

बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार



सत्यमेव जयते

1916

संचिका संख्या 1228/1916
अभिलेखागार संख्या

१९१६

बिहार सरकार

Political

विभाग

Special

शाखा

कार्यवाही

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जाँच गया

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15-5-50

विषय:— Report from Mr. Ryland regarding the arrest of Bhagwan Das, of Dinapore and Bhagat Sao of Muzaffarpur in connection with the gun-running conspiracy.

The arrest of Bankim Chandra Miller in Patna in connection with the Benares Gang.

1916

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B PROGS. FOR _____ 1911/6

Nos.

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DEPARTMENT.

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File No. 1228 of

File 248
1160

SUBJECT.

Report from Mr Ryland regarding the arrest of Bhagwan Das, of Dinapore and Bhagat Sao of Muzaffarpur in connection with the gun-running Conspiracy.

The arrest of Bankim Chander Mitter in Patna in connection with the Benares Gang.

Notes and Orders.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशावली)

H. H.

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This is in continuation of the report
which I have placed before it.

H. H. may see.

Phil

3/2/11

HH

Bahadur Maharaja has been
remanded to custody for 25 days
under order of 2 J. The
infantry must be completed within
a month under the order of the

बिहार सरकार

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय

(बिहार राज्य के अन्तर्गत खासगार विदेशीय)

Phil

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Phil

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26/12
H. H. Personal. May be seen by
H. H. and Mr. H. H. Heringer.

27/12/15

21/12

Memo No. 9225-S.B.

Bihar Special Branch,

Bankipur, the 23rd December 1915.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of
Bihar and Orissa, for information.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिव
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार)
Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Bihar and Orissa

25.12.

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The possibility of persons in this province being concerned in the propaganda of the revolutionaries in Bengal and the United Provinces was more recently brought home to us by

(1) the arrest in Calcutta of Bhagwan Das, a Dinapore man and Bhagat Sao a Hajipur (Muzaffarpur) man in connection with the gun-running conspiracy; and

(2) the arrest of Bankim Chandra Mitter in Patna, in connection with the Benares gang.

2. On receipt of information regarding the arrest of the two former individuals, enquiries were instituted in this province and searches were made.

3. Bhagwan Das belongs to a well-to-do family of goldsmiths who have their homestead in Sarari, a village some 5 miles south of Dinapore and about a mile from Dinapore railway station. Nothing was found in the search that would indicate that the family comprising an old father and three brothers, are mixed up in the case or even aware of the part taken by Bhagwan Das in the conspiracy. Present at the search and Bhagwan Das' relatives were concerned about the arrest which had been communicated to them in a letter we found. They were anxious to know the charge against Bhagwan Das; this I did not feel justified in communicating to them. An elder brother, Narain Sao, declared his intention of going to Calcutta to see his brother and to make him speak whatever the charge was against him. I gave the brother a letter of introduction to the Commissioner of Police, and at the same time wrote separately to Mr. Clarke informing him of the result of the searches and the object of the brother's visit to Calcutta.

4. Bharat Sao, though a resident of Hajipur, was born in Calcutta and has been brought up there. He received such education as he has at a school in Kidderpore and some 10 or 11 years ago became a clerk in the shop of Bhagwan Das. He

He very occasionally visits his home but often sends his family there. The last visit he paid was in September last when on his way to Hardwar, Allahabad and Benares apparently in connection with the conspiracy, though there is no evidence of this.

10 5. Bharat Sao is apparently deep in the conspiracy and an active member of it. The name of Bhagwan Das has only recently transpired and it is not clear how far he is mixed up in the conspiracy, though it is certain his house in Calcutta was used as a meeting place, where certain Bengalis, introduced apparently by Bharat Sao, met non-commissioned officers of regiments. There seems little doubt therefore that Bhagwan Das if not actually in the conspiracy is fully cognisant of what has been going on. It is noteworthy also that the shop of Bhagwan Das in Calcutta was used as a meeting place between men of the 10th Jets and members of the revolutionary party, though in that case Bhagwan Das gave evidence for the prosecution. Bhagwan Das is a keen Arya Samajist and subscribes largely towards the upkeep of the Arya Samaj at Murtaparpur, Dinapore.

