

Anatomy of an Empire's Machine

**Deconstructing the British Colonial
Police Bureacracy**

(United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, December 1902)

CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

BY DR. MRIDUL SRIVASTAVA

ALPHABBTICAL INDEX
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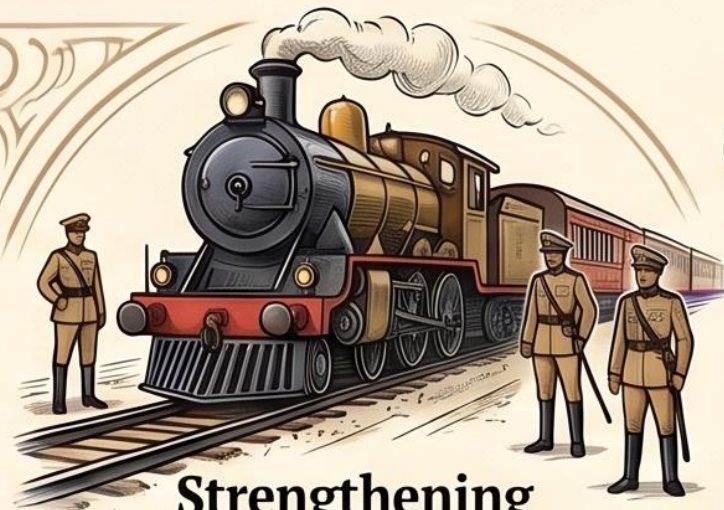
Colonial Policing: Proceedings of the U.P. Police (December 1902)

Infrastructure & Force Expansion



Rs. 28,000 for New Civil Quarters

Allocated for constructing new quarters for the civil branch of the Reserve Police at Mirzapur.



Strengthening Railway Security

Proposals submitted to increase the police establishment on the Indian Midland Railway to combat thefts.



Police Training School Exemptions

Multiple candidates granted educational or age limit exemptions for admission to professional training.

Law Enforcement & Administration



Counterfeit Currency Suppression

Reports of arrests in Allahabad for possession of counterfeit notes totaling Rs. 1,000.



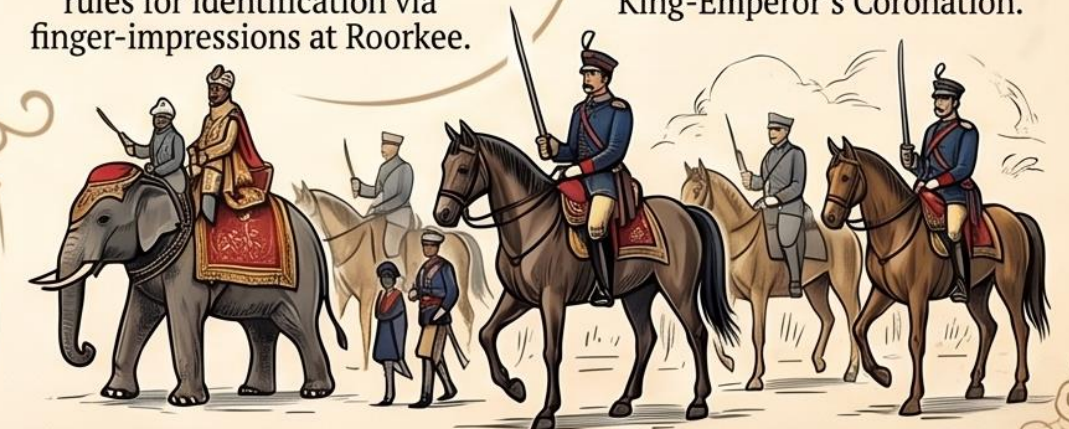
Adoption of Finger-Printing

Sanctioning the printing of revised rules for identification via finger-impresions at Roorkee.



The Coronation Durbar Impact

Special horse and travelling allowances granted for police deputed to Delhi for the King-Emperor's Coronation.



Major Construction Costs for Police Facilities (Late 1902)



Dehra Dun (Ranipokri)
3rd Class Police Station

10,931 Rs.



