

(3) That in thanas near forests the Forest Officer or the local shooting club, if any, should be consulted before new licences for sport are granted.

(4) That retainers' licences if allowed at all should be strictly limited.

(5) That licences in form No. XIX should be limited in number, and the area for which the licence is valid should be specified and restricted to the holding or the village concerned.

(6) That selected Police and Forest Officers should be empowered under the Arms Rules to demand the production of a licensed weapon at any time.

(7) That ammunition for licences for protection or display should be limited to a definite number of rounds.

(8) That an entry of the quantity of ammunition purchased by a licence should be entered on his gun licence.

#### RESOLUTION 5.

The Conference recommends:—

(1) That the Government of India should assume the obligations contained in Article 9, paragraphs 3, 8, and 9, as permitted under Article 13 (3) of the Convention concluded at the International Conference for the Protection of the Fauna and Flora of Africa in respect of all their territories; and (2) that steps should be taken to draw up an All-India Convention.

#### RESOLUTION 6.

The Conference is of the opinion that the convening of an Asiatic Conference at the present moment would be premature, but considers that such a conference is desirable in the interest of Asiatic wild life, and that when such a conference is held India should be represented.

The Conference, after holding a three-day session, concluded on 31st January when Sir Fazl-i-Hussain presided.

In his concluding remarks Sir Fazl-i-Hussain said that the Conference had made a good beginning for the preservation of certain special kinds of wild life and hoped that the movement would grow rapidly and make progress in non-official

channels. The Conference, he said, was the first of its kind in India but was not the last. Therefore, whatever they had done need not be final, and it was open to them after practical experience to bring in alterations in the rules and regulations they had now formulated. "Even at this stage," he pointed out, "I would repeat one point and that is you should not expect much from the Provincial Governments or legislatures, but if you do propaganda in the right direction in the provinces where the power will rest, you will achieve your object."

#### 5163 KRUGER NATIONAL PARK.

WARDEN'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1934.

*Climatic.*—Good rains occurred in January, which with the satisfactory fall during the latter part of 1933 led to hopes of a good rainy season. However, these hopes were not justified as no rain at all fell in February and not very much in March. There were some strong winter showers in June after which no rain fell until September when there was heavy downpour amounting to 2 inches in the middle of the month. 70 in. fell in October. About the middle of November definitely wet weather set in. 5.36 inches of rain fell in November and 3.76 inches in December.

*Poaching.*—No poaching by whites was reported. The Portuguese Border was again relatively quiet, as there has been, for some years now on account of drought conditions, as much or more game on that as there is on the Park side, the Portuguese country being better watered on the whole than the extreme north-east of the Transvaal. The usual sporadic poaching by natives went on from the south and the west. Natives from across the Crocodile River, finding it less easy to escape detection during the day, have been at one or two places crossing the river at night during the period of the full moon, with dogs, and kill principally wart-hogs. Steps are being taken to deal with this development, which has also occurred in the past from time to time. The serious and organized poaching by large gangs which had

or singly have always been prone to wander, but in September the ranger of No. 6 Section encountered a considerable herd of cows and young calves on the main road just south of the Letaba causeway. The rangers of Nos. 6, 7, and 8 Sections have all reported elephants in their sections and a large number of calves.

*Black Rhinoceros.*—Several isolated (but unconfirmed) reports of these animals having been seen were received during the year.

*Hippo.*—The opening up of a road to the Pafuri Hippo pool in No. 8 Section has proved a great attraction to visitors. The animals are extraordinarily tame and can be seen from the high bank, lying in the pool immediately below and at not more than 50 yards distance. Reports of damage by these animals have been received from farmers owning land south of the Crocodile River. This occurs during the dry season when food is scarce along the banks.

*Giraffe.*—Continue to increase and spread. A few were found killed by lions.

*Buffalo.*—Owing to the presence of water during most of the winter on the upper Mbeamude River, the main herds were much later than usual in coming to Lower Sabi and in consequence were less frequently seen by visitors than in previous years. There is a considerable local expansion of the species which now occurs north of the Sabi.

*Nyala.*—The opening up of the bush containing these animals along the Pafuri River by means of a road, has enabled tourists to see them very frequently. They have proved to be tame, and quite different in that respect from their cousin the bushbuck. They can often be seen drinking at a pool on the Pafuri. A few have probably been killed by lions, leopards, and wild dogs, but the species continues to increase satisfactorily. The continued presence of Makuleke's location right in the middle of the nyala country will, however, always prove an obstacle to the free spread of this rare species in this locality, on account of the disturbance created not only by the presence of natives within the area, but by their constant passage through the Park to and from the local store in the latter.

*Zebra, other Antelope, and Wild Pig.*—Better watering conditions caused, during 1934, the game generally to be less concentrated than has been the case for some time past. An exception, however, must be made in the case of parts of No. 5 Section where the drought was, if anything, worse than ever. In fact, near Satara and thence to Rabelais Gate on the west and as far as Bangwe in the north, game was almost absent throughout the winter. Large numbers continued to trek out westwards into adjoining farms in search of water and grass. The large permanent water-hole on the farm Kingfisherspruit just outside the Park border attracted great numbers of game and of course lions. The existence of an adequate water supply at the borehole  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles inside the Park in this locality will next winter doubtless do something towards adjusting matters in this respect apart from the possibility of the pools on the Imbabate River, which have been dry for some years, becoming again normal from a good rainfall, which this season seems possible. The same may be the case on the road from Satara to Bangwe where desert conditions have existed for some time, though it is likely that it will take some seasons of good rains before the grass will again grow there. In the early part of 1930, the latter was so long on this road that up till May it was difficult for a motor car to push its way through or even for anyone to distinguish the road itself readily. There was not much distress among animals from drought late in the autumn, as serious shortage of food and water was local, and the game was able to move to places where better conditions existed within the Park at not too great distances. There was an excellent calving and lambing season at the end of the year throughout. Reedbuck are not yet numerous in the central and southern sections, but are increasing. Steenbuck have increased in numbers very greatly, however, in the latter, possibly on account of the almost complete absence of wild dogs during several years. There were very few grass fires south of the Letaba River. Between the Letaba and the Mpongolo Rivers, several great fires starting in Portuguese Territory and driven by a south-east wind burned out during October a great portion of Nos. 6, 7, and 8 Sections. Such