6. During my recent visit to Calcutta enquiries but could learn nothing that would bring the families of the two men under suspicion. I discovered that Narain Sao, who took a letter of introduction from me to the Commissioner of Police, never put in an appearance. On my return here I sent for Narain Sao, his explanation for not going to the Commissioner of Police is that he lost the letter and was afraid to go. This I have little doubt is false. The man probably learnt what the charge against his brother is and bolted for fear of being mixed up in it. His behaviour was certainly unsatisfactory.

7. On the materials we have I do not think we should be justified in taking action against the families of the two prisoners. I am, however, having enquiries made by a

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special officer to see if in the past sepoys from Dinapore have visited the Sarari house or whether there have been meetings there. Further action will depend on the results of these enquiries.

8. As regards Bankim Chandra Mitter he has long been under suspicion. He was arrested two years ago in connection with the Raja Bazar Bomb Case of Calcutta, he had been receiving some very suspiciously worded letters from a co-accused in that case and was further believed to have been responsible for the distribution of seditious leaflets in Patna. He was discharged in the Raja Bazar Case, but has recently been arrested and is now under trial in the Benares Conspiracy Case.

9. Bankim Chandra Mitter has been all along in Patna and if, as is believed, he is an active member of the Benares branch of the revolutionaries, it becomes important to know whether any other members of this branch are in Patna or if Bankim has formed any sub-branch here. In view of this we have for some time past been making enquiries about Bankim's associates in Patna, and an individual named Kissen Patak has now come forward. I recorded his statement on Sunday - a copy of which is attached. If the man is to be believed the attempt to start a secret society here was a failure. I am inclined to believe that Kissen Patak has kept back much, but all the information we have ever had points to the non-existence of any well organised society in Patna.

10. An extract regarding Tarapodo Ganguli is being sent to the Central Provinces. The information regarding Kankhya Nath Mitter only confirms what we already know and the province is well rid of this gentleman.

11. Enquiries are being made about Jagadish Chandra Ray, Krishikesh Mazumdar, Shampodo Mukharji, Raghubir Singh, and Sudhir Kumar Singha.

12. The incident of the message taken to the troops by

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the two last named will be carefully looked into. Raghbir Singh is to be brought and the informant has undertaken to bring him round.

13. The question of making searches has been considered but it has been decided to do nothing for the present. Further report will follow.

L. K. J. Pandey

Deputy Inspector-General of Police,
Crime and Railways.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

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Ram Kissen Patak, son of late Pundit Bishen Deo Patak of Muradpore, Patna, age 22 years - money lender.

1. My family have been over 40 years in Patna. I was born in Chapra where I have a maternal uncle. My father died on the 3rd August 1914. He was Pundit in T. K. Ghose's Academy. I came to Patna when I was a baby and have been here ever since. I used to go with my father to the T. K. G. Academy from the age of 6 or 7 and became a student there and continued a student there up to the 13rd November 1915, when I was rusticated for a year in connection with a fight we had with the students of the B. N. Collegiate School and the Baldeo Academy, Dinapore. The latter is a branch of my school. I was in the Matric class. I used to live with my father, now I live with my family. I keep up a money lending business which my father started some 20 or 25 years ago. That is my only source of income. I make about Rs.100/- a month and pay Rs.20/- income tax.