Jaunpur
Sub-Inspector Quarters

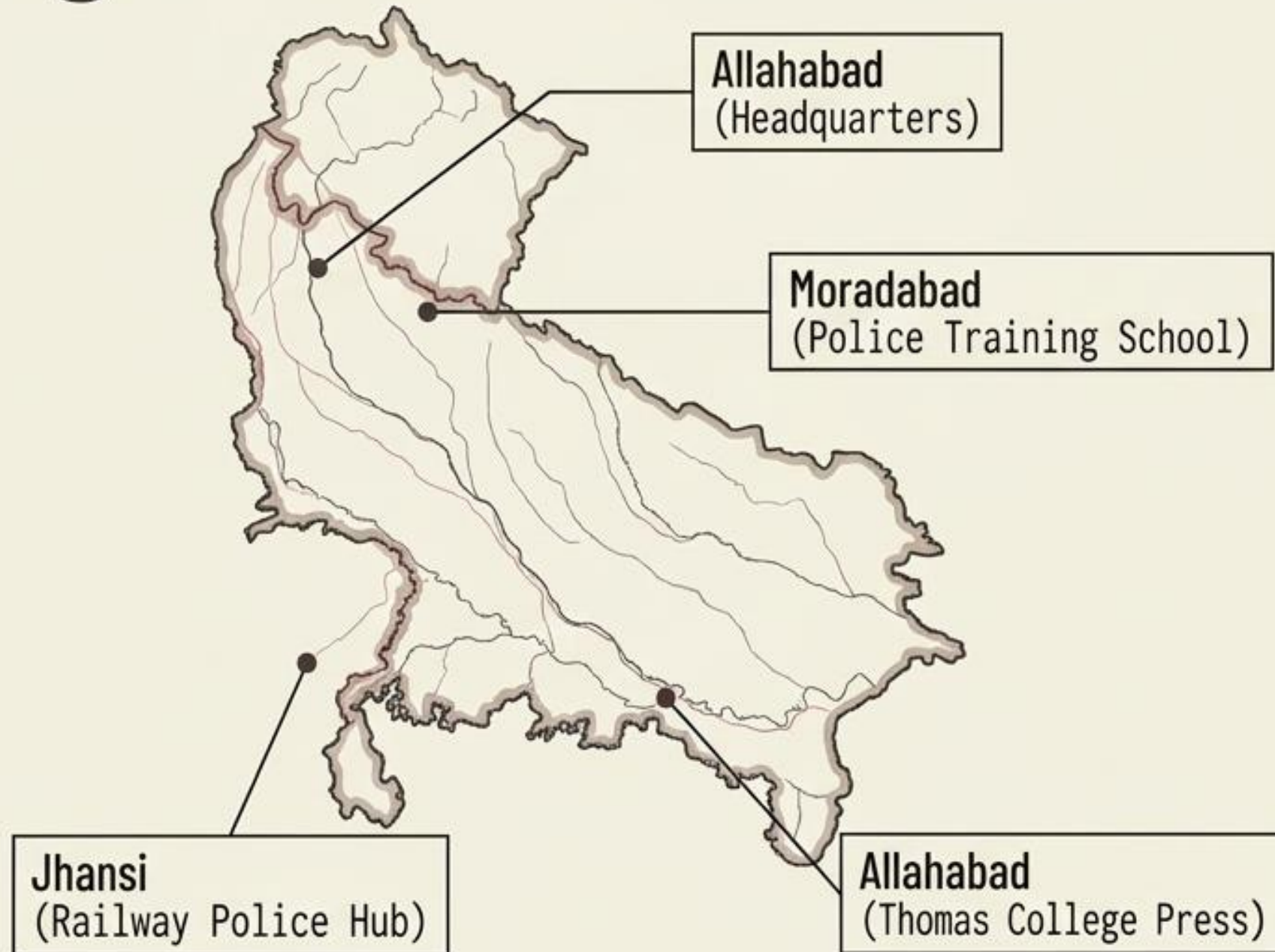
1,705 Rs.



Benares (Dassasumedh)
Four-seated Latrine

847 Rs.

The Jurisdiction of Agra and Oudh



The Source

Proceedings of the Government,
Police Department, Dec 1902.

