

HANDBOOK
OF
BRITISH NORTH BORNEO

COMPILED FROM
REPORTS OF THE GOVERNOR AND OFFICERS OF THE
RESIDENTIAL STAFF IN BORNEO,
AND
OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION OF AN AUTHENTIC NATURE.

WITH AN
APPENDIX OF DOCUMENTS, TRADE RETURNS, &c.,
SHOWING THE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
COMPANY'S TERRITORY TO THE LATEST DATE.

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The sources from which the revenue is drawn consist chiefly of the licences for purchasing and retailing opium for smoking, for the sale of spirits, and other excisable articles, all of which are farmed out to private individuals; 10 per cent. royalty on jungle produce exported; a poll tax, an old-established source of revenue among the natives, in lieu of land taxes, and a stamp duty. The land revenue comprises the proceeds of sales of public lands, quit rents, and fees on transfers. There are, in addition, judicial fees and post-office stamps; these, and a few miscellaneous items, make up the remaining sources of revenue.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.
1883 TO 1888.

	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1888 (estimated).
Revenue (proper)	\$ 51,654	\$ 82,448	\$ 110,452	\$ 127,731	\$ 142,687	\$ 148,287	\$ 221,365
Land Sales . . .	25,449	15,458	2,863	12,035	14,595	246,457	200,000
Total . . .	77,103	97,906	113,315	139,766	157,192	394,744	421,365
Expenditure . . .	391,547	242,450	241,398	223,562	209,853	252,165	364,760

a. 18 months, 1st July, 1882, to 31st December, 1883.

SPORT, NATURAL HISTORY, ETC.*

The difficulty of obtaining good big game shooting anywhere over the whole world is always increasing. The shooting ground is always receding; bison in America may be regarded as finished; the difficulty and expense of obtaining a good bag in India is yearly growing greater; while Africa has almost ceased to be a large game-shooting country at all, except to a select few; so that the finding of an extensive district in North Borneo well stocked with big game is quite a boon to the sportsman.

The large animals found are elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, deer, pig, bear, and orangutan. The older visitors and encyclopedists always spoke of the elephant as an inhabitant of the north-east of Borneo, but so few travellers visited that part, that this fact was gradually lost sight of, and so recently as

* See 'The Field,' 3rd August, 1889.

eight years ago the existence in Borneo of the elephant at all was denied; there is no doubt, however, but that it and the rhinoceros are both indigenous to the island.

No elephant has yet been bagged by a European. Frank Hatton had shot at and wounded one on the occasion when he met with his fatal accident, and one or two others have been shot at from time to time. Europeans, when they go into the forest, are usually on business—exploring, path-cutting, surveying, and the like—and the noise made by the number of coolies and carriers that accompany them frightens all game away; traces, however, are very common, and it is difficult to penetrate into the forest anywhere without seeing the huge round footprints of elephants and the smaller track of the rhinoceros with its three distinct toemarks. The natives occasionally shoot elephants, and one or two of their tusks are generally on sale in the Bazaar. They usually fetch a rather higher price, and are sent over to Sooloo to be converted into creese handles. The proportion of tuskers may be taken to be about one in four; of four elephants that some Boolloodopies shot at Terruttum (in Dewhurst Bay), one only was a tusker; out of a herd of five that were met on the Batang Ypel path two were tuskers.

They frequently move about in large herds. In some places the country for over a mile has been found everywhere covered with their footprints, denoting the presence of a herd that may be estimated at a hundred at least. *Rencontres* with them in the forest are not unfrequent, and generally give rise to some ludicrous incident, the fright usually being mutual. Mr. Pryer, the Resident of the East Coast, relates that on one occasion a tusker ran in amongst a whole line of birds'-nest collectors carrying rattan ladders, provisions, &c., to the Madai Caves; there was a wild casting away of all their baggage, while the elephant, no less alarmed, rushed off at full speed, upsetting some of them. He was within a couple of hundred yards, but only appeared on the scene in time to find all his followers up in the trees like a flock of large monkeys. On another occasion, camping out in the forest, in a little lean-to, with his men all close by, he was awakened by an elephant grumbling away to himself within a few feet of his head, having almost overrun him in the dark and evidently cogitating as to what the strange smell was which had