2. In 1905 or '06 one Tarapodo Ganguli, a resident of Burdwan, joined the T. K. Ghose's Academy as a master. He is now Head Master in the Dhamtari Baptist Mission School, Central Provinces. At this time there was a great Swadeshi agitation. A relation of Tarapodo opened a Swadeshi shop in Patna. Tarapodo used to force all the students he taught to buy and use Swadeshi goods, and as this was the one shop in Patna at the time we got our Swadeshi goods there. The students found the Swadeshi goods inferior and more expensive. Tarapodo to induce us to use Swadeshi goods used to pay the difference in price himself. Tarapodo used to preach Swadeshi to us and the boys took it up as a new thing but dropped it very soon. At that time Tarapodo used to frequent the Medical School where there were a number of students from the Central Provinces, particularly Nagpur. Much sedition was talked there so I heard. I was only a boy

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then.

3. In 1908 or 1909 Bankim Chandra Mitra came to Bankipur and lived with Tarapodo and became a student of T. K. Ghose's Academy. He was in the 2nd. class and was captain of the 'B' football team. ~~and~~ I was a member of this team and so got to know Bankim. At this time Tarapodo induced my father to let me have private lessons from him out of school hours and I used to go to Tarapodo's house regularly in fact I almost lived there. I was then thrown into the company of Bankim. There was also a nephew of Tarapodo's - Harapado Ganguli, a boy of 13 or 14 who used to read with me. There was a fourth boy called Badla, a relation of Tarapodo. A fifth boy afterwards joined us, he was Tarapodo's younger brother - I have forgotten his name, he used to read in the B. N. College. At this time we did not talk any sedition. Bankim was a great songster and so he became very popular with all the Bengalis in Bankipur and Patna.

4. In 1911 or 1912 Bankim passed the Matric and went to the B. N. College. He became friendly with Kamikhya Nath Mitter and was a constant visitor at his place. Another follower of Kamikhya's was a B. N. College student, Kamala Kanta Mukharji; he died last year. Bankim became very friendly with Kamala and the two of them went to go to Benares. The two then began to collect funds for their society. I was invited to join but they told me little and I did not take any oaths. Amarendra Bose, grandson of Gobind Chandra Mitra, Pleader (dead), Jagadish Chandra Ray, now a student of the Patna College, joined the society. ^{R. Krishikesh} Later Rherbikuli Mazumdar now a student in the Law College, Shamapodo Mukharji, who is in Patna but partly mad, joined.

5. Bankim started a club to which I and the abovenamed belonged. We had no fixed club house, but met at different places in the open. Bankim then introduced sedition and preached Swami Vivekanand and the Gita to us.

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6. Towards the end of 1912 or beginning of 1913 at a meeting of the club on a chur in the river Bankim administered oaths to the members; when I was admitted only Bankim and Kamala were present. I was also present when Amarendra Nath Bose took the oath.. I was not present when the others took the oath. All the persons mentioned must have taken it or they would not have been allowed to continue in the club. The oath was that "In the name of God and my father and mother that I would never divulge any secret of the society to anyone and that whatever I was ordered to do I would do even if I lost my life".

7. When they had made sure of me, I was told the objects of the club or society. They were that the English were our rulers, they had one rule for themselves and another for us, they treat us as if they were God's children and we were not. That all provinces had determined to turn out the English but that Bihar was backward, that selected men should go round and lecture residents and bring the people to an understanding. That we should not tolerate the English or mind them.

8. The rules of our society were that if two members were talking a third should not go near them. That no member should be questioned as to what he had spoken to another member. That anything said must be voluntary and not by question. That whatever the leader ordered must be obeyed even though it meant losing one's life.

9. We then set about to recruit new members. I recruited Raghubir Prasad Singh, a student in the Matric class of the T. K. Ghose's Academy. I don't know whether the others got recruits. We were not allowed to ask who were members. I know Akhil Chandra Das Gupta, not here now, was a member.

10. Some Bengali leaflets came to Bankim. I know that they were not circulated. I don't know the reason. They were in Bengali.