The Nature of the Record

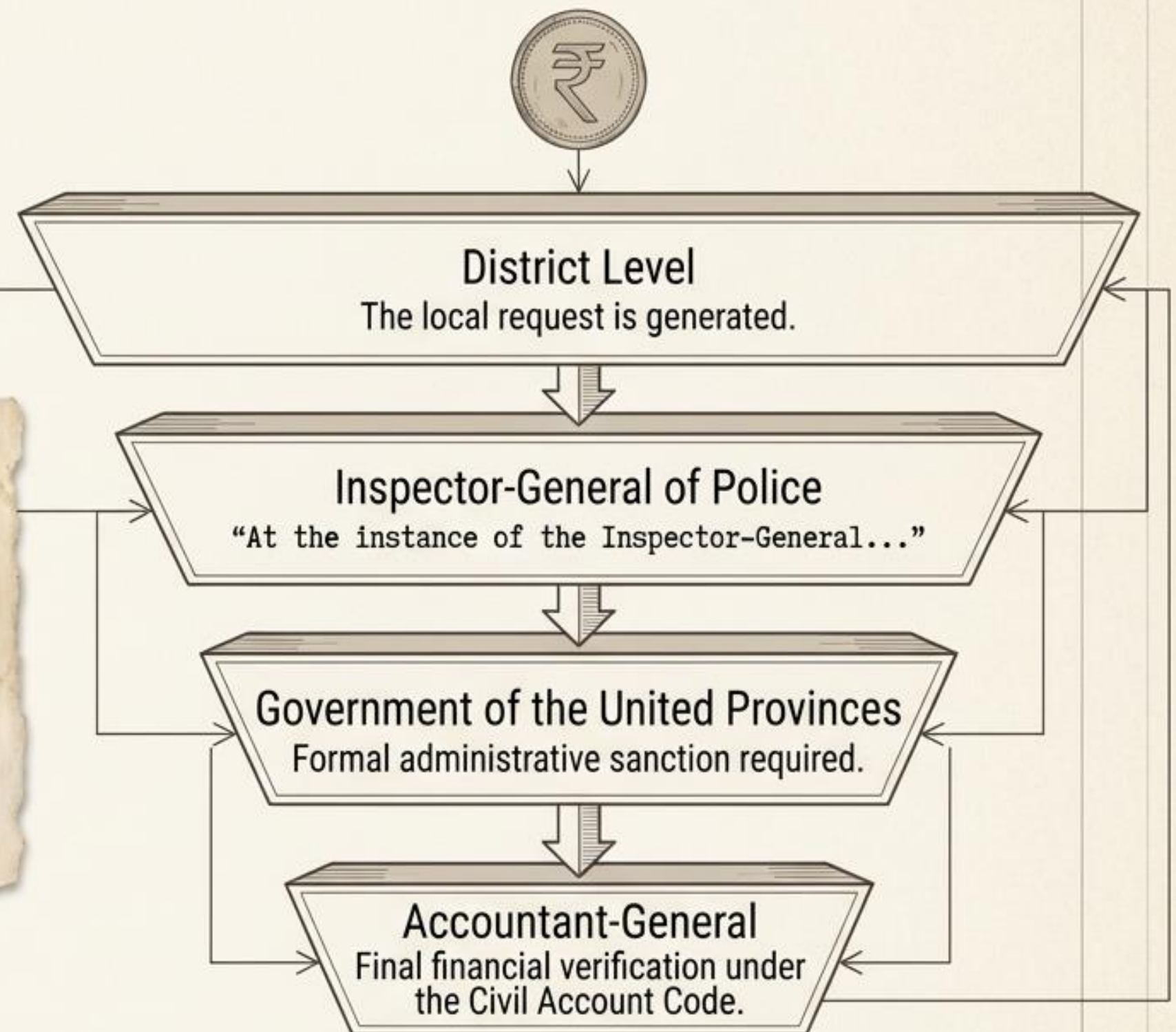
A pedantic, alphabetical ledger capturing every administrative heartbeat—from massive railway restructuring down to a six-rupee printing bill.

The Bureaucratic Approval Funnel

Project:
Constructing a
four-seated latrine
at Dassasumedh
police-station.

Estimated cost:
Rs. 847.

