

RECORDED: SEPT 1902

THE PRICE OF ORDER

INSIDE THE COLONIAL POLICE LEDGER
OF THE UNITED PROVINCES, 1902

A diagnostic breakdown of bureaucracy, hierarchy, and punitive deterrence in the British Raj.

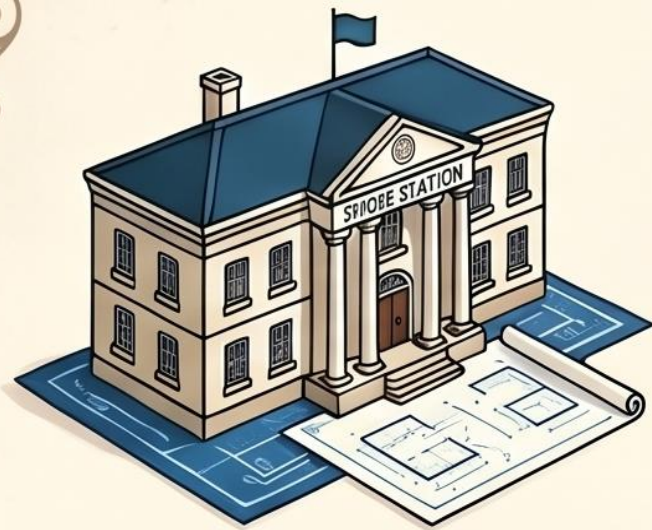
CRIMINOLOGICAL INSIGHTS

BY

DR. MRIDUL SRIVASTAVA

Police Proceedings: A Snapshot of Colonial Administration (September 1902)

A detailed view of police governance in the United Provinces of Agra & Oudh, covering infrastructure, equipment, and high-profile cases during a single month.



14

Major Construction Projects Approved

Resource Allocation and Infrastructure



Barracks, magazines, and wells across districts (Admin sanction granted)



2nd Class Police Station, Srinagar (Est. Cost: Rs. 5,000)



Two barracks for 20 constables, Basti (Est. Cost: Rs. 3,464)



Deepening well, Reserve Police Lines, Banda (Est. Cost: Rs. 1,005)

Modernisation via 90 New Bicycles



Cushion-tyred bicycles sanctioned for orderlies at Rs. 150 each.

Reorganising the Police Training School



New rules exempted students from certain agreements, streamlining recruitment of investigating staff.

Crime, Punishment, and Personnel

High-Stakes Judicial Outcomes



Life Transportation

Serious crimes (e.g., Dakaiti)



Death Sentences

Serious crimes (e.g., Murder)

Suppression of Counterfeiting Rings



Arrests made in Jhansi for manufacturing counterfeit copper coins using illegal implements.

High Volume of Personnel Petitions



Numerous dismissed officers appealed for reinstatement, most petitions were rejected by the Lieutenant-Governor.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX
TO
PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT, U. P. OF AGRA & OUDH,
IN THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT,
FOR THE
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1902.

Subject.	File No.	Part.	Serial No. of L.	Page of L.
ARRESTED OTTOMERS. Register of — Amendments in the Police Manual in connection with the maintenance of the —.	100H	B	44	
ADDITIONAL POLICE. Thee Beadko in the Proposta ha granting — on the village of Sandel Dand.	430R	B	21	
AGREEMENT. Comidore nānāsoel leto Exemption of — from feringing an —. Ica Polica Toerhing Sebeul.	905F	A	—	1-2
ALIGWAVER ILDOAL. Hospital Anāsoen el Secular parson of the — of Rp. 15 per cent of the — from 1902 to 1904. Hospital at Hatal Tol.	900E	B	14	
ALLOWANCES. Securgas of the Heredobol Fafier Hapiliet. Fergent Anas of 1902 — to 1904 — by law of 1902. Hān lān in 2a De parson of the Police Training Balaen, nagered.	100R	B	11	
APPLICATION. Fafier No. E. S. Sargasin, Government Railway Police, Reiget. Freyng for an appointment in Hān Previc-etc.	571H	B	6	
" Shana Chana. Shokol, Hān Detā, alen of Hān Detā Dependent of Police, Bolendakale. For a transfer to some other district.	412R	B	81	
ARMS. Police and 1st. guards in Hān Fendān. Regular to the Government of India whether use have very possessed from any pōtān from the —.	300U	B	60	
" Polon malhana at Shiepac. Section paper of res ongs a month as abouting therps of — to the —.	400E	B	40	
BICYCLES. Shypha ndation in the Fānd Previcson. Section to the poston to India of 80 nōdān. lyaed — for the use of —.	340F	B	23	
BUILDING. Kendaria palico etatica to the Shakhānān District. Project for procting gardons for the Sek-Inspector and Hān Malerit in the —.	450E	B	110	
" Magories for the Reserve Fān Lān at Hānirpar. Project for constructing a caperite —.	411E	B	70	
" Office for the District Superintendant of Police, Meerut. Proposed construction of a new —.				

