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F. H. CLARKE

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COLONY AND PROTECTORATE OF KENYA

**GAME DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
1937**



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*Appointed in 1937.

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 *S. J. Waterkeyn, Esq., Kitale.

*Appointed in 1937.

2—REVENUE

A—LICENCES

The sum obtained from the sale of licences was £9,635, made up as follows: Game, £8,194; Game Bird, £435; Trout, £1,006.

The following is a comparative table giving the numbers of the several game licences over the last eight years:—

LICENCES	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Visitor's Full ..	43	34	9	22	15	18	21	27
Visitor's 14-day ..	—	—	—	—	12	18	20	24
Visitor's Private Land	11	11	25	15	4	6	5	7
Serving Officer's Full	5	2	4	5	3	3	6	5
Serving Officer's 14-day	—	—	—	—	10	8	12	6
Serving Officer's Private Land ..	—	—	—	—	2	4	2	—
Resident's Full ..	331	258	170	142	177	145	156	200
Resident's 14-day	138	160	148	105	91	96	82	77
Resident's Private Land	393	327	256	209	179	163	142	163
Assistant's ..	—	—	—	—	14	13	28	24
Native Employee's	6	10	4	8	12	9	6	11
Bird	1,112	1,191	1,062	946	866	771	763	870
Elephant, 1st ..	23	27	36	34	29	30	32	88
Elephant, 2nd ..	1	2	6	9	5	6	5	13
Rhino, 1st ..	46	47	21	31	23	28	25	32
Rhino, 2nd ..	9	7	4	4	1	2	5	1
Giraffe	3	—	2	1	3	4	2	2
Ostrich	12	19	8	8	12	3	12	7
Governor's Permits	78	28	29	59	21	37	38	42
Total Revenue ..£	11,754	11,605	7,163	8,648	6,703	5,923	6,319	8,629

The following is an analysis of licences issued:—

LICENCES	Euro-pean	Indian	Goan	Arab and Somali	Native	Total
Visitor's Full £75	27	—	—	—	—	27
Visitor's 14-day £15	24	—	—	—	—	24
Visitor's Private Land £10	7	—	—	—	—	7
Serving Officer's Full £20	5	—	—	—	—	5
Serving Officer's 14-day .. £4	6	—	—	—	—	6
Serving Officer's Private Land .. £4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Resident's Full £7/10	195	4	1	—	—	200
Resident's 14-day £2	74	2	1	—	—	77
Resident's Private Land .. £2	153	5	2	3	—	163
Assistant's .. Sh. 10	24	—	—	—	—	24
Native Employee's £2	11	—	—	—	—	11
Bird Sh. 10	589	72	68	45	96	870
Elephant, 1st (under Resident's Full) £25	74	—	—	—	—	74
Elephant, 1st (under Visitor's Full) £25	14	—	—	—	—	14
Elephant, 2nd (under Resident's Full) £50	10	—	—	—	—	10
Elephant, 2nd (under Visitor's Full) £50	3	—	—	—	—	3
Rhino, 1st (under Resident's Full) £10	19	—	—	—	—	19
Rhino, 1st (under Visitor's Full) £10	13	—	—	—	—	13
Rhino, 2nd (under Resident's Full) £10	1	—	—	—	—	1
Rhino, 2nd (under Visitor's Full) £10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Giraffe (under Resident's Full) £15	1	—	—	—	—	1
Giraffe (under Visitor's Full) £15	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ostrich (under Resident's Full) £1	5	—	—	—	—	5
Ostrich (under Visitor's Full) £1	2	—	—	—	—	2
Governor's Permits	42	—	—	—	—	42
Trout—						
Yearly .. £1-5	572	2	12	1	2	589
Fortnightly Sh. 10	277	1	2	—	—	280
24-hourly .. Sh. 3	851	3	28	—	—	882
TOTALS ..	3,000	89	114	49	98	3,350

The following are the figures for trout licences for the last eight years:—

Licences (number)	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Yearly ..	390	551	645	612	606	537	562	589
Fortnightly ..	147	207	199	195	218	241	282	280
24-hourly ..	379	651	666	818	683	669	792	862
Total Revenue £	632	910	1,010	985	973	893	968	1,006

The following is a table showing the value of the licences acquired by various nationalities:—

	£
Europeans	9,402
Indians	84
Goans	69
Arabs and Somalis	30
Natives	50

B—IVORY AND CONFISCATED TROPHIES

The sum obtained from the sale of ivory, rhino horn and other trophies was £5,695. The weight of Government ivory sold during the year was 13,146 lb. and of rhino horn 941 lb.

