SIMLA RECORDS—I.

REFERENCE COPY.

1904.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

FRONTIER—A.

Proceedings, June 1904, Nos. 25–31.

Importation, without a pass, by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan, of about 10 seers of Afghan opium, as a sample for sale in India.

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(2)

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,,	,, . . .	November	1895	53—74					
,,	,, . . .	January	,,	611—615					
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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT NOTES.

FRONTIER—A, JUNE 1904.

Nos. 25—31.

IMPORTATION, WITHOUT A PASS, BY GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN, A TRADE AGENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE AMIR OF AFGHANISTAN, OF ABOUT 10 SEERS OF AFGHAN OPIUM, AS A SAMPLE FOR SALE IN INDIA.

Extract from Confidential Diary of the Superintendent of the Calcutta Police, Detective Department, dated 3rd January 1904.

Ghulam Mohiuddin, Agent to the Amir of Kabul, gives out that the Government of India have sanctioned a proposal made by the Amir to dispose of their yearly opium crop amounting to 30 lakhs of rupees worth to China *viâ* Calcutta.

No. 116, dated Calcutta, the 5th January 1904.

Forwarded to the General Superintendent, Thagi and Dakaiti Department, for information.

R. BIGNELL,
Commissioner of Police.

Forwarded to the Foreign Department for information.

D. McCRACKEN,—6-1-1904.

FROM GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN, KABULI, CALCUTTA, DATED THE 6TH (RECEIVED 7TH) JANUARY 1904. **Pro. No. 25.**

States that the Amir of Afghanistan has given him 10 seers of opium as a sample for sale, and encloses copy of an order from His Highness for perusal. Requests that a pass may be granted him, so that when he shows the opium to mercantile people in Bombay, etc., the Government officials may not interfere with him.

Secret F, July 1894, Nos. 523-539.
" January 1895, Nos. 611-615.
" November 1895, " 53-74.
Frontier B, December 1903, Nos. 493-499.

Please see the papers marginally noted, regarding the late Amir's attempts to start an opium trade. The present Amir is apparently trying to revive this scheme.

2. It is not understood how Ghulam Mohiuddin could have possibly brought this large quantity of opium to Calcutta without a pass or executive order: if detected, it would be treated as contraband opium. Before replying we may let the Finance Department see for favour of remarks.

P. T. D.,—11-1-1904.

G. W. M.,—12-1-1904.

Issue the telegram which I have drafted; then send the file at once to Finance Department as above.

E. H. S. CLARKE,—12-1-1904.

TELEGRAM TO THE HON'BLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. A. DEANE, C.S.I., CHIEF COMMISSIONER AND AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, No. 159-F.A., DATED THE 12TH JANUARY 1904. **Pro. No. 26.**

Enquires if Ghulam Mohiuddin obtained any special pass from him for the ten seers of opium which he has brought to Calcutta as a sample.

Finance Department.

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This Department is hardly in a position to offer definite advice on this case without the information which has been called for from the Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, in the Foreign Department's telegram*, dated the 12th instant. We may, therefore, ask the Foreign Department kindly to send the file to us when the Agent to the Governor-General's reply to their telegram has been received. (It will probably be in a day or two).

* Pro. No. 26.

B. B.,—14-1-1904.

R. A. MANT,—14-1-1904.

Foreign Department.

Pro. No. 27. TELEGRAM FROM THE HON'BLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. A. DEANE, C.S.I., CHIEF COMMISSIONER AND AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE, DATED THE 19TH (RECEIVED 20TH) JANUARY 1904.

With reference to Foreign Department telegram† No. 159-F.A., dated the 12th January 1904, reports that no pass was issued to Ghulam Mohiuddin to export ten seers of Afghan opium to Calcutta or elsewhere.

† Pro. No. 26.

The case may now be returned to Finance Department.

P. T. D.,—20-1-1904.

G. W. M.,—20-1-1904.

E. H. S. CLARKE,—20-1-1904.

Finance Department.

The preceding notes and the papers referred to on the margin of the office note of the Foreign Department of the 11th instant should be read.

