

Afghan Government, and he remarked that he had since cancelled the order and now awaited the result of the joint enquiry.

I then informed him that the object of my seeking a private audience was to impress on him personally the danger of the course on which the policy of the Afghan Government appeared to be drifting.

First, there were the eighteen-months-old Barshore and Spinchilla outrages, for which, in spite of repeated promises, no amends whatever had been made, while the gravity of the situation had been increased by a further attack by the authors of these crimes on British Baluchistan last January, which showed that the Afghan Government had utterly failed to keep the Shahjui Wazirs in check. The Ameer replied that his Foreign Minister had these very difficult cases well in hand, and it was hoped that they would soon be brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Secondly, the intrigues of Adam Khan and other Afghans on the Waziristan border seemed to be designed to delay the settlement with the tribes which my Government had nearly completed, and His Majesty's Government demanded that these intrigues should finally cease. Adam Khan must be recalled immediately; but this was not enough. The Afghan Government must take definite steps to prevent the recrudescence through other instruments of all anti-British intrigues whatsoever. The Ameer replied that, as the result of my former representation, he had issued orders ten days ago for the prompt recall of Adam Khan to Kabul. An enquiry would be made into the report that Adam Khan had diverted Government funds entrusted to him for irrigation works to political purposes, and if the case against him seemed clear he would be court-martialled. Orders prohibiting any encouragement being given to Wazirs or Mahsuds to act in a manner prejudicial to the settlement which was being negotiated by the British Government with the tribes had already been given and would be repeated all along the frontier as the Ameer's personal instructions. He spontaneously offered to send a civil or military official through India to Waziristan, to be the guest of the British general in command of the forces, who would announce in open jirga that the Ameer of Afghanistan was a friend of the British Government and had sent through him a message to the tribes of Waziristan that they should immediately accept the terms offered them and settle down in peace. I said that this was a novel proposal which I could not discuss at the moment, but I demanded that the orders which the Ameer had expressed himself ready to give to Afghan officials and others on his borders should be despatched immediately. I then explained the advantages of the Khassadar system, and told the Ameer that, if the tribesmen failed to make a success of this generous scheme, sterner and more unpopular measures would have to be introduced, since my Government were unalterably determined to stamp out lawlessness in this area. The Ameer admitted that the problem of the frontier tribes was chiefly economic, and agreed that the Khassadar system recently introduced might well provide the final solution. He said that he would encourage propaganda in favour of a settlement on these terms. He told me that it was quite impossible, in view of the careful arrangements which he had made, for Bolshevik money or ammunition to reach the tribesmen except in the most trifling quantities.

I went on to complain of the outrageous anti-British articles published by the "Ittihad-i-Mashriki" in Jalalabad at the time of the Ameer's residence in the Eastern Province and I referred with surprise to a statement published in the issue of this paper of the 4th April that the editor had been rewarded by the Ameer with a pen for his good work. The Ameer said that this announcement, which had been brought to his notice, was a misrepresentation of the facts. What really happened was that the editor approached his table one day and asked if he might take a pen out of a packet which had recently arrived from India, and that he had granted him permission to do so. I said that this explanation was interesting, but the fact remained that the editor had been admitted to the Ameer's presence and had received a favour at his hands. The bestowal of such a favour and the announcement of it in the press could give the public no other impression than that the Afghan Government approved of the scurrilous articles and poems which had been recently published in the paper. These articles had given offence in England and India, and the impression had been gained that an anti-British virus had also been communicated to the tribal jirgas which had been invited to Jalalabad from British territory. The Ameer vehemently protested that neither he himself nor any of his Ministers in their talks with the tribes had even remotely suggested the encouragement of hostility towards Great Britain. On the contrary, the tribesmen had been exhorted to drop their feuds, cultivate a spirit of unity and abstain from raids and all forms of