C—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following is a summary of the Department's revenue and expenditure for the year:—

	£
Game Licences	8,194
Bird Licences	435
Trout Licences	1,006
Sale of Ivory and Confiscated Trophies	5,695
Total	15,330

The total expenditure for the year was £7,112.

The excess of revenue over expenditure was £8,218.

The following table shows the excess of revenue over expenditure for the period 1926-1937.

Year	Revenue	Expenditure	Excess
	£	£	£
1926	31,170	8,627	22,543
1927	31,469	11,207	20,262
1928	24,451	11,017	13,434
1929	26,241	12,557	13,684
1930	26,554	11,532	15,022
1931	19,315	10,354	8,961
1932	15,981	9,277	6,704
1933	15,908	9,233	6,675
1934	16,515	8,980	7,535
1935	13,960	8,468	5,492
1936	14,260	7,960	6,300
1937	15,330	7,112	8,218
			134,830
Yearly average excess	£ 11,236

I have not included in the above figures revenue obtained under "Explosives, Gun and Ammunition Licences". This would amount to some £2,800 in a normal year, most of which is, I believe, collected in connexion with arms and ammunition used in game hunting. The figures also do not include Customs Duty collected on arms and ammunition.

3—CONVICTIONS

The following were the convictions under the Game, Game Bird and Trout Ordinances:—

European, 18; Asiatic, 6; Native, 433; a total of 457.

The totals for 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936 were 492, 504, 751, 590 and 500 respectively.

4—GAME AND VERMIN CONTROL

Control measures were conducted by all members of the Game Department, Honorary Game Wardens, and by specially employed European hunters. Control work is the least likeable duty that has to be ordered by the officer in charge of the Game Department. It is however imperative. Very careful supervision is always effected in the event of a hunter being employed for this duty and if it is found that he has abused the control work for the purpose of augmenting his income he is immediately stopped and is never employed again.

In one area the natives had complained bitterly that elephants were playing havoc with their crops. The District Commissioner of the area made strong representations and a hunter was sent to deal with the elephants. After several raiders had been shot the complainants demanded a present before showing the hunter where damage was being done. Control work ceased immediately in that district.

A European farmer shot a lion on his own farm after the lion had killed one of his cows. The farmer applied to the Game Warden for payment for killing the lion. He did not get it. I felt unhappy because it is incumbent on a public servant to be polite at all times.

Sympathy is always shown to anyone who suffers from depredations by game animals. Endeavours are made to ameliorate the lot of the sufferers. I have cited the above two instances to show that help is not always easy to grant.

Further comments on control work will appear in the reports by Major Kingdon, Captain Oulton and Captain Whittet which appear at the end of this Report.

Elephants

Control was undertaken in the following areas: Kinangop, Kitale, Amboni, Nanyuki, Kerita, Endebess, Timau, Sagana, Kipini, Kilifi, Lamu, Tambach, Rumuruti, Meru, Ngobit, Loitokitok, Chogoria, Samburu (Coast), Naro Moru, Ragati Forest, Kwale and Kisii.

86 elephants were killed on control in Kisii,
70 at Meru,
21 in Kwale,
49 in Lamu,
55 in other places; a total of 281.

Rhino

Control was undertaken in the following areas: Meru, Embu, Voi, Makindu, Ngobit, Nyeri and Loitokitok. A total of 19 rhino were shot on control.

Other Game

Damage was reported and control undertaken in respect of:—

Fig.—In Kwale, Lamu, Baringo, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Masongaleni and Loitokitok.

Buffalo.—In Bahati Forest, Gilgil and Ngong.

