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The
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ANNUAL REPORTS OF FOREST DEPARTMENTS (REVIEWS).

BENGAL PRESIDENCY : PROGRESS REPORT ON FOREST ADMINISTRATION FOR THE YEAR 1934-35. (Alipore : Bengal Govt. Press. 1s. 8d. : 1 rupee.)

THE Inspector-General of Forests to the Government of India recently drew attention to the advisability of two Conservators again being employed in Bengal. He pointed out that one Conservator cannot possibly inspect all the forests of the Province properly, even if he is as energetic as the well-known forest officer who has recently been transferred to another province as Chief Conservator. During the year under report this officer was in sole charge in Bengal and was on tour for 302 days.

Bengal forests show a gratifying improvement in the working of the year, the surplus having increased from Rs.60,000 in 1933-34 to Rs.293,000 in 1934-35. In the northern circle 88 per cent of the revenue came from timber and prices improved ; in the southern circle minor produce (principally bamboos and palm leaves) accounted for about 40 per cent of the revenue.

The following remark by the Conservator is worthy of particular note by the Local Government :

“ Very little climber cutting was carried out during the year owing to lack of funds : the continual neglect of this operation is very seriously affecting the condition of the growing stock ”.

Bengal has for a number of years taken a leading part in silvicultural experimental work, so that Chapter VI is of special interest. The difficult matter of the regeneration of sal is still being investigated and the influence on it of a common grass, pollinia, and a stiff shrub of the vine family, leea, is described.

It appears that the experience of forest officers in the Andaman Islands in encouraging the natural regeneration of evergreen species, particularly dipterocarps, is being repeated in Bengal. Apparently the correct procedure is to remove the overhead cover gradually, beginning with the lower storey.

In the hill forests of Darjeeling, interesting experiments have been made with exotics, because the indigenous species, except *Michelia excelsa*, provide only inferior timber. The elevation is 5000 ft. to 9000 ft. and the rainfall 90 to 200 in. Two junipers, two cypresses, a pine, sequoia and an alder have shown promise. Many other useful lines of experimental silvicultural work have been started.

Interesting notes are given about wild animals in Bengal. Apparently it has not been found possible to extend adequate protection to the remaining rhinoceros. Quite a number of people were killed by tigers, mostly in the Sundarbunds mangrove forests, east of the mouth of the Hooghly. This locality has long had a bad reputation and rewards were paid for killing forty tigers.

A. R.

BIHAR AND ORISSA, INDIA : REPORT ON FOREST ADMINISTRATION FOR THE YEAR 1934-35. (Patna : Supdt. Government Printing. 3 rupees.)

THE report of the previous year was reviewed in Vol. 15, No. 1, of this JOURNAL. It is much to be regretted that faults of composition, spelling, printing and punctuation are again common in the report now under review.

Bihar and Orissa are treated separately in parts of the report, doubtless in preparation for their forthcoming separation. It is satisfactory to note that the surplus (£12,600) was ten times as much as in 1933-34. There was a better market for timber, and arrears of revenue were paid up by the Bengal Timber Trading Company.

Mr. Warren has written an appendix on Research Experimental Work and Utilization. Experimental plots were laid out in connexion with the problem of obtaining sal regeneration and to try and find out the causes of the fall in the annual yield of a valuable grass (*Pollinidium*). Records are maintained for many other silvicultural experiments, including *Taungya* work (planting or sowing trees with field crops).

A separate Ranger has been appointed for the Utilization work and this appointment has "given it a much-needed fillip, enabling valuable information to be gathered on the stocks of timber held by contractors, and costs of marketing and their location, as the result of which our contractors need no longer be the prey of the middlemen waiting for the golden opportunity of instalments fallen due, to buy materials at cut prices in exchange for ready money".

A. R.

BRITISH GUIANA : REPORT ON THE FOREST DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR 1935. (The Argosy Company Ltd., Georgetown, Demerara.)

A reconnaissance of the forest areas of the Demerara River district was carried out during 1935. Below the Great Fall the forests have been thoroughly exploited in the past, and also suffered severe damage from fires which occurred in 1926. The reconnaissance, therefore, was principally concerned with the forests above the Great Fall, where a total area of approximately 150 sq. miles was examined. Greenheart (*Ocotea Rodioei*) was found to occupy a fair proportion of the area, some of it being of