

# PROGRESS REPORT

OF

## FOREST ADMINISTRATION

IN THE

### PROVINCE OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM, EASTERN CIRCLE,

FOR THE YEAR

1910-1911.

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#### CHAPTER I.

##### CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

###### 1. ALTERATION IN AREA.—(FORM No. 51.)

1. The net area of reserves was increased by 9,528 acres. This was due to the inclusion of the area of the Kakodanga Reserve of 10,969 acres, and the exclusion of 1,441 acres of the Kaziranga Reserve. The latter area was of no special value to the game sanctuary and was excluded to allow land for temporary cultivation and access to water for a cooly settlement.

2. Towards the end of the year it was reported that the Toonmadhabohar Reserve in the Noakhali district and under the charge of the Collector of that district had disappeared, partly owing to diluviation and partly owing to the land having been given out for cultivation. A further report and formal proposals for disforestation of the area have not yet been received through the Commissioner. The administration of the Narpuh Reserve, 38 square miles, in the Jaintia Hills, was handed over to the Divisional Forest Officer, Sylhet, but as this is only a tentative arrangement for 2 years, the area has not been brought on to Form No. 51 of this circle.

3. The area of Unclassed State Forests decreased from 15,564 to 15,488 square miles. This decrease is due in part to the formation of the above reserve, but is principally due to the increased demand for land for cultivation. The increase of cultivation and decrease of Unclassed State Forests point to a steady demand in the near future from the reserves of which there are already signs; it also points to the necessity of increasing while we can the percentage of Reserves in districts where the percentage is too small, and to the advisability of spending more of the revenue now derived from the Unclassed State Forests in opening out the inaccessible reserves so that they can be in a state to meet the demands.

###### 2. FOREST SETTLEMENTS.—(FORM No. 52.)

4. No fresh areas were finally settled during the year, but the report on the proposed Dulong Reserve was submitted soon after its close. Progress was also made in the settlement of the proposed Tiru Hill Reserve and the addition to the Diroi, but the proposals to reserve the Panbari area were given up, as it was feared the area would interfere too much with the Mikirs' cultivation. Modified proposals will be submitted shortly. Proposals for the extensions of 16,347 acres and 44 acres to the Kaziranga and Holongapar Reserves respectively were submitted but have not yet been notified.

5. No proposals were sent in for further reservation in Nowgong although this would appear to be very necessary owing to the progress of *juming* and the extermination of certain species such as Sonaru, nor was any further action taken during the year with regard to reserving and examining areas suitable for Simul. In the latter case the death of the Political Officer accounted for the lack of action, but no explanation has been given in the former.