Hyæna.—In Narok, Maralal, Kajiado and Loitokitok.

Hippo.—In Muhoroni and Lake Victoria.

Impala.—In Muhoroni and Lake Naivasha.

Waterbuck.—In Solai and Loitokitok.

Lion.—In Ol'Joro Orok, Thomson's Falls, Kajiado and Loitokitok.

Wild Dogs.—In Ravine.

Crocodiles.—In the Tana and Kerio Rivers.

Zebra.—All over the Highlands, being particularly bad in Samburu country and Laikipia.

Giraffe.—In Soy. No killing was done, but 20 were captured and have been ordered by various zoos.

Approximately 9,000 rounds of ammunition, 125 lb. of arsenite of soda and 100 ounces of strychnine were issued by this Department for control work. A large quantity of poison and some ammunition were also provided by various Local Native Councils for the same purpose and elephant and rhino control was undertaken by various hunters mostly on a 50/50 basis.

5—IVORY AND RHINO HORN

IVORY

The ivory shot on licence and sold locally or exported was 156 tusks of a total weight of 11,680 lb., giving an average of 75 lb. per tusk. The number of tusks shot on licence and weighing 100 lb. or over was 30, the largest pair being 135 lb. and 135 lb.

The total weight of ivory found or confiscated by Government was 11,541 lb., of an average weight of 25 lb.

Two outstandingly magnificent pairs of tusks were collected during the year. One pair, 173 lb. and 172 lb., is on loan to the Coryndon Memorial Museum; the other pair, of 189 lb., and 178 lb., was sold by Government and will eventually reach the New York Museum of Natural History. It is very gratifying that these two exceptional trophies will be placed where the public can enjoy the sight of them for all time.

RHINO HORN

The total number of rhinos shot by licence holders was 25, giving an average of $7\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per pair for approximately 190 lb.

of horn sold locally or exported. Two very large pairs of horn weighing respectively 19 lb. and 20 lb. were acquired by residents.

The total quantity of rhino horn found or confiscated by Government was 565 lb. This figure included horn acquired on control work.

EAST AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS' ASSOCIATION

The activities of this Association throughout the year 1937 have been very marked. The standard for full membership is a very high one, nobody about whom there is the slightest question regarding sporting qualities, integrity or respect for the game laws being accepted. The membership to-day is 19 full members, 16 associate members and 76 honorary associates.

Full and happy co-operation between the Association and the Game Department has been enjoyed during the year under report as in former years.

6—THE NEW GAME ORDINANCE (No. 38 OF 1937)

This much-required measure was brought into being on the 22nd December, 1937. It consolidated the Game Ordinance with the Bird Ordinance. It also consolidated all the amendments that have been effected during recent years. Comparatively few new measures were introduced in the new Ordinance, the principal ones being (1) the elimination of the word "capture" from the "hunting, killing, and capturing" allowed previously on any licence. Anyone now wishing to capture any animal whether scheduled or not must first acquire a permit to capture on payment of the appropriate fee; (2) additional control about the use of an aeroplane while hunting game, a very necessary measure indeed; and (3) the clarification of the position of a farmer requiring to shoot game birds in protection of his crops during a close season. The farmer can now shoot all the birds he wants under these circumstances, but he must hand over everything shot to the Government.

Complete protection has been accorded to Sitatunga in the Trans Nzoia District and to White Colobus monkey throughout the Colony.

In compliance with the recommendations of the International Convention for the Protection of Fauna and Flora complete protection is now accorded to the following: Pangolin, Buff-backed Heron, Secretary Bird, Yellow-backed Duiker and Aardwolf.

7—CAPTURE OF WILD ANIMALS

As mentioned above the control of this extremely lucrative business has been considerably tightened by legislation. The holder of an ordinary Game Licence cannot now capture anything whatever by virtue of his licence, but must acquire a special "Permit to Capture". To the lover of animals any capturing of wild life is most revolting and the total prohibition of all capturing would have been welcome. This cannot be, however. We, the fortunate inhabitants of Kenya, can feast our eyes on magnificent herds of game by the expenditure of a few shillings on petrol whenever we feel that way inclined, whereas people in most other countries can only do this by visiting the local zoo. The requirements of zoological societies are therefore due consideration. A "Permit to Capture" will be granted only (1) when the animal is required to be kept as a pet by the capturer or (2) when the animal is required for some recognized zoological society, provided the director of that society has deposited with the Game Warden a letter in which his requirements are fully described.

