

BURMA GAZETTEER

THE

BHAMO DISTRICT

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COMPILED BY

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RANGOON

Geology.

Anderson* surmises that the hill ranges on this side of the Yünnan plateau were at one time islands when the eocene and miocene strata were deposited round them.

Fauna.

The open grass lwin, park-like stretches of high grass lying amongst thick forests, afford admirable pasture for herds of bison (*Bos gaurus*) and saing (*Bos sondaicus*), especially after the hot-weather fires, when the early rains bring on the young grass. Specimens of the mithun are said to have been shot, and elephants are numerous, both in herds and solitary; along the less frequented roads traces of their depredations are to be found in broken telegraph poles and uprooted boundary pillars and mile-posts. The Kheddah Department made two considerable catches in the season 1907-08.

Rhinoceros have not been met in the district. Tigers are plentiful and are frequently trapped and shot in the hills. In the villages in the plains, where cattle are more numerous, individual animals occasionally do a great deal of damage, especially in the rains. Leopards are even more common and are equally destructive. Eighty-four cattle were killed by tigers and leopards in the year 1907. Sambhur (*Rusa Aristotelis*) are numerous in the foot-hills, especially in the neighbourhood of cultivation. The heads are ordinarily small. Thamin (*Panolia Eldi*) are rare, but until recently were found in some numbers on the eastern side of the hills, towards the Namwan valley. Barking-deer are found everywhere, and the hog-deer is common, especially in the Upper Sinkan and Mole valleys.

Bears, both the large and the small variety, are very common in the hills, whence their skins are brought in large numbers. The wild goat or serow (*Capricornis Sumatrensis*) is found on the higher hills, but the gurul is unknown.

The jackal is not found, but wild dogs are plentiful and do a great deal of damage among both domestic cattle and wild game. Several varieties of monkeys abound in the foot hills, including the gibbon, and a mysterious creature called by the Burmans "luwun" which walks upright and is, covered with a coarse tawny hair, is possibly one of the larger species of ape. It is reported to have been met on

* Anderson, page 59.