2. In Foreign Department letter ‡ No. 180-P.O., dated the 3rd November 1894, the late Amir Abdur Rahman Khan was informed under what conditions Afghan opium could be imported for sale in or for export through India. In letter§ No. 62-P.O., dated the 30th March 1895, the Amir's Agent with the Government of India was told, with reference to certain samples of opium which the Amir had sent to his trade Agents in Bombay and Calcutta for valuation, that the latter persons could not lawfully keep the samples in their possession without a special pass, and that in order to carry out the Amir's wishes it was necessary that the samples should be placed under the custody of the Board of Revenue at Calcutta and of the Customs Commissioner at Bombay who would be instructed to give every facility to any opium merchants who might wish to inspect the opium or to take with them a sufficient quantity of it for analysis. As, however, the Agent did not comply with these instructions, he was informed later on in letter ‖ No. 117-P.O., dated the 11th July 1895, that until he did so, the Government of India could not give him any further assistance in the matter of the sale of Afghan opium in India, and that they could not also be responsible if the local authorities took, in regard to the samples which the Amir had sent, the steps prescribed by law in the case of illegal possession of opium. Subsequently, at so late a date as 1902, the attention of the Agent at Peshawar of the present Amir was drawn by the authorities in the North-West Frontier Province to the orders contained in the Foreign Department's letter of 3rd November 1894 (*vide* page 49 of correspondence in Foreign Department Proceedings, Frontier B, December 1903, Nos. 493-499).

‡ No. 611 in Secret F, January 1895, Nos. 611-615.
§ No. 55 „ „ November 1895, Nos. 53-74.

‖ *Ibid*, Pro. No. 64.

3. Despite these remonstrances and warnings, the present Amir persists in sending through his trade Agents large quantities of opium to our territory in an unauthorised manner. The logical course to follow in a case like this would be to prosecute the Amir's Agent for illegal import and possession of opium; but this extreme step will not perhaps be considered necessary, as there can be no doubt that the Agent's action in the present instance in a purely *bonâ fide* one. We may advise the Foreign Department to inform Ghulam Mohiuddin that his action in importing and possessing the opium in question without a pass from the British authorities is illegal, and that he should therefore forthwith make over the opium to the Board of Revenue, Calcutta, who would be instructed (*a*) to give facilities for the inspection of the stuff by any opium merchants who might wish to see or analyse it or take samples of it, or (*b*) to arrange for its transport to Bombay ¶ at Ghulam Mohiuddin's expense if he should so desire. The Board should simultaneously be instructed to receive the opium and to take action as indicated above. Foreign Department might at the same time be asked to consider whether in order to obviate future cases of this kind a protest should not be made to the Amir against his action in sending opium to this country, in contravention of the procedure previously suggested to him on the subject.

¶ To the Customs Commissioner there I understand.
E. H. S. CLARKE.

B. B.,—25-1-1904.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

I would not offer any facilities whatever. The only way to stop this illicit import is to take possession of the opium, and to show that we mean what we say. I would ask the Foreign Department to tell the Amir's Agent that, as has more than once been pointed out to his predecessor, the import of opium without a pass is illegal, and that by bringing this opium to Calcutta without obtaining the requisite permission from the authorities at Peshawar, he has rendered himself liable to prosecution under the law of India. He should be told to make over the opium immediately to the Board of Revenue, and that if this is not done, the Government of India will not be responsible for any steps which the local excise officers may take to put the law into force. The opium should remain in the custody of the Board of Revenue until some definite arrangement has been made on the lines indicated in Sir W. Cuningham's * letter to the late Amir, dated 3rd November 1894.

* No. 611 in Secret F, January 1895, Nos. 611-615.

R. A. MANT,—26-1-1904.

Yes. How the Agent managed to bring down the opium without being challenged by the authorites at Peshawar is not clear. They ought to have detained it. The Amir is perfectly well aware that the import of opium into India is illegal : and if he persists in attempting to pass it in, he must not be surprised if it is confiscated. I think the Board of Revenue should be told (through the Local Government) to seize the opium if it is not surrendered within a brief specified time.

E. N. BAKER,—26-1-1904.

The course suggested is quite proper from Finance Department point of view, but I doubt if Foreign Department will think it advisable to pursue it in present circumstances. They may perhaps think it necessary to limit action to that suggested in the office note, dated 25th January 1904.

E. FG. L[AW],—26-1-1904.

Foreign Department.