11. The next incident was Bankim's arrest and the search of his house. Bankim went to Benares and we had a consultation as to what should be done to help him. The day of Bankim's arrest he was released and we tried to induce him to abscond but he would not do so. Kamala told him to go to the secret place they have in Benares and that the English or the father of the English would not find him.

12. For fear of arrest we never met together. Bankim was rearrested. He was eventually released and came back. Kamala, either because he was ordered to or of his own will, went to Benares. Kamala's brother, Devi Prasad Mukharji, came and taxed Bankim and asked him to produce Kamala or to say where he was or he would beat him and inform the police about him. Bankim denied all knowledge. Devi Prasad eventually found out where his brother was and sent the younger brother and had him brought back. Kamala on his return kept away from us but after ^a while rejoined us, then he went away to Motihari to a relative and there got plague and died.

13. After his release Bankim used to get letters from Benares. These letters used to come addressed to "Nathuni Ram" C/o myself. The letters were in English. I don't know who wrote them or what the contents were, Bankim never told me.

14. Then my father died and I gave up the society as I feared that if anything happened to me or I was arrested there would be no one to look after my family as I am the only male member. I told Bankim not to get the letters addressed to me. I told the members that I was no longer going to keep in the society. Still they used to see me and about 18 months ago Bankim told me they were in want of pistols. He induced me to try and help him to get arms. I spoke to Raghunir who told me that Deputy Magistrate Dhraikshan Singh with whom he

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lived had a revolver that might be got. I told Bankim and he asked me to try and get it. I did try: I set Raghubir to watch while I tried to enter the house one morning but Raghubir gave a signal and I got out. The servant of the Deputy Magistrate had somehow come to know of our intention and the Deputy Magistrate reported the matter to the police.

15. At this time one Srish Chandra Biswas joined the society. He belongs to Krishnaagar, he is an apprentice in the Collectorate there. We eventually came to know that this Srish was a police spy. Bankim then planned to beat and kill Srish, he asked me to join and I agreed as he (Bankim) had been my leader but I warned Srish and he went away.

16. Then Bankim used to meet with Raghubir and one Sudhir Kumar Singha. I don't know if the latter was or is a member of the society.

17. Bankim went away for a time, he returned in May last. I learnt from him that the letters he used to get addressed to my care were only to tell him of the intended visit of someone from Benares or Calcutta and he used to go and meet the person either at Begumpore (Patna) station or Dinapore. In July last I casually met Bankim one day and said to him that Rash Behari's name was notorious and asked whether he had ever seen him. He said once or twice Rash Behari had come here on business and that he had seen him at the station, but that very few had seen him. I gathered that Sudhir had also seen him.

18. I also learnt from Raghubir in July last that the regiment in Dinapore had been tampered with and that when a message came from Agra they were to mutiny. This was to be in March or April last. That a message or letter had come to say there was not to be a mutiny and in the absence of Bankim, Sudhir and Raghubir started

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for Dinapore to inform the regiment there. They went in the evening, but failing to get an ekka or not wishing to take an ekka from here they started out on foot and got an ekka at Manpura. On the way to Dinapore the ekka broke and Sudhir and Raghubir were thrown out. Sudhir escaped but Raghubir got cut on his nose and forehead. They went on on foot and met a Sikh soldier they knew and informed him and came back.

19. There has been no further talk of a meeting. The society is a small one and has been unable to do anything here. In fact they say Patna is hopeless that no one can even hide here. The regiment at Dinapore was not tampered with by any one here, some one came from outside.

20. Of the men I have mentioned -

(1) Tarapodo Ganguli is in Dhamtari, Central Provinces.

(2) Harapodo Ganguli is with Tarapodo, so far as I know.

(3) Bedla - I don't know his real name - is not here now.

(4) Tarapodo's younger brother is also not here.

(5) Kamala Kanta Mukharji is dead.

(6) Anarendra Nath Bose is in Calcutta. He was caught stealing examination papers last year and went away. I don't know his address in Calcutta. I would not say Anarendra is dangerous.