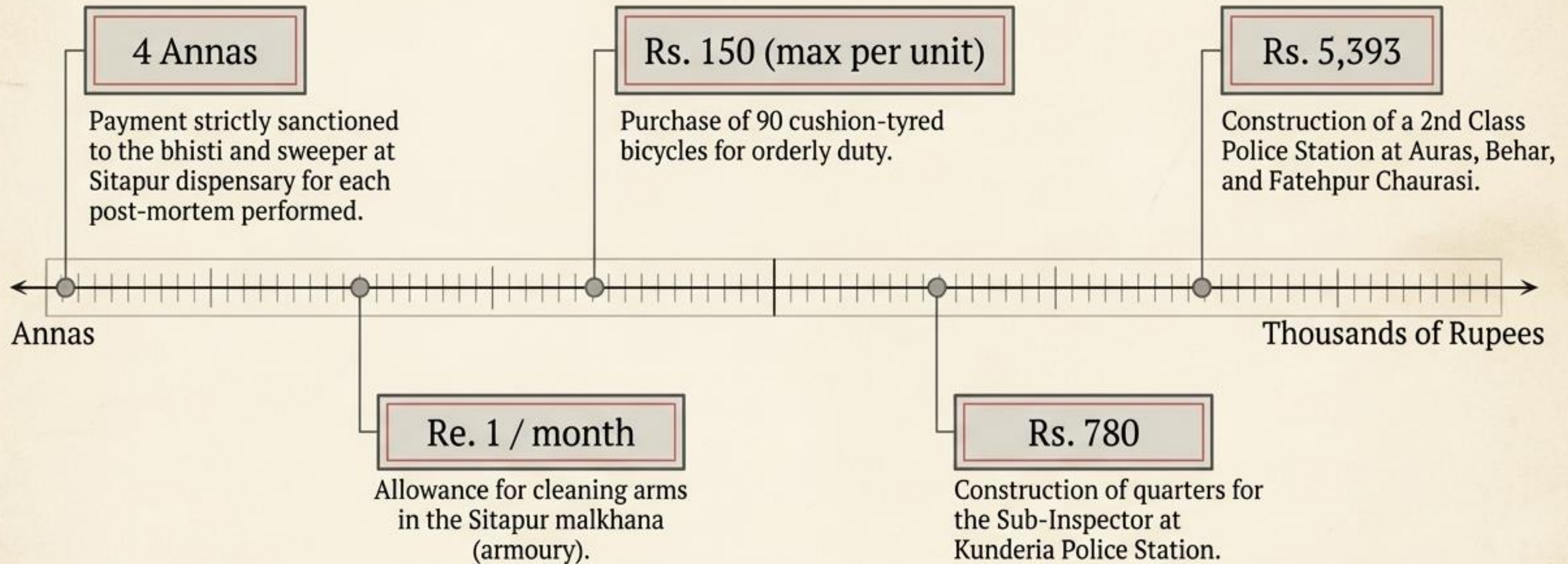
The Primary Source:
Proceedings of the Government,
U.P. of Agza & Oudh,
Police Department.

A Snapshot of Empire

Date:	September 1902.
Location:	United Provinces of Agra & Oudh (Northern India).
The Artifact:	An alphabetical index of administrative approvals, petitions, and criminal summaries.

This is not a narrative history; it is a mechanical readout of an empire. It flattens profound human events—murder, riots, and pleas for mercy—into the exact same bureaucratic format as the purchase of bicycles and the construction of wells.

The Scales of Colonial Expenditure



Absolute financial centralisation. Even an expenditure of **four annas** required doquired documentation and administrative sign-off at the highest levels of the provincial government.