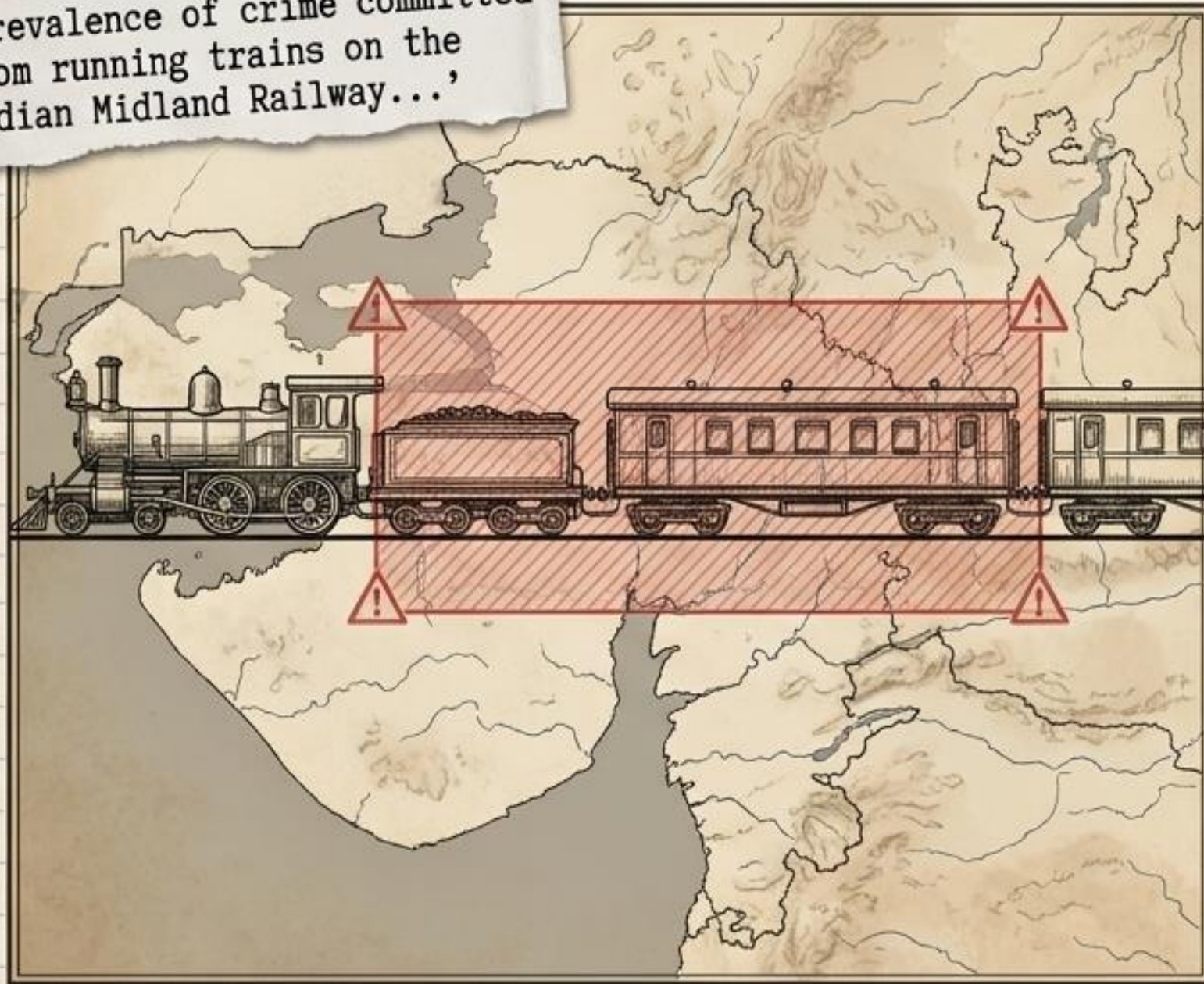
(3) For constructing a 4-seated latrine for
the Dassasumedh police-station in
the Benares district 847



Key Insight: Absolute centralization. Even trivial infrastructural adjustments required the intervention of the highest colonial offices.

Expanding the Arteries: The Railway Crisis

'Prevalence of crime committed from running trains on the Indian Midland Railway...'



The Strategic Response

■ Consolidation

Conversion of the Sangor outpost into a full police station.

■ Tactical Abolition

Shutting down minor outposts at Sonagir, Bhims, and Chabra.

■ Prosecution Power

Debating the urgent need for an exclusive 'Court Inspector' to handle absconded offenders and finger-print slips for railway cases traversing Native States.

'...the appointment of a Court Inspector on Rs. 150 per mensem to conduct the prosecution of cases occurring on the Indian Midland Railway Section...'

Date: 3/11/1912
Statens Rs.