The following list shows the scheduled animals exported during 1937:—

3 rhino, 1 buffalo, 13 giraffe, 4 lions, 3 leopards, 10 cheetah, 1 hippo, 2 waterbuck, 1 lesser kudu, 2 oryx, 1 bushbuck, 2 eland, 2 reedbuck, 3 impala, 12 Grevy's zebra, 8 common zebra, 16 colobus monkeys, 5 ostriches, 7 spurwinged geese and 18 guineafowl.

In addition to the above a number of unscheduled animals and birds were exported. The law as it then stood allowed this exportation without restriction and no record of these exports was therefore kept.

8—CONSERVATION OF TROUT

This matter gave cause for great anxiety in the earlier portion of the year owing to the fact that no officer was available to concentrate on this very important matter. Honorary Trout Wardens did excellent work, but no co-ordination was possible and many waters were sadly neglected.

In July Mr. H. Copley was appointed to the Game Department. He has concentrated almost entirely on attention to the trout fishing amenities of the country. Since Mr

Copley's appointment a very marked improvement is noticeable. A full report by Mr. Copley is appended to this main report and explains at some length the state of each and every trout stream in the country.

9—GAME BIRDS

I have much pleasure in reporting that the close seasons for game birds gazetted for certain areas of the Rift Valley Province proved very satisfactory. Information from several sources has quite satisfied me on this point. This proclamation of close seasons for complete districts had never been done before in Kenya and was therefore somewhat in the nature of an experiment.

A certain amount of controversy regarding the rights of farmers to shoot game birds in protection of their crops during a close season, occurred during the year. The position is now clarified in the new Game Ordinance.

Another controversial point was regarding the right of District Councils to decide for themselves just exactly what birds were to be protected in each area and what should remain shootable during a close season. I took up the attitude that a general schedule in districts adjoining each other was essential. This important point has now been agreed upon.

The general condition of game birds throughout the whole of Kenya during 1937 was excellent. The steady rains during 1936 and 1937 improved conditions enormously owing to the appearance of luscious undergrowth of scrub which afforded the cover which is so necessary for most species of game birds during the breeding season.

10—WARNINGS TO THE PUBLIC

I regret that I have to report word for word the warnings I issued in my 1936 report. They read as follows:—

"The law of the land regarding the purchase or sale of game trophies has been repeated so often in annual reports, in the local Press and verbally by those interested in game preservation, that it might appear unnecessary to draw public attention to it again. It is, however, very necessary. It is a daily occurrence in this office for an export permit to be applied for in respect of a scheduled game trophy, the applicant blithely stating that the trophy was purchased from a native. The Game Warden has no option but to confiscate the trophy, not a very pleasant procedure to follow when the applicant has

Mr. C. G. MacArthur, Assistant Game Warden, Coastal Areas.

Mr. H. Copley, Assistant Game Warden in charge of Fish.

Capt. J. T. Oulton, Game and Vermin Control Officer.

Major Jack Kingdon, Honorary Game and Trout Warden, Nyeri.

Mr. D. F. Smith, Honorary Game Warden, Muhoroni.

13—CONCLUSION

In concluding this report I have much pleasure in stating that the position regarding game in Kenya remains excellent. Good bags have been acquired by practically all those that hunted in earnest and with intelligence. Photographers and those who only wish to see game have all been eminently satisfied.

I must take this opportunity of expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have co-operated with this Department during the year. Especially must I thank the Commissioner and all members of the Kenya Police. I have mentioned previously that without the assistance of the Police game preservation would almost cease to exist in Kenya. I hope I will be pardoned for repeating this fact again.

