

बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार

संचिका संख्या 1386/1916
अभिलेखागार संख्या

१६

बिहार सरकार

विभाग
बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)
कार्यवाही १६

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विषय:-

Note on the leaders of The Bettiah
disturbances 24.1908

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

File No. 1386

1916 .

GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR AND ORISSA.
Political DEPARTMENT.

Special BRANCH.

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SUBJECT.

Note on the leaders of the Bettiah disturbances in 1908.

बिहार सरकार

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

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File No. 1386 of 1916.

SUBJECT.

Note on the leaders of the Bettiah disturbances
in 1908.

Notes and Order.

From D.I.G. Crime and Railways, Bankipore Memo
No. 2830 S.B. dated the 14th August 1916.

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Submitted for persual

C.E.H.
19/8/16.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

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Note on leaders of the Bettiah disturbances in 1908.

Memo No. 2830.S.B.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to the Chief Secretary to Government.

A. M. M. M.

Dy. Inspector-General of Police,
Crime & Railways, B. & O.

Bihar Special Branch,
Bankipore the 14th. August, 1916.

M.E.D.
15.8.16

मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

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BIHAR AND ORISSA SPECIAL BRANCH.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

LEADERS OF THE BETTIAH DISTURBANCES IN 1908.

[VIII—549.]

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BABU LAL MISSIR, SON OF HARANJI (DECEASED) OF KARAMUA
POLICE-STATION, SUGAULI, DISTRICT CHAMPARAN.

Babu Lal Missir belongs to a family of Maithil Brahmins which was for several generations in the service of the Bettiah Raj. Haranji was the last who had any direct connection with the management of the estate, and it was mainly due to his speculations that the Court of Wards found it impossible to retain his services any longer. Haranji, however, succeeded in acquiring before his discharge considerable landed property in the estate in addition to the glebe lands which the late Raja had entrusted to the family. At Haranji's death Babu Lal and his brother Janardan quarrelled over the division of the property and the litigation that ensued placed both of them irrecoverably in the debt of the Motihari Mahajans, particularly Gari Shankar Sahu. At Janardan's death his son, Kanhaya Dayal, was a minor, therefore the management of the family property fell to Babu Lal. Kanhaya Dayal who has now come of age has unsuccessfully tried more than once to obtain control of his share of the property. This he seems never likely to be able to do until Babu Lal dies, as he is wanting in brains to the extent of being almost weak-minded. In spite of the fact that public sympathy has been in favour of Kanhaya Dayal his supporters have never been able to circumvent Babu Lal's unscrupulousness. The result is that Janardan's family has to be satisfied with whatever allowance Babu Lal Missir is pleased to give them. At the present time this estate is reputed to have by zemindari an income of Rs. 2,000 a year, to produce 4,000 maunds of paddy from zirat lands and to possess 500 head of cattle. This would seem to be a very liberal estimate however. In addition the money Babu Lal owes to Mahajans which at a rough computation is probably little short of 1½ lacs he is also heavily indebted to the Bettiah Raj on account of outstanding rents. The Bettiah Raj is of course suing him and is by degrees gradually selling up all the property that Babu Lal possesses. These suits, however, take time as Babu Lal never fails to avail himself of any pretext to delay proceedings. It will not be long before the period of the loans taken from Mahajans expires, if it has not already done so, and as soon as the Mahajans succeed in obtaining decrees there will be little, if any, property left to Babu Lal and his family. ur

In appearance Babu Lal is of middle height, stout, fair complexioned. The only striking feature is his nose which is fleshy and approaching to Roman in shape. He seldom wears any *tika* marks and as a rule dresses in a *dhuti* and a long coat buttoned up the front, and a small round black cap. He spends most of his time at the courts and is often accompanied by one or two "pailwans" on these occasions.

