

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

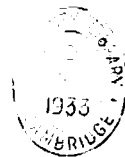
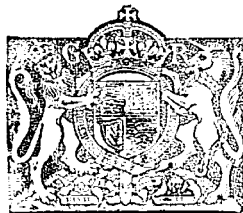
GAME DEPARTMENT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1932.

Signed p 11 R. J. D. SALMON. Entered March 1933

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1933.

THE GAME DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1932.

PART I.

Expenditure and Revenue.

1. Figures for 1932 are as follows:—

	£	shs.	cts.
Expenditure	4,880	17	73
Revenue	16,496	8	42
Balance of revenue over expenditure	£12,115	10	69

The revenue was derived as follows:—

	£	shs.	cts.
(a) Sale of ivory, rhinoceros horns and hippopotamus teeth	12,672	7	90
(b) Sale of buffalo hides and other trophies	11	4	52
(c) Game licences	3,812	16	00

2. Although ivory prices have continued to decline, a 50 per cent. reduction in the cost of second elephant licences has reacted very well on the sale of game licences, all varieties of which have sold quite freely, and the resulting revenue shows a most satisfactory increase over that of the previous year.

3. Game and special licences were issued:—

	1931.	1932.
Resident's (Full)	199	195
Visitor's (Full)	4	7
Resident's (Fourteen-day)	13	12
Visitor's (Fourteen-day)	6	14
Resident's or Visitor's 1st elephant	69	95
Resident's or Visitor's 2nd elephant	17	43
Resident's or Visitor's two elephants	5	11
Native's 1st elephant	17	28
Native's 2nd elephant	3	7
Bird	500	512

4. Uganda Government ivory was all sent to Mombasa for sale, and during the year two auctions were held at which the total weights sold and average net prices realised were as follows:—

	lbs.	Gross price realised.			Approximate average net price per pound.	
		£	shs.	cts.	Shs.	cts.
May:—						
Ivory	14,317½	6,326	4	02	8	88
Rhinoceros horns	94½	64	8	22	18	70
Hippopotamus teeth	66½	8	3	76	2	48
November:—						
Ivory	22,689½	7,891	16	24	6	97
Rhinoceros horns	10	4	10	13	9	01
Hippopotamus teeth	346½	23	17	82	1	38

5. Ivory:—

	lbs.	lbs.
Balance on 31st December, 1931	9,341½	
Received at Mombasa during 1932	41,203½	
		50,544½
Sold during 1932	36,956¾	
Shrinkage	18	
		36,974¾

Balance on 31st December, 1932 13,570

37. The skeleton and skin of an adult crocodile measuring 63 inches, from the Moroto River, was sent to the British Museum, but more material is required before it can be determined whether these very vivacious reptiles are true pigmies or merely under-nourished members of the ordinary crocodile family.

Monkeys.

38. Thanks to Mr. Temple Perkins, who collected a specimen in the Katero Forest, the Sooty Mangaby (*Cercocebus albigena*) monkey is now known to occur at least 100 miles further south than was previously established.

Leopards.

39. These pests have been particularly active among the Bagishu. The Acting Game Warden visited the most troubled area and found the people very invigorating. Without any pressure from him, natives were out at dawn in all directions, looking for kills, and having located a duiker which had just been caught, instead of devouring it as so many would have done, posted a guard over the remains and hastened with the news to the Warden, who now turned poisoner, and by means of some judiciously introduced strychnine, terminated the mischievous careers of two leopards that evening, to the enthusiastic delight of the local inhabitants. Opportunity was taken to even some of the chiefs how to use strychnine against leopards, and it is expected to rid the villages of the worst of the offenders. It will certainly not be due to lack of effort on the part of the Bagishu if the poison campaign fails, as these people spare neither time nor trouble.

White Rhinoceros.

40. It seems almost inevitable that at least one of these grand animals will be shot each year by some person who has overlooked or disbelieves in the mass of accumulated proof of the utter harmlessness of all rhinoceros found west of the Nile in Uganda. It is a great pity that the term "White" ever came to be used as descriptive of the square-lipped rhinoceros, because people who see one for the first time naturally feel a little dubious about it being of the harmless variety, as it is not particularly light coloured in reality. Residents in the West Nile district become accustomed to meeting these enormous brutes, but even they have their moments of doubting at times. Recently the District Commissioner there, while following an elephant, met a rhinoceros cow and calf. Being accompanied by an armed native game guard, he warned him on no account to fire, and then waited quietly for the animals to get out of his way, intending to show his followers that the local rhinoceros was quite harmless even when with a small calf. In his own words: "The mother saw us almost at the same instant as we saw her and (presumably) cautioning the child to keep on its way, for it did so, she turned towards us with the head down and no diminution whatever of the speed which appeared to be rather faster than a trot. I may confess at once that in spite of what I had just said to the game guard I clipped a cartridge from the magazine to the chamber of my rifle, but remembering also all that I had been told about these beasts and not at all wishing to lose my game and elephant licences, and perhaps district into the bargain, I had enough faith to shift my rifle to my right hand and gesticulate wildly with my left, uttering loud shoos at the rhinoceros as I did so. It was not until she was eight yards away (paced subsequently) that she took any notice of the invitation which had by now swelled to a chorus, but when she did she acted promptly and turned off after the young one and was rapidly gone. I must admit that if I had not had it so well drilled into me that white rhinoceros are not dangerous I should unhesitatingly have classified this as a charge."

41. One of the Italian Mission Fathers in that area was recently driving by car along a bad road, going slowly in consequence, when a young rhinoceros came out of the bush, and, as he puts it, "danced in front of him." Knowing these animals were harmless he at once stopped, in order not to risk injuring it, but confesses to being a trifle perturbed when the mother appeared alongside the dancing child and sniffed at the car. The Rev. Father drove slowly forward, and as the calf gave ground in front, the parent rhinoceros fell in behind, following snortingly the slowly moving car. The strange procession lasted for about 40 yards before the calf turned off into the bush and was at once followed by its parent.