The Price of Surveillance: G.R.P. Restructuring Matrix

Index

Present Scale (Old)		Proposed Scale (New)	
Inspectors	1	1	Rs. 175
Sub-Inspectors	2	2	Rs. 140
Head Constables	13 (Rs. 390)	14	Rs. 420
Constables	51 (Rs. 408)	66	Rs. 528
Total Monthly Impact	Rs. 16,062	Rs. 16,355	

SANCTIONED

Anatomy of a Constable's Career

1. Recruitment

Exemption from educational tests for admission to the Police Training School at Moradabad (e.g., Sultan Ali Khan).

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Ram Narain Tiwari. | 5. Shiva Shanker Verma. |
| 2. Mukat Bihari Lal. | 6. Balwant Singh. |
| 3. Mas-ud-din Ahmed. | 7. Ram Antar Singh. |
| 4. Sultan Ali Khan. | 8. Ikram Shah. |

2. Mobility

Sanctioning specific transit costs. E.g., Rs. 1-12-0 for 'ekka hire' to arrest murderers in Lucknow.

TRANSIT
APPROVED

3. Discipline

The constant threat of temporary reduction in grade (e.g., Inspector M.A.R. Hannah reduced to Sergeant, 2nd grade).

29 The Inspector-General of Police, having submitted 460H 2 & 3 for orders a petition from Mr. A. R. Hannah, late 3rd grade Inspector of Police, Cawnpore District, appealing against his temporary reduction to the rank of Sergeant, 1st grade, was requested to inform the petitioner that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor saw no sufficient reason to set aside the decision and order of the Inspector-General and therefore declined to interfere on his behalf.

4. Expulsion / Medical

Payment of travel expenses for two attendants escorting an 'insane constable' from Basti to the Medical Board in Agra.

50 At the instance of the Inspector-General of Police, 609H 1-3 the sanction of Government was accorded, under article 278A of the Civil Account Code, to the payment of actual journey expenses of two attendants who escorted Constable Lachman Singh of the Basti district, who had become insane, to Agra for examination by the Medical Board at that place.

MEDICAL BOARD

The Ledger of Discipline: Petitions and Refusals

The bureaucratic wall.

Subordinate ranks faced rigid, unforgiving administrative barriers where appeals to the Lieutenant-Governor were systematically dismissed to uphold hierarchical authority.

Ali Athur, Sub-Inspector
(Allahabad).

Appealing against his dismissal.

HIS HONOR DECLINED TO INTERFERE

No.	Name	Rank	Station
1607	Ali Athur, Sub-Inspector (Allahabad).	14	47
<i>Appealing against his dismissal. Government was unable to consider an appeal against an order passed more than five years ago.</i>			

Fazal Husain, Sub-Inspector
(Jaunpur).

Complaining he was not supplied with copies of orders relating to his dismissal.

HIS HONOR DECLINED TO INTERFERE

No.	Name	Rank	Station
815	Fazal Husain, Sub-Inspector (Jaunpur).	14	22345
<i>Complaining he was not supplied with copies of orders relating to his dismissal.</i>			

Ashraf Ali, Head Constable
(Budaun).

Appeal rejected because "Government was unable to consider an appeal against an order passed more than five years ago."

HIS HONOR DECLINED TO INTERFERE

No.	Name	Rank	Station
2007	Ashraf Ali, Head Constable (Budaun).		
<i>Appeal rejected because "Government was unable to consider an appeal against an order passed more than five years ago."</i>			
Decision.			

December 1902: Regional Incident Dashboard

Financial Fraud

The 1000-Rupee Note

Tendering of a forged currency note to the massive value of Rs. 1,000 in Mau Ranipur, Jhansi.



Article of crime.	Place and date of commission.	Approximate value of loss.	Result of previous steps for the case.
(1) Dabarti.	Chaoli, Etawah district, 11/12/02, for Rs. 1000.	Rs. 1000	No clue to the perpetrator as yet.
(2) The.	Matheran, District of Maharashtra, 15th April 1906.	Rs. 1000	Case closed as no clue to the perpetrator.

Internal Corruption

The Absconding Clerk

Embezzlement by Sham Lal, Head Clerk of Nanpara Municipality (Bahraich district), who absconded with Rs. 300.



Organised Theft

Dacoity in Agra

A Rs. 2,500 theft in Chaoli, Agra district. The official grim notation: 'No clue to the perpetrators could be obtained.'