B { I think it will be better not to have any direct dealings with Ghulam Mohiuddin. We had better ask the Envoy to call, explain the whole question to him (giving him copies of any of the correspondence that it is desirable he should have), so that he may have no excuse for saying that what happened in the past was before his appointment, and that consequently he knows nothing about it, and then, after pointing out that Ghulam Mohiuddin by importing and possessing the opium without a pass, is liable to prosecution, and that we only desist from ordering this course on the present occasion out of regard for the Amir, proceed as suggested in the part marked at the end of the Finance Department's office note of 25th January 1904. We can make it quite clear that confiscation is the only alternative to this course.

The question of addressing the Amir once more can be deferred until we hear what the Envoy has to say on the subject.

We may fairly assume that the present Amir is not ignorant of the earlier correspondence referred to in the previous notes. I have noticed in His Highness's letters to us that his office people have an excellent system of keeping their State papers, and that they are never at a loss to refer us to old cases, when it suits their purpose.

E. H. S. CLARKE,—27-1-1904.

I agree.

L. W. DANE,—28-1-1904.

I am afraid that I do not understand the course proposed. I agree with Mr. Clarke as far as B in his note, but why we should assist in the disposal of this illegally and clandestinely imported opium I do not see. I should have thought that the thing to do was to insist upon this opium being handed over to the Board of Revenue here (as the only alternative to prosecuting the importer) and to leave it there pending an explanation or request from the Amir. This seems to me the utmost that courtesy or policy demands.

C[URZON],—28-1-1904.

The Envoy came to the office to-day, and I showed him the vernacular copies of the correspondence which took place with the Amir, and am sending him copies of the correspondence which we had with the present Envoy's predecessor. I then conveyed to him the decision laid down in His Excellency the Viceroy's note of the 28th January 1904. He has promised to bring the opium to the Foreign Office on Monday, and we will then send the man who brings it to the Board of Revenue where the opium will be kept until further orders, *i.e.*, pending an explanation or request from the Amir."

Will the Finance Department kindly make the necessary communication to the Board of Revenue ? I presume it should issue from that Department, as the matter concerns opium.

E. H. S. CLARKE,—30-1-1904.

Finance Department.

* By special messenger.

Send the demi-official * below to Mr. Lyon at the Board of Revenue, and draft to Bengal.

R. A. MANT,—1-2-1904.

No. 753-S.R., dated Calcutta, the 1st February 1904.

From—R. A. MANT, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department,

To—P. C. LYON, Esq., I.C.S., Board of Revenue.

One of the Amir's Agents, Ghulam Mohiuddin, has brought ten seers of opium from Afghanistan to Calcutta without a pass. He has been instructed to make over the opium to the Board of Revenue, and we are issuing orders on the subject to the Government of Bengal. It may take some little time for the orders to reach you, and meanwhile the opium will probably be brought to the office of the Board. So I write to let you know how the case stands and to ask you to take over the opium pending official instructions.

The demi-official to the Board of Revenue has issued. A draft to Bengal is submitted for approval.

B. B.,—1-2-1904.

I have warned the Board of Revenue demi-officially to be prepared for this opium, and the official draft may now issue. I suppose we may assume that the opium will be delivered up to the Board, and it is not necessary to ask Bengal to seize it in case this is not done.

R. A. MANT,—1-2-1904.

No; but we should ask the Board to let us know after a short time whether it has been delivered up.

E. N. BAKER,—1-2-1904.

I have added a paragraph to the draft. Issue.

R. A. MANT,—1-2-1904.

Foreign Department.

Pro. No. 28. FROM THE FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, NO. 759-S.R., DATED THE 1ST (RECEIVED 2ND) FEBRUARY 1904.

Forward copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, regarding the importation, without a pass, by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of the Amir of Afghanistan, of 10 seers of Afghan opium as a sample for sale in India.

Pro. No. 29. LETTER TO THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, LOWER PROVINCES, NO. 496-F.A., DATED THE 3RD FEBRUARY 1904.

With reference to the above, sends about 10 seers of Afghan opium which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.

ENDORSEMENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, NO. 497-F.A., DATED THE 3RD FEBRUARY 1904.

Forwards copy of the foregoing letter.

ENDORSEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE, NO. 498-F.A., DATED THE 3RD FEBRUARY 1904.