During the "Bettiah Disturbances" of 1908 he was actively engaged in spreading disaffection between tenants and planters. He held meetings at Indarwa in police-station Adapur, Gobaura in police-station Bhama and Lalpara in Bettiah police-station. At these he was assisted by his brother Janardan, by Sital Rai of Mathia, by Shaikh Gulab of Barua, police-station Lauria and by Shaikh Rajab of the same village and others who played a prominent part in those troubles. This led to the institution of a case under sections 505-153-A., I. P. C., against him in which he was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 1,000, in default one year's rigorous imprisonment. He was, however, released before the expiry of his sentence. In 1910 he was strongly suspected of having attempted to poison Mr. Gordon, the manager of Murla Factory, which is close to Karamua. No case was, however, instituted. In 1913, he collected *lathials* at Rajpur Kainta in police-station Shikarpur with the object of ousting Mr. Amman, the manager of Belua Factory, who had obtained lease of the village from Radhu Mul of Bettiah. Some of the *lathials* were arrested and convicted under section 143, I. P. C., but Babu Lal though proceeded against under sections 150-143, I. P. C. and convicted in the Lower Court was acquitted by the Sessions Judge. me /
Addendum

During the settlement operations of 1914-15 he was fortunately far too engrossed in fighting to retain possession of the little that remains of his estate, to pay attention to disputes prevailing in Factory dehats. Had this not been

the case he most assuredly would have lent his aid in raising trouble and his sole object in doing so would have been in order to cause loss to the planter whom he regards as his bitterest enemy.

The statement attached shows the cases in which Babu Lal has been concerned. The striking point in most of them is that Babu Lal almost invariably escaped. The reason for this is that having great influence by virtue of his caste he is always able to gain over his opponents' witnesses by subjecting them to the fears of "brahmahathya."

C. T. BRETT.

बिहार सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

Serial number.	Police-station.	Complainant.	Accused.	Date of arrest.	Offence, with section.	Magistrate's orders, with date.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Segauli	Kawalbas Lal of Ma-dhopura ... 1st party, and Babu Lal Missir of Karamwa ... 2nd party.	1901. 1. Kamal Lall 2. Raghunandan Rai	...	Section 107, C. P. C.	Accused persons acquitted under section 119, C. P. C. Dated 2nd December 1901.	
2	Do.	Bideya Missir of Karamwa ... 1st party, and Babu Lal Missir of Karamwa ... 2nd party.	1905. 1. Babu Lall Missir, 2nd party. 2. Bideya Missir, 1st party.	...	Do.	Dismissed.	
3	Do.	Babu Lal Missir, ... and Janardhan Missir of Karamwa, complainant.	1906. 1. Bideya Missir ... 2. Biseswar Missir of Karamwa.	...	Do.	Accused Bideya Missir and Biseswar Missir ordered to execute bonds of Rs. 200 each with two sureties of Rs. 200 each to keep peace for one year, in default one year's rigorous imprisonment. 9th June 1906.	
4	Do.	Babu Lal Missir of Karamwa, complainant.	1907. 1. Langtoo Missir ... 2. Ramdhani Dhanuk. 3. Ganga Dhanuk. 4. Santokhi Lal of Musawa.	...	Do.	Police will direct the parties that no breach of peace occur. 2nd October 1907.	
5	Do.	Nandoo Tewary of Bhamanipore, 1st party.	1908. 1. Babu Lal Missir ... 2. Suba Ahir. 3. Rucha Ahir. 4. Dhuri Dusadh. 5. Ram Lall Dusadh. 6. Sunder Singh.	...	Do.	Dismissed. 27th July 1908.	
6	Do.	Raghunandan Pandey of Deodatwa	1909. Babu Lall Missir ... Jhingan Missir.	...	Section 145, C. P. C.	The second party refused to go over the disputed land so there is no apprehension of the breach of the peace, therefore no action taken. 11th November 1909.	
7	Do.	Janardhan Missir ... Mahanth Gobind Gir ... Raghunandan Rai ... Bramdeo Rai ... and Babu Lal Missir ... Chatar Missir ... Deoki Lall ... Jagdam Lall ... Gopal Ojha ...	1911.	Section 107, C. P. C.	The parties have amicably settled the disputes under petition filed today. There is no longer apprehension of a breach of the peace and no further action is required. The accused are discharged under section 119, C. P. C. 9th April 1912.	
8	Do.	Janardhan Missir ... Mahanth Gobind Gir ... Raghunandan Rai ... Baramdeo Rai ... Kooar Ojha ... Kanhaiya Lall Missir ... and Babu Lal Missir ... Chatauri Missir ... Jagdam Lall ... Gopal Ojha ...	1912.	Do.	The parties have amicably settled their disputes under petition filed today, there is no longer any apprehension of a breach of the peace and no further action is required, the accused, 2nd party, are discharged under section 119, C. P. C. 9th April 1912.	

