

Report on the Zoological Department for 1875.

When a year has now elapsed since we took over the management, we regret that on numerous difficulties comparatively little progress has been made in the Zoological Department.

The money allowed us for this department, although quite sufficient for the upkeep of the Zoological Garden of fair dimensions, when thoroughly organised, is quite inadequate for large expenditure in, and will for some time be, the erection of suitable houses for animals.

When the Committee took over the management, a small collection of birds was found to be kept in a large house or shed, which was considered unsuitable, and as the collection of birds and pheasants was increasing largely, it was considered necessary to erect a good house for the same, which is now occupied.

In consequence of many animals having been presented by numerous friends, and no accommodation being ready, we have been obliged to make a temporary use of the garden for these animals.

We have, during the year, bought the material for a large kangaroo shed and enclosure, now in course of erection.

In May last a fine two-horned rhinoceros was presented to us by Sir A. Clarke, through the kindness of the Klana of Sunghio Ujong; a good house has been built for this animal, and that on a large scale, with a view of widening it at a little expense for the accommodation of a tiger and tapir, which animals we hope soon to have in our collection.

Several animals purchased have been comparatively few, but many have been presented.

Amongst the donors the liberal donor of the rhinoceros and a pair of argus pheasants are much indebted to the late Mr. Birch, who not only manifested great interest in the Zoological Department, but was also the instrument of procuring many specimens for it.

We have also to record our thanks to Mr. Newman in Bangkok, and to Captain Kirk of the *Royalist*, who took great trouble in procuring for us animals from Siam and Borneo.

From the Acclimatisation Society in Melbourne we received a fine and valuable collection of Australian animals, such as kangaroos, emus, parrots, eagles, black swans, &c., and from the Zoological Gardens in Hamburg a fine pair of white swans.

The next building we intend putting up is a monkey house;—and here our spirited and energetic citizen Mr. Cheang Hong Lim has come forward most unexpectedly, promising us about \$2,000 for building the same.

Orders have been sent to England to get the work done there without loss of time.

The collection of monkeys could be easily increased, but the means of keeping those at present are very primitive, and in no way an ornament to the gardens.

Until late, we have had, through the courtesy of Colonel Crowe, two soldiers from H. M. Regiment, for looking after the animals, with the assistance of several natives; but this did not work as desired, and we have lately engaged a European as a keeper, for whom a bungalow is now being built, to enable him to be constantly at the place, which is entirely necessary, and we trust this arrangement will work better.

Appended is a list of animals in the gardens.

W. M. KBOHN,
Member of the Committee.

Singapore, January, 1876.

List of Animals in the Gardens at the end of 1875.

One two-horned Rhinoceros ... from the Dair Klana of Sunghie Ujong, presented by Sir Andrew Clarke.
 " Sloth Bear ... " " Mr. Birch.
 " Jackal ... " " Mr. Newman.
 Two Tiger Cats ... " " Captain Kirk.
 One Civet Cat ... " " " "
 " Sambur Deer ... " " Mr. Jamie.
 " do. ... " " Mr. Brinkmann.
 Two Philippine Deer ... ✓ " " "
 One great Kangaroo ... " " "
 Three red do. ... " " "
 One bush-tailed Wallaby ... " " "
 Two Porcupines ... " " "
 Three Australian Rabbits ... " " "
 Six Kantchills (Mousedeer) ... " " "
 Two Orang-utangs ... " " "
 Two common Macaques ... " " "
 Three pig-tailed do. ... " " "
 One black do. ... " " "
 Two white Swans ... " " "
 Four black do. ... " " "
 — Siamese Trail.
 Three mandarin Ducks
 Two moskovit Ducks.
 " Pelicans
 Seven Adjutants.
 Three Cyrus Cranes.
 Two white Storks.
 " Herons.

27 type

Cockatoo and Parrots.
 Vieillot's Pheasant, fireback.
 Rufous-tailed do. do.
 Siamese do. do.
 Golden do. do.
 Silver do. do.
 Ring do. do.
 Peacock do. do.
 Argus do. do.

Buffsowl (wildfowl).
 Copper-coloured do.
 Crown Pigeon.
 Sundry Pigeons and Doves.
 Two wedgetailed Eagles.
 Two Hawks.
 Two Owls.
 One Vulture (caught in the garden).

18 type

Statement of Expenditure for the Zoological Gardens, Singapore, for the year ending November 30th, 1875.

	\$	C.	\$	C.
Estimated ...				
By Government Warrant ...	8,000	00		
	448	10		
			8,448	10
Expended ...				
By Aviary men and Coolie-hire				
" Soldiers' wages	435	87		
" Food for Animals	85	00		
" Purchase of Animals	299	04		
" Tools and Materials	182	10		
" Bails for Deer Park	1,812	80		
" Building Aviary	448	10		
" Building Rhinoceros-house	684	50		
" Cart-hire and Contingencies	310	00		
	28	88		
Total ...			3,080	87
Deficit ...			\$	237 27

True statements.

(Signed)

H. J. MURTON,
 Superintendent,
 Botanic Gardens,
 Singapore.

March 31st, 1876.

Report on

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Report on the condition of the Botanic Garden during the year 1875. No very extensive alterations have elapsed since my arrival have been made.

Much difficulty has been experienced in the propagation of species of sedge (*Cyperus tuberosus*) by using partially decomposed animal manure as the top soil removed and the remaining soil will be destroyed. The trench in some places, but a few months ago, was filled with water.

Several of the walks and drives in the garden require re-motalling at on account of procuring laterite. The brickwork is renewed. The old trees and shrubs near the principal entrance have been removed in front of the sago palms.

A large number of old and dead trees have been removed by young plantations of betel-nut palms (*Areca catechu*) being replaced by *Seaforthia elegans*.

The two small ponds which were formerly used for the cultivation of the sacred Lotus (*Nelumbium speciosum*) and alligators. The bank of the pond is now planted with the various species of *Seaforthia* and *Islandia*. On the garden side an enclosure has been planted, which are already used for this part of the garden were necessary for the building of the Rhinoceros-house.

The Office mentioned in my report is now rapidly approaching completion. This will be a great boon to the collection of dried specimens until the completion of it will prove a boon to visitors during the heavy showers of rain. It is proposed to build a new one now existing, which is all around the Office will afford facilities for the collection of specimens.

During the year large numbers of plants have been established on the trees in the garden. A catalogue has been compiled and terminated; but a very large number still remain to be reported.

A good collection of standard botanical specimens, which will afford a number of plants which remain to be reported.

The experimental garden is as yet in the hands of the department.

Trials are being made with the new products, it is fully and markable introductions of the present year. *C. Arabica*, and they produce to be very prolific. I fear Singapore is not a suitable place for these species, but the Malay Peninsula endeavour to get some eligible plants to plant some of these species, and report on them for some at any time.

Of *Ipecacuanha* the stock as yet in the garden is very small. It is disappearing from its native habit and a small quantity of drug afforded by the natives for the remedy for dysentery, and the increase in the number of cases to be taken for attempting its culture.

With regard to these trials Dr. K.