REPORT BY CAPT. R. WHITTET, ASSISTANT GAME WARDEN, NORTHERN FRONTIER DISTRICT

Meru.—In August, when I was on safari at N'kubu, I received a letter from the A.D.C. reporting that elephant were out near the polo ground doing damage to *shambas*. I returned from N'kubu and went with Capt. Gregory Smith and inspected the area.

It was apparent that the elephants were using one track to come out of the forest and so I suggested employing a method which had proved successful before, that of tying two empty kerosene tins together at various intervals along the path. The noise made by these frightened the elephants back into the forest. This was done and proved to be successful for a while. Some time after I received another letter from the A.D.C., Meru, stating that the elephants were out again, and so it was decided to ask Major Kingdon to come along and deal with the matter.

He came and stayed about a fortnight. During that time he had great difficulty in killing one elephant and that only after going some distance into the forest and following up the herd.

Further complaints were brought by the Administration and in September the Acting Game Warden decided to employ Mr. Carr Hartley who had had great experience in elephant control in the Meru District.

He remained in the district some three and a half months during which time he killed 67 elephants.

There were two complaints from Chogoria in the year about elephants doing damage and on each occasion this was dealt with successfully.

The only complaint I received personally during the year was of an elephant which had lost its way, had arrived in a village near here, was doing damage and had to be destroyed.

General.—There was very little poaching during the year, the good rainfall, abundant crops and the heavy sentences imposed in the previous year on game offenders had a very good effect, in fact, I am sure that in 1937 there were far less game offences committed than in any previous year since 1925.

Isiolo-Garbatulla.—In accordance with instructions, I reduced the number of game scouts and informers. The game scouts worked well in co-operation with the Police Post at Garbatulla and constant patrols were maintained.

Early in the year a party of Boran raiders was reported near Aberjahan armed and mounted. A patrol went after them, but they had disappeared. Their trophies, mostly giraffe hides, were however captured.

The heavy sentences imposed the previous year on any one committing an offence against rhino or elephant had a very good effect and there were only two game cases at Garbatulla during the year. I am quite sure that there was far less poaching than in any former years since 1925, again possibly due to the fact that the rhino and ivory market has slumped for the time being.

Garissa.—I was able to visit the Garissa District on two occasions during 1937, the first being in February in company with the Officer in Charge of the N.F.D., when I went to Bura

to meet the Acting Governor and the Chief Native Commissioner. We returned to Garissa where His Excellency held a Baraza.

Game matters were discussed at this meeting and Stamboul Abdi complained that elephants were a source of danger both to humans and stock. It was said that one man had been killed near Bura and another near the Ruholi Valley.

His Excellency pointed out that every care would be taken to endeavour to prevent such accidents, but even if 80 per cent of the elephants in the district were to be killed off accidents such as these might still happen.

There were also complaints of damage by lion to stock and I was able to state that the game scouts in the previous year had destroyed many and that all possible assistance was being given.

The natives expressed their gratitude for the action which the Department had taken against baboon on the Tana River.

In his Monthly Intelligence Report for May, the District Commissioner reports, "The elephant in the neighbourhood of Kora are reported to have become particularly savage and are causing distress amongst the Aulihan camel people. The buffalo which killed an old woman near Balambala last month has been shot." The elephant moved away from Kora shortly after this to other feeding grounds.

My second visit was in September and I was able to undertake a canoe safari from Garissa to Masabubu. On this journey of considerably over 100 miles, I saw only two troupes of baboon. I put down poison in these two places.

Undoubtedly the position has greatly improved and thousands of baboons must have been destroyed on my two long safaris in 1936. All along the Tana River the crops looked excellent and I did not receive any complaints. It was agreed, however, that we must not relax in any way and that poisoning must go on wherever baboon are seen.

Between Masabubu and Ijara I saw three herds of Huntersi and I understand that very few have been killed during the year.

The following extract from the District Commissioner's Intelligence Report is gratifying: "It is reported by those interested in the illicit export of trophies that the trade is no longer a paying proposition owing to the difficulty of obtaining payment in Italian Somaliland."