Serial number.	Police-station.	Complainant.	Accused.	Date of arrest.	Offence, with section.	Magistrate's orders, with date.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	Segauli ...	1. Babu Lal Missir 2. Janardhan Missir 3. Gopal Singh and 1. Baramdeo Rai 2. Dharam Rai 3. Raghunandan Rai 4. Jogesar Kurmi 5. Jokhan Kurmi 6. Dulam Dusadh 7. Bujhaman Dusadh 8. Suba Charwar 9. Jodhwa Chamar 10. Dhari Charan Chamar. 11. Sheonandan Rai 12. Gobind Gir	1st party 2nd party	...	Section 107, C. P. C.	Case filed.	
10	Do. ...	Dohari Missir, servant of Hazarimal Marwari of Bettiah... and Babu Lal Missir	1914. 1st party 2nd party	...	Section 145, C. P. C.	I have heard both parties, let a proceeding under section 145, C. P. C. be drawn according to the boundaries given by the 1st party. The 1st will produce evidence on 8th October 1914, in the meantime written statement should be filed and the Police directed that the standing crops be cut, if ripe, and placed in charge of a 3rd person. The disputed land will, of course, be attached until the case Memo. No. 719, dated 10th September 1914. 9th April 1914.	
11	Shikarpur ...	Ram Sawarath Lall, manager of Radhamal Marwari.	Babu Lal Missir	...	Section 107, C. P. C.	Report submitted on 28th May 1913. Case had eventually to be dropped.	
12	Do. ...	Sub-Inspector Ram Sahay Singh	1. Nagina Singh 2. Narsingh Rai 3. Ram Lal Dusadh 4. Bandhu Missir 5. Baramdeo Singh 6. Sumeran Thakur 7. Raghubir Ahir 8. Ranghi Dhobi	Section 143, I. P. C. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do.	Four months' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 50 fine. Acquitted. Three months' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 30 fine. Six weeks' rigorous imprisonment. Four months' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 50 fine. Six weeks' rigorous imprisonment. Fined Rs. 40. Ditto, 10th June 1913.	
13	Do. ...	Ditto ditto	Babu Lal Missir	...	Section 315, I. P. C.	Three months' rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 500, under sections 143, 150, I. P. C., on 1st May 1913. Acquitted by Sessions Judge. 10th June 1913.	

SITAL RAI, SON OF DUBARAN RAI OF BARUA MATHIA, POLICE-STATION
SARMA, DISTRICT CHAMPARAN.

Dubaran Rai, the father of Sital Rai, was a resident of Chapra, who finding himself out of employment succeeded through the influence of a connection of his named Bansingh Rai of Mathia in obtaining work in Champaran. This led eventually to his being appointed by Pursa Factory as Gomashtha of Mathia itself. Here his four sons Sital Rai, Sideni Rai, Raghunandan Rai and Sheonandan Rai were born. In due course Sital Rai succeeded his father. At the close of 1905 the Jamadar of Pursa Factory, probably out of spite, selected a potatoe field, belonging to Sital Rai for the cultivation of indigo. Protests produced no result. Eventually the Jamadar and his men bought ploughs and drills in order to sow indigo on the land. A riot ensued which resulted in Sital Rai's party being convicted and Sital Rai being dismissed from the Gomashtaship. Ever since then Sital Rai has sought every opportunity to raise trouble in Pursa factory in particular. In 1908 he was one of the ring-leaders who were instrumental in spreading the disaffection which started in Sathi dehat to neighbouring factories. Though proceeded against under section 505, Indian Penal Code, he was eventually acquitted. Ever since these disturbances Sital Rai has been regarded by the raiyat class of Champaran as their staunch supporter against the Factory, and it really always is very strongly rumoured, when rows do take place, that Sital Rai has had a hand in creating trouble. One is, therefore, driven to the conclusion that there is some foundation of truth in these rumours but it is impossible to obtain evidence. In 1913 when disputes occurred at Dhamdama in Baikuntpur Factory, police-station Dhanaha, he was suspected to have seen and advised the ring-leaders. The same happened when there were similar disputes in Sugong Factory (police-station Sugaun) in 1914; in the Dhangal villages of Chautarwa Factory (police-station Bagaha) in the same year and later in 1915 when disputes arose about enhancement of rents in Pipra Factory (police-station Pipra).

