

BURMA GAZETTEER

SANDOWAY DISTRICT

VOLUME A

BY

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BURMA

1912

hydrogen and carbonic acid gas.

The fauna is varied but not very plentiful. It includes elephants, tigers, rhinoceros, bison, leopards, wild cats, black bear, pig, deer and monkeys. Elephant, rhinoceros and bison are met with in the Yoma but only rarely, sometimes small herds of elephant wander down as far as the line where inhabited country begins. Tigers used to be so plentiful along the Taungup-Prome road that travellers had to barricade their camps, but now they are heard of only occasionally, generally from villages on the head waters of most streams from Taungup southwards; the absence of game often turns them into man-eaters. Leopards and wild cats are fairly common all over the district and take their toll of cattle and dogs. A fair amount of damage is caused to crops by black bear, sambur, gyi, and pig; in more remote villages guns have regularly to be lent to villagers to protect their crops from the ravages of these animals. The jackal is pressing in on the north, it is becoming quite common in the neighbourhood of Taungup and lately has appeared near Sandoway. In 1850 a reward of five rupees used to be given for killing a tiger, and two and a half rupees for a leopard; the rewards given now are forty rupees and twenty rupees, respectively. During the past three years an average of seven hundred rupees a year has been paid as rewards for the destruction of wild animals.

Fauna.

Game birds are scarce. The crow of the jungle fowl or the call of the partridge is rarely heard, likely snipe grounds are too deep under water at fighting time for birds to settle in large numbers. The most common birds in the district are the crow, king-crow, night-jar, green-pigeon and imperial pigeon. The Burmese peafowl (*pavo muticus*) is fairly common in the upper reaches of the Taungup and Tanlwe rivers, and the large talking mynah is found in the hills and is often seen kept as a pet. The records show that until 1862 edible birds' nests used to be collected from the rocky islets along the coast but there is no trace of these birds now.

Birds.

Crocodiles (*C. porosus*) though not numerous are to be seen in the mouths of most rivers; rewards have sometimes to be offered for their destruction when they become aggressive and dangerous in the breeding season in July and August. From the mouth of the Sandoway river southwards a few turtles (chiefly *Cuona olivacea*) come and lay their eggs on the sand, but as the sands are being washed away their visits are becoming more rare. There are very

Reptiles.