There was a marked decrease in poaching generally in the district due probably to the above fact, but I think also due to the patrols from Garbatulla and the slight increase in the number of game scouts at Garissa.

Marsabit.—In March the District Commissioner was fortunate in discovering that arrangements had been made by the Boran on Marsabit Mountain for hunting parties on an extensive scale. It was possible therefore to take immediate action and convictions were subsequently obtained in 11 cases against 13 persons who had killed altogether 2 elephants, 3 buffaloes, 3 rhinos and 4 giraffe.

This seems to have had a good effect for, although a close watch was kept during the rest of the year, no other offences were discovered.

It seems likely that what was happening at the beginning of the year was due partly to the fact that there were no game scouts, so the Acting Game Warden immediately provided funds for the purpose. It was very difficult to obtain the right type of man for the job, but it appeared that even though the scouts were not necessarily very efficient, their mere existence acted as a deterrent. During the latter eight months of the year there were constant patrols on the Mountain and, so far as was possible, also in the Horr Valley.

On Marsabit Mountain little change was observed in the numbers and the doings of elephants. They were most numerous near Gof Bongali and between there and Eil Naden. During the dry weather a number were usually around the Marsabit township and they did a certain amount of damage to the *shambas*. During the rains they departed, in accordance with their custom, to the neighbourhood of Lugga Jeldessa. No elephants were shot and they did not do any damage to human beings.

Buffalo were frequently seen in Gof Bongali in large herds, also around Eil Naden and Badasso, but they were not numerous on the northern side of the Mountain.

Rhinoceros were usually to be found near Songa Lugga and in the vicinity of Lugga Jeldessa, but there is not apparently a large number of them.

Giraffe were observed throughout the year in most parts of the district and especially around the Mountain and in the Hurri Hills.

I then built a platform in a tree top near a favourite bean field and waited throughout the night with a flashlight torch. About 1 a.m. three elephants appeared and I wounded one. Next morning I found the spoor joined up with a large herd some six miles out and as a lengthy inspection failed to locate the wounded beast I shot another. This apparently was an effective lesson as no further invasion occurred.

Pigs and baboons were doing much damage to the irrigated crops and I purchased 1,600 green maize cobs and baited with arsenite with fair results.

An old, much lacerated, rhino had taken up his quarters in some thick wait-a-bit thorn scrub and constantly chased women and children when out for firewood or water. After some fruitless searchings I finally shot it when about to charge.

A number of waterbuck, bushbuck, pigs, hyænas and jackals were also shot.

I then proceeded to Tambach and the Kerio Valley to deal with pigs, baboons and porcupines. The results were satisfactory.

Four crocodiles were shot in the Kerio River. One actually had seized a goat and this was blown out of its mouth yards away and its head smashed by a big rifle.

On the top of the escarpment buffalo and elephant had been doing some damage, but as crops had been reaped by the time I arrived there was no further need for action.

A native reported a goat having been killed by a leopard. The remains were strychnined and the leopard was dead next morning.

I then proceeded to the Digo District, once more to deal with pigs, baboons and porcupines which were again doing much damage.

The local natives provided 18,000 mangoes and good quantities of muhogo and copra.

Pigs having become wise to the poisoned foodstuffs constantly put out by the Gazi Sisal Plantations Company, since my previous visit, I suggested the desirability of the Company collecting a pack of dogs and encouraging their Kavirondo labourers to hunt pigs with the pack at week-ends. This is being done.

I also suggested that further poisoning efforts should cease until next season's maize crops ripen. Then, if large quantities of green maize stalks with cobs in the milk stage were "planted" in prepared holes to resemble growing maize, the cunning of the pigs would likely be circumvented.

Two Digo natives were attached to me by the District Commissioner, Kwale, for instructions of poisoning methods. They proved satisfactory.

REPORT BY MAJOR J. KINGDON, HONORARY GAME
WARDEN, NYERI

Elephant.—In the Nyeri District only four elephants were shot under the control scheme, as compared to sixteen in 1936.

Provided immediate punishment follows in every case of raiding by elephant herds, it would appear from the above figures that, other than in very exceptional circumstances, the shooting of one or two animals at a time proves sufficient.