brought him up. The after occurrences were somewhat singular. Mr. Pryer roused the men and fired rifles, with the result that while the elephant remained quite silent, a peculiar noise from a tree close by announced the presence of an orangutan there, which the men thought must have been mistaken for an elephant; but immediately afterwards a large forest tree fell down with a tremendous crash, which was too much for the elephant; off he went, trumpeting loudly, evidently with a wholesome fear of people who could throw large forest trees about. What caused the tree to fall down was not known, but it may have been that, already rotten, the movements of the orangutan in it when the firing took place may have had something to do with its fall. The fresh tracks of nearly twenty elephants were found close by.

A plantation of *Musa textilis* (the Manila hemp banana) on the Sebooga River, not ten miles from Sandakan, temporarily abandoned, was completely eaten out by elephants, and their tracks are sometimes seen even closer to the town than this; should a proper shooting-party be organised, a fortnight's journey in the forest would certainly enable them to bag several elephants.

Near Port Elphinstone, elephants are quite a nuisance, frequently destroying the native's tapioca plantations. The district in which they range seems to be for some reason sharply defined, as although abundant there, a few miles further south they are quite unknown; the same thing also occurs to the northward, for though abundant near the mouth of the Labuk, they are unheard of in its interior.

The rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros Sumatranus*) is to be found over much the same ground as the elephant, and is rather more often seen than it; for although there are not so many of them, it does not seem to be so timorous and ready to take alarm, and they are not unfrequently shot by the natives. They come closer to the towns than elephants do, and have more than once strayed inside the suburban line of Sandakan itself; on one occasion one went into a garden in the outskirts of the town and ate some melons; on another, one managed to get into a chicken-house on the Beatrice estate, and when a man went with a light to see what it was, it rushed through the other side, carrying away part of the fencing with it; on still another occasion, one

came in from the forest and trotted past Mr. Pryer's house into town in the middle of the night, but not liking the lights, came back again and went down a gully at the back of the house, and not 70 yards off, where it made a great noise, while he and his wife stood in the verandah with a rifle, thinking that it might charge at the house, or something.

Next in importance to elephants and rhinoceroses, buffaloes take rank. It is still uncertain how many species there are; the one commonest on the east coast, and known by the natives as Lissang or Seladong, is, most probably, *Bos Banting*. It is said that its place is taken on the west coast by *Bos Gaurus*, there called the Tambadau, but Mr. Pryer has never seen any horns that could be identified as those of *B. Gaurus*, while the people of the west coast freely apply the same name, tambadau, to what the people of the east coast call the lissang. Some of the horns shown differ so much from the others, that they seem to indicate that there are two species, but the exact localities from which the different horns were obtained are not given. It is also averred that there is a species of wild cattle found at the mouth of the Kina Batangan river; this is likely, but there is not sufficient evidence to say that it is certain.

Wherever over the whole country clearings have been deserted and become overgrown with grass, tracks of buffaloes are very abundant. At Segaliud hundreds of tracks have been seen in a four-acre space, and in many other places where there is open ground their tracks quite puddle up the soil. On one occasion, stalking a large herd on the Kina Batangan beach, Mr. Pryer was noticed by them, and the old bull, a grand animal, trotted forward, jumped on a hillock, and stood sideways, looking and lashing his tail, while the rest ran behind him into the forest. Mr. Pryer was over long in admiring him, but was just adjusting the sights upon him when he jumped off the mound and disappeared.

Of deer three kinds are known—the sambur (*Kusa Aristotelis*), the kejang (or roe), and the mouse deer, or chevrotain. These are all three fairly and evenly distributed over the country and in no inconsiderable numbers. As to the sambur, on the sea beach at sundown, always a good time and place for game, six have been counted within twenty minutes when rowing by; and once at Timbu Mata seven were bagged in three hours. The