

# Survey of India.

Notes for



Sept. 1924.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Calcutta, 1st October 1924.

1. The Department has lost one of its most distinguished officers by the retirement, on the 28th of September, of the late Surveyor General, Colonel C. H. D. Ryder, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., R.E.

He joined the Department as a Lieutenant on November the 20th, 1891, with nearly 5½ years' service, of which over 3 years had been spent in India. During his career in the Survey of India, he did topographical work in various parts of India and Burma, and the following summary will show his exceptional record as an explorer in nearly all the countries of Southern Asia:—

1894-95. One of the Survey officers attached to the Mekong Boundary Commission.

1898—1900. Explorations in Yunnan—Twice across China from Burma, the first time ending up *via* Tonking, and the second year working down the Yangtze river during the Boxer rebellion, and finally joining up with the China Field Force, where he was present at the actions of Pei-tsang and Yangtsun and at the relief of the Peking Legations. For his reconnaissance work he received the thanks of H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, and for war service the medal with clasp and a mention in despatches.

1903—05. Accompanied the Tibet Expedition to Lhāsa—Medal with clasp, D.S.O., and mentioned in despatches—From Lhāsa worked along the Brahmaputra and Sutlej valleys, behind the Himālayas, to Simla—Awarded gold medals by the Royal Geographical Society and the Geographical Society of France, and a silver medal by the Scottish Geographical Society.

1913-14. Senior Survey Officer with the Turko-Persian Boundary Commission, and later Deputy Commissioner as well, being in charge of the operations on the outbreak of the War, when the Commission was broken up and he proceeded to England *via* Russia—Awarded the C.I.E.

Apart from this remarkable record, Col. Ryder will be held in lasting memory by the Department on account of his valuable services as an administrator. In 1906 he was selected to hold the newly formed post of Superintendent, Frontier Surveys, which was, next to that of Surveyor General, the most important post in the Department. His tact and ability in administering the 6 Frontier Parties, and afterwards the Northern Circle, were an important factor in building up the improved traditions of work which the Department has been able to evolve since it was granted the improved organisation of 1906. Later on, 1915 to 1918, he held the post of Superintendent, Map Publication in Calcutta during the most difficult period of the War. The success with which the Calcutta Offices responded to the heavy strain which was put upon them owing to War

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demands by the Army and many other Departments, was largely due to his excellent administration for which his services were brought to the notice of the Government of India. He was then posted as Director of Survey Operations in Iraq, where he effected notable improvements in organisation and procedure (1918-19), and was mentioned in despatches.

Col. Ryder finally succeeded to the post of Surveyor General on the 16th of March 1919, where his patience, ability, and solid good judgment, were invaluable in facing post-war problems and in getting the Department properly re-established on a peace footing. This difficult work was embarrassed, firstly by the necessity of re-adjusting the pay, etc., of all services owing to the rise in prices, and latterly by problems of retrenchment and finance; but in spite of all difficulties, the re-establishment of the Department has been carried through with admirable success, and it has been handed over in a condition which should provide an excellent foundation for all future developments.

In addition to this patient work of re-construction, which was combined with the perfecting of a great variety of details of procedure and technique, a very notable improvement has been effected in departmental organization by the detachment of Burma from the Eastern Circle to form a separate Survey Circle, in April 1923. This new Burma Circle has already justified its existence in many ways, and should lead to valuable developments which would have been otherwise quite impossible.

On the human side of administration, Col. Ryder set a most valuable example in dealing with difficult personal problems, and always commanded the complete confidence of those who had the pleasure of working with him. He was awarded the C. B. (Military) in 1922, and his services as Surveyor General were extended for a period of 9 months after attaining the age of 55.

His retirement is a matter of sincere regret to his many friends in all ranks of the Department, and he carries with him the very cordial good-wishes of his brother officers.

2. Colonel E. A. Tandy, R.E., has been confirmed in the appointment of Surveyor General of India from the 28th.

3. The following was the tour programme of the Surveyor General for September:—

Arrived Rangoon	...	...	...	...	September 1st
Left Rangoon	...	...	...	...	" 1st
Arrived Calcutta	...	...	...	...	" 4th
Left Calcutta	...	...	...	...	" 7th
Arrived Bangalore	...	...	...	...	" 10th
Left Bangalore	...	...	...	...	" 16th
Arrived Simla	...	...	...	...	" 20th

4. The Surveyor General visited the offices of the Madras Survey Department in Madras on the 9th and was much impressed by the work he saw there and by the enlightened survey policy of the Madras Government, which seems to be well in advance of the rest of India in this respect.

5. In a durbar held at Bangalore on the 16th, the Surveyor General presented medals with clasps to three Military, one Class II, three Upper Subordinate Service and six Lower Subordinate Service officers and two khalasis who served in the Great War.

6. Lt.-Colonel Thuillier, I.A., Director, Northern Circle, left Mussoorie on the 30th August for Lahore to preside at a Selection Board for the recruitment of candidates for the Upper Subordinate Service and returned to Mussoorie on the 4th September.

7. Major and Bt.-Lt.-Colonel Phillimore, D.S.O., R.E., has been promoted to the rank of Lt.-Colonel with effect from the 25th.

8. During August and September Major Morshead, D.S.O., R.E., delivered a series of lectures at Bangalore on 'Mount Everest'. The lectures which were illustrated by lantern slides from photographs taken during the expeditions of 1921 and 1922 proved of great interest and attracted a large audience of both Europeans and Indians.