Forwards copy of the foregoing letter.

Received from Mr. F. A. Abbey, Foreign Office :—

A tin containing	161½ tolas of opium (including tin).
A cloth bag containing	584½ tolas of opium.
TOTAL .	746 tolas of opium.

J. F. SMYTH, *Intendant,*
Presidency Opium Godowns, Board of Revenue,
Lower Provinces.

CALCUTTA;
The 3rd February 1904.

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Extract from Confidential Diary of the Calcutta Police, dated 31st January 1904.

To-day I learnt that the Amir of Kabul wants to send opium from his country for sale to China *viâ* Calcutta and wants permission of the Government which is under the consideration of the Government and the matter will be discussed on Monday. If on any account Government of India will not allow this, then the Amir will have to send it by other routes through Russian country.

No. 1348, dated Calcutta, the 2nd February 1904.

Forwarded to the General Superintendent, Thagi and Dakaiti Department, Calcutta, for information.

R. BIGNELL,
Commissioner of Police.

Forwarded in original to the Foreign Department for informatian.

D. McCracken,—3-2-1904.

Place with our file.

E. H. S. Clarke,—4-2-1904.

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 1121-B., dated the 4th (received 6th) February 1904. **Pro. No. 30.**

With reference to Foreign Department letter No. 496-F.A., dated the 3rd February 1904, acknowledges receipt of a certain quantity of opium, which was imported without a pass by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.

Endorsements to the Government of Bengal and Finance Department, Nos. 615-616-F.A., dated the 9th February 1904. **Pro. No. 31.**

Forwards copy of the foregoing letter.

It is nearly four months since the position about the export through India of Afghan opium was explained to the Envoy, and we have not heard another word from him on the subject.

We are in no way concerned about bringing the question to a settlement, and if the Amir likes to let the matter drop, we need not press for a reply. The papers may be recorded A.

Secretary to see.

E. H. S. Clarke,—21-5-1904.

L. W. Dane,—21-5-1904.

F—25-31—June—303 F. D. Exd.—W. G. B.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(9)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT, JUNE 1904.

Importation by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan of 10 seers of Afghan opium. Pro. No. 25

IMPORTATION, WITHOUT A PASS, BY GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN, A TRADE AGENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE AMIR OF AFGHANISTAN, OF ABOUT 10 SEERS OF AFGHAN OPIUM, AS A SAMPLE FOR SALE IN INDIA.

Translation of a letter from GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN, Kabuli, Calcutta, Kolutola, No. 24, Ram Mohan Ghoshe's Lane, to the Foreign Secretary, dated the 6th January 1904. **Pro. No. 25.**

His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan has given me ten seers of opium as a sample for sale, and a written order.* I beg to send herewith a copy of that order for perusal. A pass may be given to me, so that when I may show it to the mercantile people of India in Bombay, etc., the Government officials may not interfere with me.

* Enclosure, No. 25.

Translation of a copy of a firman from His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan and its Dependencies, dated the 13th Rabiul Awal 1321-H., corresponding to 10th June 1903. **Enclo., Pro. No. 25.**

Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, Kabuli, is originally a subject of the God-granted Government of Afghanistan. He is employed to work as a broker, and for that reason I have made over to him certain articles, the produce of these dominions, as a sample, so that he may take them for sale to the towns and cities wherever he thinks it necessary, and may settle the price of each article, so that if I find that my Government would be profited by trading with the articles mentioned, I shall establish the trade, please God, through him.

The following is a list of the articles, the samples of which he has with him and which I have given him :—

Uncut ruby	80 miskals.
Treated with acid	40 „
Untreated with acid	40 „
Polished rubies, 283 pieces	30 „
Uncut "Lals" (rubies of brilliant lustre)	40 „
Durr-i-Najaf stone (crystals)	1 charak.
Lapis lazuli	½ seer.
White stone powder	½ „
Vinegar, 5 sorts	5 bottles.
"Karakul" skins	6
Opium, 2 sorts	5 charaks.
Walnut wood, 3 kinds	3 pieces.

The said Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan has taken leave of me and is starting for India, and has with him samples of the articles mentioned above. As the articles belong to my Government by way of samples with a view to ascertain their prices, he will visit the places which he will find necessary to do. I have considered it necessary to write out this firman, giving a list of the articles mentioned above, and which are the property of this Government, together with the particulars as to how he should act, so that the said firman may remain with him as a "Sanad."

