

BURMA GAZETTEER

RUBY MINES DISTRICT

VOLUME A

COMPILED BY
E. C. S. GEORGE, C.I.E.



RANGOON

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BURMA

1915

[Price, --Rs. 1-8-0--2s. 3d.]

from the limestone itself, but the principal sources now are the clays and other *débris* filling up fissures and caves in the limestone, and the alluvial gravel and clays of the valleys of Mogôk and Kyatpyin. Besides rubies, sapphires and spinels with tourmaline and other precious stones are found in the alluvium. Graphite occurs in small flakes disseminated through the limestone, and in a few localities is concentrated in pockets of considerable size along the junction of the limestones with the gneiss. As regards the district as a whole, it may be stated that the soil on the hill sides is generally a stiff red clay, and in the valleys a rich alluvial mould. Rocks crop up at intervals over the whole area. These are chiefly limestone, but calcspar occurs in the neighbourhood of Mogôk and marble towards the foot of the range westwards. At this point a fault occurs in the stratification and the marble is succeeded by sandstone along the Irrawaddy.

The distribution, etc., of precious stones is described in Chapter V.

In the Mogôk township elephants pay periodical visits to the forest-clad hills, but probably owing to the destruction of high forests by *ya*-cutting *gaur* are scarce. Sambhur (*Rusa Aristotelis*) and barking deer (*Cervulus Aureus*) are very common, and serow are found in the Bernardmyo and Mogôk hills. Rhinoceros have been met to the east and south of Mogôk, but are uncommon. Tigers are fairly numerous around Mogôk town, while leopard, bear (*Ursus Malayanus* and *U. Tibetanus*) and wild pig are also found. The remains of the "catfooted bear" have been found in a cave in the Mogôk hills. Fauna.

In Thabeitkyin and Tagaung Townships the game list is similar, with the addition of *saing* (*Bos Sondaicus*) and *Thamin* (*Panolia Eldi*). The former occurs throughout the whole length of the Irrawaddy valley from Chaunggyi to Inywa, wherever *indaing* and bamboo forest is found, and is particularly plentiful amongst the *ins* and *twins* of the Tagaung Township. *Thamin* are confined to two small patches of plain forest east of Tagaung. Elephant and *gaur* are also common throughout the hills dividing the Irrawaddy from the Madaya and Shweli drainages, whence they descend to the edge of the plain forests, the elephants especially being a regular curse to the cultivators.

Serow and rhinoceros have been recorded as occurring in the hilly portion of the Tagaung Township, but no specimen of either has been seen there during the last seven years; apart from the Mogôk hills, both these species belong

properly to the northern slopes of the Taungdaw in Momeik State, whence they have been known to cross to the southern and western slopes in the Ruby Mines District proper.

Tigers abound in the Lower Shweh valley, especially in the area between Tuitson and Thandaung, and leopards are everywhere plentiful and sometimes very bold. At Inywa they have taken dogs off the verandahs of the houses in the village.

Small
game.

In the Mogôk Subdivision the following varieties of pheasant and partridge are found:—

The Grey Peacock Pheasant (*Polyplectron Cinnquis*).

The Burmese Barred-back Pheasant (*Calophasis Burmannicus*).

Anderson's Silver Pheasant (*Gennæus Andersoni*).

The Ruby Mines Silver Pheasant (*Gennæus Rufipes*).

The Salween Silver Pheasant (*Gennæus Sharpii*).

Atlay's Silver Pheasant (*Gennæus Atlayi*).

Fytche's Bamboo Partridge (*Bambusicola Fytchii*).

The Chinese Francolin (*Francolinus Chinensis*).

The Arakan Hill Partridge (*Arboricola intermedia*).

The Brown breasted Hill Partridge (*Arboricola Brunneipectus*).

Of these, only the francolin occurs in the plains, where, in addition, there is the black-breasted Kalij pheasant (*Gennæus Horsfieldi*). Jungle fowl are fairly common everywhere and several varieties of pigeon. Round Kyatpyin and Mogôk woodcock have been shot in reasonable numbers, but snipe are scarce in the hills.

In the Thabeitkyin Subdivision the ordinary game birds occur which are to be found on the banks of the Irrawaddy and on the lakes generally in Upper Burma, sometimes in considerable quantities, and geese, duck, teal and snipe frequent the many *ins* or fisheries in the Tagaung Township around the edges of which the cultivators work *mayin*. Of small birds with quaint and sometimes brilliant plumage there appears to be a fair stock, but so far no one has devoted special attention to them locally. There are at least two kinds of toucan, and pelicans and Sarus cranes are not uncommon.

Ichthyology.

The chief varieties of fish caught in the fisheries of the district may be divided into two groups:—

(a) Those that live and spawn in the *ins*—

Nga Yan (*Ophiocephalus*).

Nga Gyi (*Saccobranchus fossili*).

Nga Myit Chin (*Labeo Rohita*).

Nga Thein.

Nga Byema (*Anabas Scandens*).

(b) Those that live in the Irrawaddy and only enter the *ins* at high water, making their way back to the main river as the water falls —

Nga Bat (*Wallago atta*).

Nga Iwe.

Nga Myin-yin.

Nga Thaing (*Catla Buchanani*).

Nga Iyin (*Cirrhina mrigala*).

Nga Lu.

Nga Le.

Nga Byet.

The fisheries are described in Chapter IV. The most important fish from a commercial point of view is the Nga Thaing.

In some of the streams of the Mogôk Subdivision the Mahseer is found, but the tailings from the mines have ruined many from a fisherman's point of view.

CHAPTER II.

HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

There was not in Burmese times any jurisdiction approximating to what now constitutes the Ruby Mines District, which is made up of sections of a considerable number of native jurisdictions. Taking the riverine portion of the district first and starting from the north, what is now the Thabeitkyin Subdivision includes a portion of the old Burmese Myadaung *wun's* jurisdiction. The present Tagaung Township contains the cis-Irrawaddy portion of Myadaung *plus* the old Tagaung *myothugyiship*, the dividing line between the townships of Tagaung and Thabeitkyin being the Tadaung-Gya *chaung*, the last accepted boundary between the pre-annexation jurisdictions of Tagaung and Hinthamaw. History.

The old Myadaung *wunship*, as it stood at the annexation, finally embraced all that part of the Irrawaddy drainage between the Lower Shweli on the north and the Tagaung jurisdiction on the south that lay to the west of the long line of hills which runs southwards from about the neighbourhood of Laung-Daw-U on the Shweli.

Prior to this, however, there had been in the interior an independent jurisdiction known as the Tonbo Cheikthin