

APPENDIX I

Page 116 "Papers Relating to Tibet, 1904."

*Despatch from Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Lansdowne,
dated St. Petersburg, July 4, 1901. (Received
July 8.)*

(Extract)

With reference to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, in translation, further extracts from the Russian press referring to the arrival in Russia of a so-called Tibetan Mission. Count Lamsdorff, in the course of conversation with me yesterday, characterised as ridiculous and utterly unfounded the conclusion drawn in certain organs of the Russian press that these Tibetan visitors were charged with any diplomatic or political mission. Count Lamsdorff said, that the Lama Akban was a Mongolian Buriat of Russian origin, who came occasionally to Russia with the object, he believed, of making money collections for his Order from the numerous Buddhists in the Empire. He said that on the occasion of Akban's last visit in autumn to Yalta, the Emperor had received him, and he himself had had an opportunity of learning some interesting details from him of life in Tibet. The Russian Geographical Society took an interest in his visit, which had no official character whatever, although he was accompanied on this visit by other Tibetans. Count Lamsdorff said that Dr. Badmeyeff, who takes a special interest in Tibet and Lama Akban's visit, was an eccentric character, but it was difficult to understand how the Russian press, in view of the international position of Tibet as a dependency of China, could have attributed an official or diplomatic character to the Lama's visit to Russia.