Telegram No. 159-F.A., dated the 12th January 1904. **Pro. No. 26.**

From—The Foreign Secretary, Calcutta,
To—The Chief Commissioner, Peshawar.

No. 159-F.A. Ghulam Mohiuddin, one of Amir's trade agents, writes that he has brought to Calcutta ten seers of Afghan opium as sample for sale. Did he obtain any special pass from you?

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Pro. No. 27 Importation by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan of 10 seers of Afghan opium.

Pro. No. 27.

Telegram, dated the 19th January 1904.

From—The Chief Commissioner, Peshawar,

To—The Foreign Secretary, Calcutta.

* Pro. No. 26.

Your telegram * 159-F.A. No pass was issued to Ghulam Mohiuddin to export ten seers Afghan opium to Calcutta or elsewhere.

Pro. No. 28.

No. 759-S.R., dated Calcutta, the 1st February 1904.

Memo. by the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department.

Copy of the following forwarded to the Foreign Department for information.

Enclo., Pro. No. 28.

Dated Calcutta, the 1st February 1904.

From—R. A. MANT, Esq., Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department,

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Bengal, a copy of the correspondence cited on the margin, regarding the importation, without a pass, by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of the Amir of Afghanistan, of ten seers of Afghan opium as a sample for sale in India.

1. Translation of a letter, dated the 6th January 1904, from Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, Kabuli, Calcutta, to the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India with translation of its enclosure. (Pro. No. 25.)
2. Telegram, dated the 12th January 1904, from the Foreign Department, to the Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province. (Pro. No. 26.)
3. Telegram, dated the 19th January 1904, from the Agent to the Governor-General and Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, to the Foreign Department. (Pro. No. 27.)

2. The Government of India have decided that this opium shall be handed over by the importer without delay to the Board of Revenue, and that it shall be kept in the custody of the Board pending the receipt of an explanation or request from the Amir in regard to its disposal. This decision has been communicated to the Amir's Envoy with the Government of India, and it is probable that the opium in question will shortly be presented at the office of the Board of Revenue. I am to request that, with the permission of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, instructions may be issued to the Board to receive the opium and to retain it until further orders. I am also to ask that the Government of India may be informed within a week or ten days whether the opium has been made over to the Board.

Pro. No. 29.

No. 496-F.A., dated Fort William, the 3rd February 1904.

From—The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department,

To—The Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

With reference to the accompanying copy of the letter marked in the margin, I am directed to send herewith about ten seers of Afghan opium, which was imported without a pass, by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan.

From the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce, to Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, No. 759-S.R., dated the 1st February 1904. (Enclosure, Pro. No. 28.)

2. An acknowledgment is requested.

No. 497-F.A.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Government of Bengal for information, with reference to the letter from the Government of India in the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 759-S.R, dated the 1st February 1904.

Enclosure, Pro. No. 28.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

Importation by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan of 10 seers of Afghan opium. Pro. No. 31

No. 498-F.A.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Department of Finance and Commerce for information, with reference to their letter to the address of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal (Financial Department), No. 759-S.R., dated the 1st February 1904. Enclosure, Pro. No. 28.

No. 1121-B., dated Calcutta, the 4th February 1904. **Pro. No. 30.**

From—J. H. KERR, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces,

To—The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to your letter * No. 496-F.A., dated the 3rd instant, I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of the quantity of opium forwarded therewith, as detailed in the margin,† which was imported without a pass, by Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan, a trade Agent of His Highness the Amir of Afghanistan. * Pro. No. 29.

† A tin containing 161½ tolas of opium (including tin box).
A cloth bag containing . 584½ tolas of opium.
TOTAL . 746 tolas.

No. $\frac{615}{616}$-F.A., dated Fort William, the 9th February 1904. **Pro. No. 31.**

Endorsed by Foreign Department.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the $\frac{\text{Government of Bengal}}{\text{Finance Department}}$, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the $\frac{\text{Government of India in the Foreign}}{\text{Foreign Department}}$, No. $\frac{497}{498}$-F.A., dated the 3rd February 1904.

From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, No. 1121-B., dated the 4th February 1904.

Ed.—W. G. B.

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