The herds round Naro Moru and Nanyuki, however, were not so well behaved; and owing to damage to crops and fences in the settled areas it was necessary to shoot eight in these parts.

On May 5th, in response to a telegram, I went to Nanyuki and found a small party of cows with calves held up by a barbed wire fence close to the main road. It was obviously essential to move them back to the forest without delay and if possible without danger to traffic or damage to the fence.

After crossing the fence I shot one of the herd to get them on the move and then with my game scouts drove them by shouting, throwing sticks and rattling the fence wires until they reached the end of the fence and made their way back to the forest.

On one occasion when following the tracks of a bull raider, I was astonished to find that he had stepped over a four-foot barbed wire fence into a field of maize and had re-crossed it at the far end of the *shamba* without doing any damage to the wire.

During August I shot two *shamba* raiders at Meru and Chogoria, respectively, bringing the total number of elephant destroyed under control operations to fourteen.

Rhino.—Four rhino were killed. Three of these were damaging forest plantations at Ragati (S. Kenya) whilst the fourth was shot inside a fence, where it was proving a nuisance to cattle.

Buffalo.—I also dealt with one bull buffalo on a Naro Moru farm, which had taken to holding up cars on the road.

An outbreak of rinderpest occurred amongst the buffalo in West Kenya in December causing a certain number of deaths among the herds.

The chief features in the Embu District were rhino and buffalo, both species being very numerous.

REPORT BY MR. D. F. SMITH, HONORARY GAME
WARDEN, MUHORONI

As this is the first report I have made I will commence with a note on the game found in the areas which my game scouts have patrolled.

Songhor.—Roan antelope frequent the two large hills, Songhor and Chemelil. I have not been able to form an accurate estimate of their numbers, but I should say it is in the region of 50 adult animals.

Waterbuck, reedbuck, oribi and duiker are found throughout the area and are increasing on the unoccupied farms.

Kibigori, Chemelil, Muhoroni, Koru and Fort Ternan.—Redbuck, oribi, duiker and waterbuck are still to be found on the larger and less thickly populated farms. The cover afforded on sisal plantations is much appreciated by reedbuck and waterbuck.

Central Kavirondo Native Reserve.—Thomas' cob and sitatunga are found in the Kano and Nyakatch swamp country near the Lake. In the past, numbers of these beasts were killed when the swamps were burnt in the dry season, but as game scouts are now working in Central Kavirondo there is a chance of these animals increasing.

Lumbwa Reserve.—There is a large amount of game in the north-west corner of the Lumbwa Reserve where it marches with the Kano Reserve and the farms south of the railway at Muhoroni.

Zebra and impala are very numerous, particularly the latter, and have increased rapidly since I first came to Muhoroni twelve years ago. Waterbuck and topi are plentiful and roan and Jackson's hartebeeste are now beginning to show an increase.

The animals frequent the rocky hills known to the Lumbwa as Kipimbiri and to the Luo as Waradhu. These hills are unsuitable for agriculture and are used by the Lumbwa solely as grazing land.

In the past the Kano and Nyakatch natives held regular hunts over these hills and large numbers particularly of young animals were killed with the aid of dogs. The game was always wild and ran on sighting a man.

Since my scouts have patrolled these hills there has been a marked improvement; the animals are now very tame and the number of calves and fawns to be seen with the herds has increased. This is particularly noticeable with the topi and Jackson's hartebeeste.

Game Cases.—I have taken up twenty-seven cases and have secured twenty-six convictions all against natives.

I have found the Native Tribunals very efficient for trying the type of game case usually occurring in this area. The Tribunals sit three or four days a week in the Native Reserve and cases are dealt with promptly and near the scene of the offence, thus obviating delay and travelling expenses. My head game scout is an old ex-policeman and has proved to be an efficient prosecutor before these native courts.

The sentences given in these courts are small, but fines are usually paid on the spot.

I intend to take most of my cases to these Tribunals and to send to the District Commissioner only those cases where valuable trophies are concerned or where the offender is a non-native.

F. H. CLARKE,
Acting Game Warden.