

I sent him away rejoicing, with a coin of the realm, and turned in to dream of the 50in. ibex I was going to shoot on the morrow.

C. G. D.

BIG GAME IN BORNEO.

MUCH MISCONCEPTION EXISTS concerning the game animals of Borneo, particularly those of the British territory, which is frequently described as a veritable game Eldorado, *Bos gaur* being placed amongst its attractions, and even the presence of tiger mooted. Suffice it to say that, with few exceptions, the sportsman must work hard indeed if he wishes to obtain the species allowed on his licence. The gaur and tiger will not figure on his list, since they are non-existent in Borneo, and probably have never occupied a place amongst its fauna.

Excluding tapir, which are very rare; crocodiles, fairly common; and the orang utan, which no true sportsman would wantonly shoot except for scientific purposes, the big game properly may be classified as under:

Pachyderms.—Asiatic elephant and Sumatran rhinoceros.

Cattle.—Tembadau, Banting, or Tsine (*Bos sondaicus*).

Deer.—Three species: (1) Sambar, (2) kidjang (a kind of mountain goat), (3) plandok (mouse deer of Malaya).

Pigs.—*Sus barbatus*.

Felines.—Panther, clouded leopard (Rimau Dahan).

Bear.—Malay, honey bear.

To take these in order:

Elephants are now only found on the east coast in an area bounded on the north by the Labuk River, and on the south by the Dutch border. They are by no means abundant, and the ivory carried is not remarkably heavy, probably from in-breeding. It is a question whether the elephant is indigenous to Borneo or whether the present stock is wholly descended from imported specimens.

Rhinoceros is found in the same area as elephants, and also in certain other districts, *i.e.*, Pindassan, on the west coast, and on the southern and western slopes of Trws Madi, in the interior. Some idea of the value as a trophy may be surmised from the fact that a 9in. horn is considered remarkably good. They are principally shot by the natives, chiefly for the value of the horn, which is an expensive ingredient in Chinese medicine. The value of an average horn in Chinese pharmacy would be between £20 and £30, according to weight.

Tembadau, Banting, or Tsine (Bos sondaicus), are, with the exception of parts of the west coast, fairly evenly distributed. Herds may contain six to twelve head. The east coast is the best ground for these animals.

Pig and deer, all three species, are found in every part of the country, and are fairly numerous. It is interesting to note that amongst pigs, boars preponderate over sows to the extent of about four to one, whereas with deer (sambar) the hinds preponderate to a corresponding extent.

Clouded Leopard (termed colloquially amongst Malays the Rimau Dahan) is rare; found mostly in heavy jungle on the east coast.

Panther have been reported only in the interior and towards the Dutch border. So far the only specimens obtained have been killed by natives, who term them "Ampungan," in contradistinction to "Rimau Dahan" or "Tetakinan."

Bears are by no means common, but are found in most parts of the territory, chiefly in the neighbourhood of jungle fruit, honey, and ants.

Next, as to licences.—A governor's permit, costing \$50 (approximately 5½gs.) annually, is necessary to shoot elephant, subject to an extra \$100 for each bull killed or wounded, and a fine not exceeding \$500 for each cow killed or wounded. This permit includes the right to shoot rhinoceros and tembadau. To shoot rhinoceros only the annual permit costs \$25, with the liability of a fine of \$10 for each female killed or wounded. Tembadau permit costs \$20, with similar restrictions *re* cows. Until quite recently the number of bulls allowed to be shot was unlimited; it is now wisely restricted to three.

Deer.—No licence is required to shoot kidjang or plandok, but sambar costs \$5 a year and \$5 for each hind killed or wounded.

The game laws, however, are somewhat elastic, and the pot hunter minus a licence enjoys a remarkable degree of immunity. In some areas in the neighbourhood of rubber estates sambar are being ruthlessly exterminated, since they have a penchant for the "tips" of young rubber trees, and in addition the stags are disposed to do a deal of "amateur tapping" with their horns on the larger trees, thereby ruining large areas of the valuable latex-bearing bark.

There is an import duty of \$5 (11s. 8d.) a barrel on all fire-arms and \$1 (2s. 4d.) per 100 on cartridges. The annual gun licence costs \$2.

As will be inferred, the east coast is the best district for big game. A sportsman making Sandakan his headquarters, and able to spend two or three months in the jungle, should, with reasonable luck, obtain elephant, rhinoceros, and tembadau, but bear, leopard, and panther would be doubtful.

J. P. WILLIAMS.

Sport in the Kinabatangan District.

TO THOSE who look for varied sport I recommend British North Borneo, where elephant, rhino, tembadau, local gaur, or salandang, Malayan bear, deer, wild boar, &c., are all of them to be found more or less abundant on the east and west coasts.

Having stayed in British North Borneo in the Kinabatangan River District for over a year's planting, I have been able to