Article of crime.	Place and date of commission.	Approximate value of loss.	Result of previous steps for the case.
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Border Mobility

The Cattle-Lifters

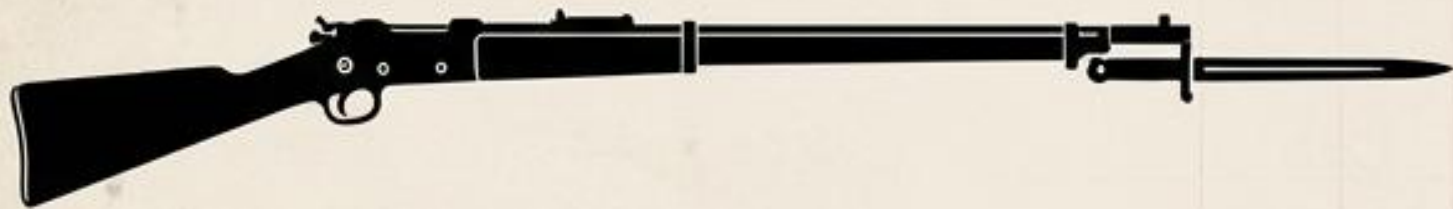
Deputing constables from Saharanpur and Muttra to cattle fairs in the Punjab (Sirsa, Hissar) strictly to identify inter-provincial cattle thieves.



36 Deputing constables from Saharanpur and Muttra to cattle fairs in the Punjab (Sirsa, Hissar) strictly to identify inter-provincial cattle thieves.

Modernising the Machine: The Forensic Transition

Hardware Shift



Retirement of the old smooth-bore 'Sniders'.

Trials of the newly converted 'Martini-Henry' rifles issued by the Ordnance Department.

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A copy of a letter received from the Government of India, Home Department, requesting that orders might be issued directing the officers to whom the 20 new converted Martini-Henry rifles had been issued by the Ordnance Department for experimental purposes, to report direct to the Director-General of Ordnance, after a month's trial, how the new arms compared with the present breech-loading smooth-bore Sniders.

Data Shift



- The official mandate to translate Mr. Henry's Hand-book on Finger-prints into Urdu.
- Led by Muhammad Basit Ali Khan and Pandit Ambika Sahai.

The Government of India, Home Department
ing, reference to preimous ropaniment, return-
ed with remarks and orders the copy of the Urdu
translation by Pandit Ambika Sahai of Mr.
Henry's Hand-book on Finger-prints

- Printing of revised identification rules at the Thomason College Press, Roorkee.

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... sanction was accorded to the printing of the revised rules for the identification of criminals by means of finger-impressions being carried out at the Thomason College Press, Roorkee.

Mobilising for Empire: The Coronation Durbar

1. Labour

Sanctioned employment of dhobies, cooks, and kahars for the Police deputed to Delhi.

...sanction was accorded to the proposed employment of dhobies, cooks and kahars for the Police deputed to Delhi for the Coronation Durbar.

DELHI

2. Cavalry

Horse allowance (Rs. 15 per mensem) strictly for Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors actually taking horses with them to the camp.

At the instance of the Inspector-General of Police, the sanction of the Government of India, a horse allowance of Rs. 15 per mensem to each of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police in these Provinces the order of the District Magistrate should be altered to one of reduction of a grade for a period of six months.

3. Jurisdiction

Legal maneuvering—ensuring police deputed to Delhi from the United Provinces could legally exercise their powers under the Police Act without requiring a special notification.

8. The Inspector-General of Police submitted for orders, no policemen deputed to the Coronation Durbar from Provinces other than the Punjab, could exercise any of the powers or functions of a Police Officer. In reply, the Inspector-General was informed that the Police of these Provinces deputed to Delhi could exercise their powers as Police Officers there under section 3 of the Act.

The Inspector-General of Police submitted for orders a Superintendent of Police, officer in charge of the Provincial Court at Delhi, representing that until a notification was issued by the Government of India, erecting a General Police District of two No. III Beers under section 3 of the Act, being considered for the time being part of the Punjab Police Force; and that no notification, such as Mr. Bramley suggested, was required.

Takeaway: The police infrastructure was highly elastic, capable of rapidly pivoting from rural crime-fighting to servicing a massive imperial spectacle.