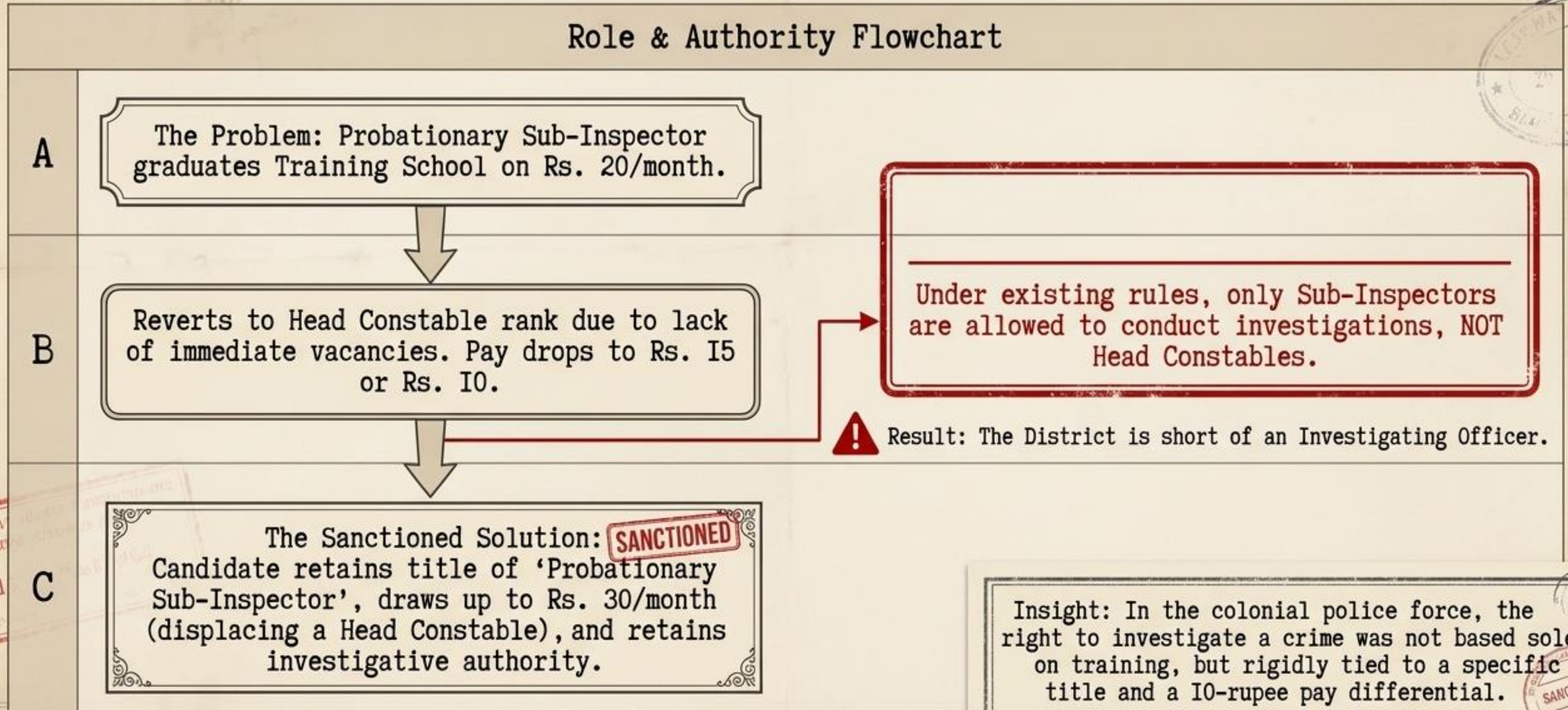
Blueprint of Authority: Public Works, Sept 1902

Category	Location	Estimated Cost	Purpose
Strategic Infrastructure	1st Class Police Station, Jaswantnagar, Etawah District	Rs. 5,108	Expanding primary administrative footprint.
Troop Housing	Two Barracks (for 30 Constables), Police Lines, Basti	Rs. 3,464	Centralising manpower reserves.
Secure Storage	Separate Magazine / Store-room, Hamirpur & Mainpuri	Rs. 1,136 / Rs. 1,340	Securing arms, ammunition, and evidence.
Vital Sustenance	Deepening the Well, Reserve Police Lines, Banda	Rs. 1,005	Ensuring independent water supply for the garrison.

The Mathematics of Rank: Sub-Inspectors vs. Head Constables

In 1902, the Inspector-General of Police had to resolve a paradox: men passing out of the Police Training School were losing their authority to investigate crime due to strict pay-grade rules.

Role & Authority Flowchart



The Disciplinary Ledger: Petitions to the Crown

Dismissed officers regularly submitted memorials to the Lieutenant-Governor. Mercy was rarely granted.

