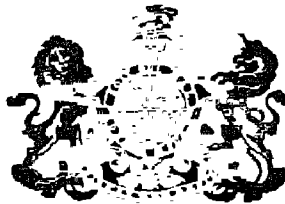


*BURMA GAZETTEER*

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NORTHERN ARAKAN DISTRICT  
(OR ARAKAN HILL TRACTS)

VOLUME A



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Little is known of the flora, but as these hills are a continuation of the South Lushai Hills system, we may regard the flora as identical with that of those hills. The forests are constituted of such trees as "Dipterocarpus turbinatus," "Sauranja punduana," "Schima Wallichii," "Duabanga sonneratioides," and several species of figs; while palms such as "Pinanga," "Caryota," "Licuala" and "Calamus" are doubtless frequent. Bamboos are everywhere plentiful and are rafted down in large quantities to Akyab, down all the principal streams. The revenue collected on bamboos varies from four to five or six thousand rupees annually. Teak springs up readily everywhere and abounds at Paletwa, Daletmè and Sami, and would, if planted out into plantations and tended, give eventually a very good return. Cinnamon trees and dwarf oaks are met with on Kyaukpandaung hill. Several full-sized cinnamon trees are now standing in Paletwa where they were planted experimentally many years ago. Sweet limes, shaddockes, limes and mangoes would all do well here if the trees were only properly attended to.

Goats, pigs, hill and low-land cattle and a few buffaloes are bred principally by the tribes that they may be used for sacrificial purposes solely. The hill cattle (Burmese) "Taung Nwa," or as they are called "Mithun" or Gayal, are bred principally by the Kamis and other hill tribes. These animals, the bulls of which are valued at from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 each, are rarely found in Chaungtha or Arakanese villages. The origin of these fine animals has not been clearly traced. They are said to be the offspring some generations back of the common cow and "Bos gaurus" or Indian bison, but the question of its breed seems to be still an open one. Were the people not to slaughter their hill cattle for sacrificial purposes in certain portions of the Hill Tracts as soon as they reach a mature age, there is no doubt that solitary bull bison, by interbreeding with the cows, would in time considerably improve the breed. Unfortunately no sooner does a hill bull or cow begin to reach maturity than it is considered ready to be sacrificed, in fact, the larger the bull or cow killed, the higher is the owner held in the estimation of those invited to the feast. The result, so far as the quality, size and breeding of these animals is concerned, is, as can be imagined, that improvement is considerably retarded. Gaur or bison, again, are becoming scarce, and until quite recently they were everywhere being systematically and ruthlessly hunted and shot down regardless

Flora.

Fauna.  
Cattle.

of sex or size, and the fact that they rarely enter a cultivation. Parasites or ticks infest all the cattle in Northern Arakan and do a great deal of harm to young animals, many of whom, especially young goats and calves, succumb to their sufferings. It is not possible to walk through the short grass in the middle of Paletwa town even without finding a number of these animals attached to one's boots and nether garments. English dogs have to be very carefully tended, otherwise they suffer terrible torture and lose weight.

**Game.**

The wild animals found include the elephant, the rhinoceros (one variety only " *Rhinoceros sondaican* "), the gaur (these two last-named are now becoming very scarce), wild boar, barking deer, sambhur, three varieties of leopard, the black, the common, and the clouded, the tiger, the bear, the binturong or bear cat, otter, several species of wild cat, and two species of flying squirrel. A few hog deer are occasionally put up in the heavy grass in the valleys, but they are far from plentiful, indeed, the same remarks are applicable to all the deer tribe of this district. There are three or four species of monkeys, including the Lungoor, Gibbon and common brown pest which enter and destroy crops. The red Arakan serow, another larger species of serow of a darker colour, and the goral are to be met with along the slopes and cliffs which face for several miles the rocky heights of Kyaukpandaung, an eminence or rocky plateau situated some 4,500 feet above sea level some 25 miles to the east of Paletwa. Woodcock are occasionally met with along the wooded slopes, hill streams, and valleys surrounding Kyaukpandaung and other neighbouring heights. With the exception of jungle fowl, game birds are scarce everywhere. Geese, duck, teal and snipe are conspicuous by their absence, but the large imperial pigeon and the common green variety are not uncommon. The argus pheasant and the common black variety are occasionally seen but are by no means plentiful. Peafowl, although plentiful in other districts, have never been seen or heard of in Northern Arakan. Two or three species of horn bill are fairly common.

**Fish.**

All the streams, especially in their upper reaches where rocks, rapids and deep pools are met with, abound in Mahsir and other fish. The best rivers for Mahsir are undoubtedly the Kaladan and Lemro above Kaletwa Police Post, and at Lower Lemro, and between that Police-station and Pengwa, and at the junction of the Peng and Lemro streams.