Penetrating the Periphery: The Chaukidar System

The Funding Mechanism

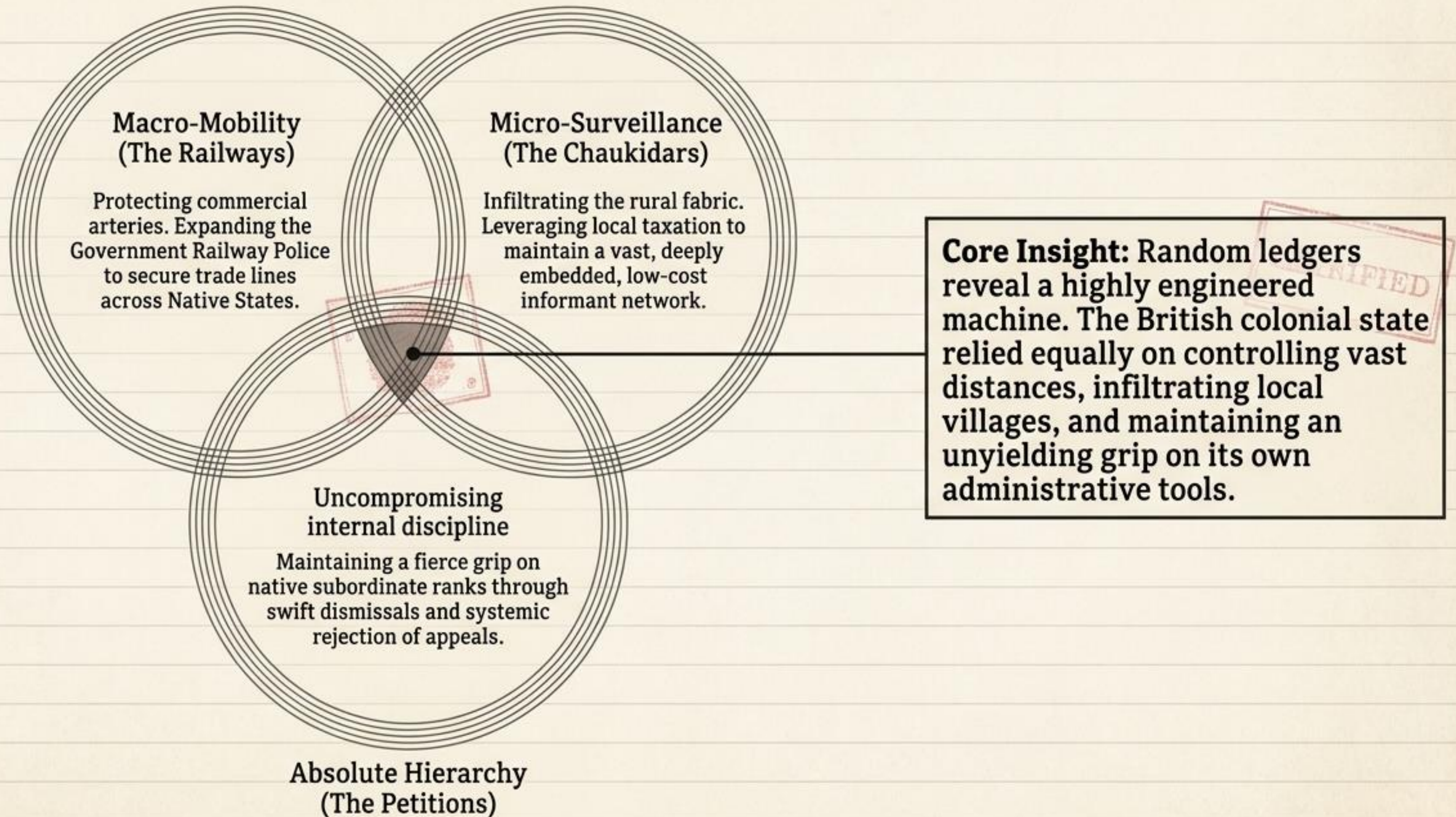
The Oudh Local Rates Act (Act V of 1894)—levying a cess directly on land revenue to fund village watchers.

The Ledger Data:

Location:	Partabgarh district, Garapur estate.
Amount of land revenue:	Rs. 425.
Cess imposed:	Rs. 25-8-0.
The Output:	Funding exactly 1 Chaukidar on a pay of Rs. 3 per month.

At 3 rupees a month, the colonial state achieved near-total penetration of rural society through indigenous informants.

Synthesis: The Triad of Control (1902)



The Master Ledger Closes

Behind the dry calculus of *ekka* hire, three-rupee wages, and four-seated latrines lies the true anatomy of an empire. Power was not just maintained through it was sustained through the relentless, pedantic, and uncompromising machinery of the administrative ledger.

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