Sital Rai owns about 150 bighas of land in Mathia from which he derives an annual income of nearly three to four thousand rupees. In addition to this he is reported to make a good deal of money by "Am Mukhtari".

(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)

SHAIKH GULAB, SON OF SHAIKH RAKTU OF BARUA, POLICE-STATION
LAURIA, DISTRICT CHAMPARAN.

There is nothing on record against Shaikh Raktu, the father of Shaikh Gulab who died in 1898 leaving his three sons, Shaikh Gulab, Hedait-ullah and Sher Ali, 14 bighas of land, a cart and about 20 head of cattle. Shaikh Gulab does not come into prominence till 1907 where he and Rajab Ali of the same village took a leading part in the disturbances that occurred in Sathi Factory and during which Gulab was appointed a special constable. These disturbances, it will be remembered, preceded what are known as the Bettiah Disturbances and were due to the Factory which had given up the cultivation of indigo trying to introduce the cultivation of jute and sugar instead. In these rows Chirkut Lal, though Factory Munshi at the time, is believed to have been hand-in-glove with Shaikh Gulab. Gulab, who had found the 1907 troubles so paying, joined the movement which arose in 1908 against the Factories of Parsa, Sathi, Bairia and Malaya. He chiefly confined his attentions to the raiyats of Sathi but attended meetings presided over by Sital Rai and his confederates. Enquiries being instituted a considerable amount of evidence was obtained against him. The cases against him summarised are as follows :—

1. On 17th February 1908, section 384, Indian Penal Code, one year's rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 1,000.
2. On 17th February 1909, sections 153A and 505, Indian Penal Code, two years' rigorous imprisonment under each section, sentences to run concurrently and fined Rs. 1,000, in default six months' rigorous imprisonment and bond of Rs. 500 with one surety of Rs. 500 to keep peace for two years after release under section 106, Criminal Procedure Code.

3. On 28th May 1909, section 384, Indian Penal Code, three months' rigorous imprisonment.

On 28th May 1909, section 305, Indian Penal Code, one year's rigorous imprisonment.

He is now rapidly losing his eye sight and is fast becoming incapable of causing further trouble. With the money collected by him during the disturbances he has managed to acquire 11 more bighas of land.

**CHIRKUT LAL OF CHARUA—RAULPUR, POLICE-STATION EKMA,
DISTRICT SARAN.**

In 1907 he was appointed as a Munshi in Sathi Factory, police-station Shikarpur, Champaran. In that year tenants of about 60 villages under this concern ceased cultivating indigo and disputes arose in consequence which led to the institution of cases in the Criminal Courts. Chirkut Lal was employed by the Factory to look after these cases. He abused the trust reposed in him and it is widely rumoured made use of his position to make money for himself. Ill-feeling between the Factory and its tenants increased and the movement known as the Bettiah Disturbances started in 1908. During enquiries held at the time information was obtained which showed that Chirkut Lal though outwardly on the side of the Factory was inwardly working with the leaders of the movement. He was eventually dismissed by the Factory. Since then he has been earning a precarious living as a tout in Muzaffarpur and was for a short time in the employ of the Bazgaon Babu.

**SHAIKH RAJAB ALI, SON OF BAKAS ALI OF KALA BARWA, POLICE-
STATION LAMIA.**

He was Gulab Shaik's right hand man during the Bettiah disturbances and with him was convicted in the following cases :—

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 17th February 1909, section 384, Indian Penal Code. | One year's rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 1,009. |
| 2. 17th February 1909, section 153-A. and 505, Indian Penal Code. | Two years' rigorous imprisonment under each section. Sentences to run concurrently and fined Rs. 1,000 or six months' rigorous imprisonment. Bond of Rs. 500 with one surety of Rs. 500 to keep peace for two years after release, section 106, Criminal Procedure Code. |
| 3. 28th May 1909, section 384, Indian Penal Code. | Three months' rigorous imprisonment. |
| 4. 28th May 1909, section 505, Indian Penal Code. | Six months' rigorous imprisonment, both sentences to run concurrently. |

The following is a list of some of the less important persons who took part in the Bettiah Disturbances of 1908.

