if I arrange it.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) L. M. Crump.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

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COPY.

Telegram (State) from Patiala.

To

His Highness Maharajah of Nabha,  
Camp Dehra Dun.

330. Have received no reply to my telegram of Sunday 1st but nevertheless am leaving for Lahore to-day and will try to arrange matters satisfactorily. But trust Your Highness will arrange to be in Lahore morning 5th Stop It will cause me great distress if negotiations break down at this stage Stop Please address me at Government House, Lahore.

Political Phulkian.

3-4-1917.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

COPY.

Express (Telegram)

To

L. M. Crump, Esq., I. C. S.,

Political Agent,

Government House,

Lahore.

Have already acknowledged by wire your previous telegram Stop Received to-day your letter of 1st April Stop Was going to reply both by to-day's post when received your telegram of date intimating your departure for Lahore Stop On hearing from you as stated in your letter of 1st April shall leave for Lahore.

Maharajah of Nabha,

3-4-1917.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

COPY.

Telegram (State) from Lahore.

To

His Highness the Maharajah of Nabha,

Camp Dehra Dun.

Provided Your Highness is prepared to accept such further advice as His Honour will tender to secure further cordial working I advise your

coming to Lahore if you can arrive to-morrow morning Stop Please wire express if coming and hour of arrival Stop Arrangements for conveyance can be made Stop Visit would be private and informal.

Political Phulkian.

4-4-1917.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

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COPY.

Express (Telegram).

To

L. M. Crump, Esq., I. C. S.,

Political Agent,

Government House,

Lahore.

Your Telegram of date. Was ready to start for Lahore by Special this evening when received your telegram making condition antecedent to the interview my acceptance of such further advice as His Honour will tender at the visit. As I have not the slightest idea what the advice would be I shall be much obliged if you will kindly enlighten me on the point to enable me to give a satisfactory reply.

Maharajah of Nabha.

4-4-1917.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

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COPY.

Telegram (State) from Lahore.

To

H. H. Maharajah of Nabha.

Dehra Dun.

Regret it is now too late for interview to take place Stop His Honour will consider whole case at leisure after Durbar.

Political Phulkian.

5-4-1917.

(True Copy)

F. Singh.

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