

violence. I said that the anti-British campaign in the Jalalabad papers, coupled with the excitement produced by the gathering of the tribesmen, had engendered an atmosphere of unrest which was detrimental to harmonious relations between our two countries. The Ameer replied that the question of correcting the tone of the press had already been represented by me to his Foreign Minister, who would resume discussion of the subject with me on the earliest possible opportunity.

I then described the horror and indignation which had been aroused in India and England by the news of the Landi Kotal and Kohat tragedies. I said that I had received conclusive evidence that the Landi Kotal murders had been committed by two Sangu Khel Afghan subjects, who had since publicly boasted of their crime. As there was no Extradition Treaty between the two countries, I could not demand that the murderers should be handed over for trial by a British court, but it was the plain duty of a neighbouring and friendly State to arrest and punish the murderers in the promptest possible manner. Should there be any failure of justice in this respect—which I could hardly conceive possible—the British Government and public would draw their own conclusions, and I warned the Ameer in the most solemn terms that the treatment of this case would be regarded as the test of the goodwill of the Afghan Government and of their claim to be reckoned as a civilised State. The Ameer expressed his horror at the Kohat tragedy, and described the Landi Kotal murders as bestial ("haiwantob"). He wrote down the names of the murderers concerned in the latter case at my dictation, and gave me a most emphatic assurance that he would personally supervise the investigation of this senseless and abominable crime, and the result would be the test of his sincerity.

The Ameer then briefly discussed the negotiations of the trade delegates, about which a separate report is being submitted, and the question of a site for the new British Legation buildings.

Finally, I summed up the charges which I had made against the Afghan Government, and, placing before the Ameer a Persian copy of the Anglo-Afghan Treaty, I drew his attention to the wording of letter No. 1 attached to the treaty, and plainly warned him that the cumulative effect of recent events was to produce an impression on the mind of His Majesty's Government that the Government of Afghanistan was adopting an unfriendly, and even provocative, attitude towards Great Britain. In order to efface this unfortunate impression, I told him that it was essential that the Afghan Government should (1) immediately suppress all forms of anti-British intrigues on the Waziristan border and elsewhere in Afghanistan, the recall of Adam Khan to be the first earnest of their good faith; (2) make amends as early as possible for the Barshore, Spinchilla and Baluchistan outrages; (3) correct the tone of the Afghan press; (4) take drastic steps for the prompt arrest and punishment of the Landi Kotal murderers. The Ameer repeated his assurances that compliance would be made as early as possible with my demands, and concluded the interview by protesting that the progress and welfare of Afghanistan depended primarily on the friendship of the British Empire, and that the policy of himself and his Ministers would be directed in all sincerity towards the strengthening of that friendship. I reiterated that the time had come to translate such assurances into action, and withdrew.

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