Appeals & Outcomes Status Board

Status Panel 1: Rejected (The Norm)

- 1: Ashrat Khan (Sub-Inspector, Muttra): Appealed dismissal.
Result: Lt.-Gov declined to interfere.
- 2: Kewal Ram (Sub-Inspector, Meerut): Sentenced to 1-year rigorous imprisonment for falsifying his diary. IG recommended re-employment as a clerk.
Result: Recommendation rejected; sanction refused.
- 3: Anwar Ali Khan: Petitioned that a Rs. 100 reward for arresting a proclaimed offender was insufficient.
Result: Rejected; told he was led to expect a higher reward.

Status Panel 2: The Rare Exception

- 1: Abdul Latif (Sub-Inspector, Shahjahanpur): Dismissed for dishonest motives and attempting to screen three men charged with assault.
Result: Dismissal set aside. Allowed to retire from service with his pension.

SET ASIDE

Takeaway: The system protected its hierarchy above all; reversing local disciplinary decisions was extremely rare, maintaining strict subordinate obedience.



Colonial Justice: The Crime & Punishment Matrix

From the Inspector-General's report on cases tried in July/August 1902.

Nature of Crime	District	Stolen Value	Sentence
Cheating	Barkhera (Hoshangabad)	Rs. 4, 6 annas	Branch Post Master sentenced to 15 months' rigorous imprisonment.
Theft	Narah (Manjhanpur)	Rs. 103, 2 annas	Accused sentenced to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment.
Murder	Mainpuri	N/A	Constable Sujjan Singh sentenced to death.
Dakaiti (Gang Robbery)	Bhadraoli (Agra)	Rs. 72	11 arrested: 9 sentenced to transportation for life, 2 acquitted.

'Rigorous Imprisonment' & 'Transportation'.
The data reveals a highly punitive system. A mere Rs. 4 fraud yielded 15 months of hard labour, while gang robbery resulted in exile to penal colonies (the Andaman Islands).

Breaking the Gang: The Urwamau Dakaiti

Anatomy of a Dakaiti Investigation

Step 1: The Event (May 1902)


Armed robbery in
the Sandila Circle,
Hardoi district.

Approximate loss:
Rs. 1,276.

Step 2: The Arrests

Seven individuals
arrested by local
authorities.

Step 3: 'King's Evidence'



One of the accused
is turned into an
'approver'
(informant),
offering King's
Evidence against
the others in
exchange for
leniency.

Step 4: The Sentence

The remaining six
undergo trial.

Punishment: 7 years'
rigorous
imprisonment
(including 3 months'
solitary confinement)
+ Rs. 300 fine (or an
additional 18 months).

Takeaway: Turning gang members against each other via 'approvers' was a standard, highly effective mechanism of colonial criminal disruption.

Crimes of Modernity: The Railway and the Mint



The Mursan Collision

Event: Collision of trains at Mursan station, Cawnpore-Achnera Railway (May 1902).

Consequence: Investigated by police, punished departmentally. The Station Master was reduced to the rank of a signaller; the pointsman was dismissed entirely.



Counterfeiting

Event: Arrest of Lila Kori and his wife in Jhansi for manufacturing counterfeit copper coins.

Consequence: Lila Kori sentenced to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment (including solitary).

Systemic Rule: The Inspector-General issued a mandate that a specimen of all counterfeit coins must be forwarded to the Government Treasury/Mint.

The police force was not just managing traditional village crime; it was tasked with protecting the vital technological and economic arteries of the British Raj.

The Architecture of Control

The Trifecta of Colonial Policing

Procedural Absolutism

Total centralisation of operational power. Buying a bicycle, replacing a roof, or paying a water carrier 4 annas required recorded sanction from the highest provincial offices.

Unforgiving Hierarchy

A rigid, deeply stratified chain of command. Petitions for mercy or reward adjustments were routinely crushed to maintain unquestioned subordinate discipline, down to the exact Rupee of pay.

Punitive Deterrence

A justice system built on extreme physical deterrence. Minor financial crimes met with hard labour; collective crimes met with lifetime exile (transportation) or the death penalty.

The 1902 police force was not fundamentally an investigative body; it was a paramilitary administrative machine designed to project the absolute authority of the Crown across the United Provinces.

The Ledger as a Mirror

The Alphabetical Index of September 1902 is more than a dry accounting of administrative trivia. In its meticulous alphabetical sorting—placing ‘Arms’ next to ‘Bicycles’, and ‘Murder’ next to ‘Pay’—it reveals the true mindset of the British Raj.

Order was achieved through relentless documentation.

Behind every line of neat, bureaucratic handwriting lay the profound weight of empire.