(7) Jagadish Chandra Ray is a student of Patna College. He is living with Bankim Chandra Mitra, pleader, Patna.

(8) ^{Shri}Prashinmesh Mazumdar, student in the Patna Law College. He is living with his father Kalikesh Mazumdar who is a master in the T.K. Ghose Academy.

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(9). Shamapada Mukharji now living in Sabjibag Patna.

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(10). Raghubir Singh - a student of T. K. Ghose's Academy lives in Chownalla Mundi Pirahore Patna. A poor man, not a dangerous man.

(11). Akhil Chandra Das Gupta, now in Faridpur. I don't know the address. A dangerous man.

(12). Sudhir Kumar Singha, student B. N. College living in the hostel. A nephew of Kankhya Babu.

21. The society I belonged to never talked of committing crime or manufacturing bombs. Our idea was that if we all combined it would be impossible for the English to live here and they would themselves go.

22. Since Bankim's arrest there has been no talk, and so far as I know no meetings.

विहार सरकार
महोदय, मजिस्ट्रेट, विभाग
(बिहार राज्य, अतिरिक्त मजिस्ट्रेट, निदेशालय)
23. There is a pleader here named Ramlal Singh, a Bengali, he is Secretary of the Tangartoli Akhara (Bengali Athletic Club) where I go for exercise. We generally ask Ramlal Babu what the news is and he tells about the war; he tells us about the victories and defeats of the English. I gather from his talk that the English are losing and on the whole he and the other Bengali members laugh and seem pleased. One day Ramlal told me Rash Behari was in Patna disguised as a Muhammadan, this was 15 or 20 days ago. I gathered that he did not know but was making a guess.

G. K. R. P. S.
Deputy Inspector-General,
Crime and Railways.

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themselves. One individual, however, calling himself Bhulanath Gangapadhyaya who was arrested at Govindpur (Balasore), where a number of witnesses in the Balasore Case reside, is found to have given a false name and address, and the account he gave of his movements has not been verified.

5. I recently had an opportunity of discussing matters with Messrs Marr, Denham, Clarke and Legart, and the conclusion we came to was that the enquiries in this Province were of equal importance to Bengal and were closely linked up with the enquiries in progress there as also abroad. It was realized that unless we were kept in closest touch than at present with what was going on elsewhere there was every likelihood of our enquiries clashing. It was agreed that the only way to ensure proper cooperation was for this Government to depute an officer to Bengal. The Bengal Government accepting these views addressed the Local Government through Mr. Marr, and it has been decided, as an experimental measure, to depute Mr. Randle to Calcutta for six months. Mr. Randle will be attached to the Bengal I. B., and his duties will be to work in cooperation with the Bengal and Calcutta officers confining his action to making such enquiries as may be necessary in this province, and we hope, through Mr. Randle, to be kept "au fait" with the progress of events more particularly those affecting this province.

6. Bhagwan Das and Bhagat Sao referred to in paras 1 and 3 of my last report have apparently made full statements and it is understood that the Bengal authorities wish us to intern these men at Singapore. We await an official reference with copies of the statements made by the two individuals.

7. We also hope to get a copy of the statement made by Phanindra Chakrabatti alias Payne, who has been arrested abroad. Apparently he and Barendra Nath Bhattacharji went to Cuttack and having disguised themselves there as Anglo-Indians under the names of Martin and Payne went to Madras and there took ship to the Far East.

8. It seems evident there is a centre in Cuttack, as we

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find Brahmabaran Mukharji, the individual referred to in para
3 of this report, also had some connection with the place and
with some individual there, carried on a bogus coolie-supplying
agency.

9. There have been no further developments in the Bankipur
enquiries started on the statement of Ram Kissen Patsk which
formed an enclosure of my last report.

E. C. R. P. S.
Deputy Inspector-General of Police
Crime and Railways.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)