On his failing to induce Bishundayal Lal, the Patwari of Jamunia, to join the movement he burnt his house down. A case being instituted he was convicted and sentenced in 1909 under section 435, Indian Penal Code, to one year's rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 50; in default one year's rigorous imprisonment.

Jagdeo Missir, son of Ruch Missir of Jamunia, police-station Lamia.

He assisted Jagdeo and was convicted in the same case and given the same sentence.

These men forcibly compelled Jamadar Tewary of Jamunia to pay Rs. 8 towards the subscriptions being raised for the movement. They were each convicted and sentenced under section 384, Indian Penal Code to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 25; in default two weeks more.

Bindeswari Lal, son of Bramdeo Lal of Jamunia.

Sadhu Upadhya, son of Mandar Upadhya of Suarchap, Chathu Nonia, son of Ram Bux Nonia of Jamunia.

Ramautar Pandey, son of Tilak Pandey of Suarchap, police-station Lamia.

Was sentenced in 1909 to a fine of Rs. 40; in default two weeks' rigorous imprisonment under section 384, Indian Penal Code, for realizing a subscription of Rs. 25 from Lal Bahadur Lal of Jamunia.

Decdud Tewari, son of Ram Ugra Tewari of Jamunia.

For collecting Rs. 8 from Mahesh Pathak of the same village was sentenced to one month's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 50; in default one month's rigorous imprisonment under section 384, Indian Penal Code.

Raghunath Missir, son of Parmanath Missir of Jamunia, police-station Lamia.

For taking Rs. 10 as subscription from Suba Rai of Pursanna were convicted to one month's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 25; in default two weeks' rigorous imprisonment under section 384.

Liladhar Mullah, son of Parsan Mullah of Ramparsauni police-station Lamia.

Raghubar Mullah, son of Hulas Mullah of Ramparsauni, police-station Lamia.

Jagalhar Dhobi, son of Bhikham Dhobi of Ramparsauni, police-station Lamia.

For inducing Gampat Upadhya of Jamunia to subscribe Rs. 10 to the movement were convicted and sentenced under section 384, Indian Penal Code to three months' rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 50.

Nidhi Rai, son of Bijmohan Rai of Surehap, police-station Lamia and Palgobind Kandu, son of Bham Sahu of Pipra, police-station Pipra.

For collecting Rs. 5 under threats from Navat Pathak of Jamunia was sentenced to three weeks rigorous imprisonment and fined Rs. 25 under section 384, Indian Penal Code.

Maribaran Tewari, son of Mahadeo Tewari of Jamunia.

Other persons concerned were—

1. Shaikh Naem of Balua, police-station Bettiah, who was a tahsildar under Muknath Sahu of Patelar, police-station Bagaha.
2. Siri Kishun Prasad Man Missir, son of Jagman Missir of Mathira, police-station Bagaha, who was made a special constable.
3. Kokil Man Missir, son of Lalam Missir of Dilrampur, police-station Bagaha.
4. Jang Bahadur Rai, son of Ram Charan Rai of Jesarahia, police-station Bagaha, who was made a special constable.
5. Kalicharan Kurmi, son of Mahipal Kurmi of Dilrampur, police-station Bagaha.
6. Sarjug Tewari, son of Dharan Tewari of Dilrampur, police-station Bagaha.

7. Sunder Chamar, son of Huseni Chamar of Jesarahia, police-station Bagaha. Labour agitater.
8. Mamarakh Dhunia, son of Badar Meah of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
9. Moti Meah, son of Jafar Meah of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
10. Kokachi Rai, son of Lalloo Rai of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
11. Jokhan Ahir, son of Lobhi Ahir of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
12. Guli Ahir, son of Partap Ahir of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
13. Nanhkoe Dhunia, son of Prashad Dhunia, police-station Bagaha.
14. Fakir Ahir (dead) of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
15. Naga Ahir, son of Ramsaran of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
16. Gaya Ahir, son of Issar Raut of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.
17. Lagan Ahir, son of Sheotahal Ahir of Bathwaria, police-station.
18. Ramkhelawan Ahir, son of Dwarka Ahir of Bathwaria, police-station Bagaha.


25th April 1916.

C. T. BRETT.

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References to former cases.

15

बिहार  सरकार
मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय विभाग
(बिहार राज्य अभिलेखागार निदेशालय)
References to later cases.