

Excavations in the Annexe

By W. J. HEMP, F.S.A.

CAPTAIN HIGSON and the present writer took up their residence at Dolgam in January, 1920. Mr. Hall and Major Priddle paid frequent visits, as also did Mr. Willoughby Gardner, who freely gave the benefit of his experience. Professor Bosanquet was twice able to visit the site and encourage the excavators. Three labourers were employed, and the excavations were continued for six weeks, subject, however, to continual interruption by bad weather.

Work was begun on what appeared to be a group of buildings ranged round three sides of a square, the open side being to the north towards the river. A wire ropeway was fixed across the river opposite to Dolgam to give easy access to the site.

WESTERN RANGE

The plan of the western range of buildings appeared to be a simple one (see ground plan, plate VIII). It consisted of a parallelogram measuring 124ft. by 24ft. 6in., with apparent traces of several partition walls; the outside dimensions were easily ascertained by trial excavations; the striking feature being that the walls were for the most part standing to a considerable height (as much as 4ft. in places). The exception was at the north end, where only the foundations remained; the last 10ft. or so of the walls having been cleared away and the site ploughed over. Here, at a distance of 7ft. to the west of the main western wall the foundations of a slighter one, 2ft. wide, were found, which very possibly ran parallel to the main wall for the whole of its length, as traces of the white clay elsewhere found in the walls were discovered in a trial pit 16ft. from the south end and at several intervening points. This evidence was, however, lacking in some of the other trial pits sunk along the same line.

This outer wall projected for at least 3ft. beyond the north end of the range, but ended in a broken face, the remainder, no doubt, having been ploughed up; and no trace of any return wall to the east could be found.

Work on the main western range was confined to determining the outside measurements by trial excavations, uncovering the foundations at the north end, and exposing about 60ft. of the east side of the east wall to its full height of 4ft., in order to ascertain whether there was any evidence of buildings returning to the east. None was found, but at 36ft. from the north-east