

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1887-88.

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Zoological Gardens.

THE total income of the Gardens during the year under report, inclusive of the Government grant of Rs. 20,000, amounted to Rs. 45,279 against Rs. 47,541 in the previous year, while the expenditure rose from Rs. 40,650 to Rs. 43,992, this increase being due chiefly to the comparatively heavy outlay incurred in the purchase of several valuable animals from the menagerie of the late King of Oudh. Of the advance of Rs. 5,000 sanctioned by Government for this purpose, a portion only, viz. Rs. 1,487-11, was drawn, the greater part of the cost being defrayed from the ordinary resources at the disposal of the Committee.

The income derived from donations and subscriptions fell to Rs. 1,030 only as against Rs. 5,989 in 1886-87, when, however, the figure reached was, owing to the munificent gift of Rs. 5,000 made by the Nawab of Moorshedabad, unusually high. The entrance receipts amounted to Rs. 8,294 against Rs. 7,140 in the previous year, and the receipts from the other sources, detailed on the margin, aggregated Rs. 7,684 against Rs. 7,295 in 1886-87.

Rents, Rs. 2,226; carriages and horses, Rs. 556; boats and palkies, Rs. 627; and miscellaneous, inclusive of the percentage on the Fancy Fair and *Fete* collections, Rs. 4,275.

The establishment employed in the Gardens cost Rs. 9,809, or Rs. 661 more than in the previous year; feeding, Rs. 9,335; purchase of animals, Rs. 5,211; transport of animals, Rs. 1,449; and construction and repair of buildings and roads, Rs. 13,527. The opening balance of the year was Rs. 6,891, and the closing balance Rs. 1,286.

The principal works undertaken during the year were the construction of a snake-pit and rockery at an expenditure of Rs. 2,000, the construction of a deer-kiosk costing Rs. 1,220, and the removal of the peafowl house from the former site and its reconstruction in a more conspicuous part of the Gardens.

The number of visitors to the Gardens who paid entrance fees was 108,041 against 97,099 in the previous year, and against an average number of 127,313 for the six preceding years. These figures are exclusive of a large number of students and children under eight years of age, who were admitted into the Gardens during the year free of charge.

The most important additions made in the course of the year were an Indian and a Javan rhinoceros, two Bactrian camels, three Russian bears, a young clouded leopard, and an adult man-eating tiger. The leopard was presented by Mr. C. J. Soltoun, Assam, the man-eating tiger by His Highness the Maharajah of Gidhaur, and the remaining animals were obtained by purchase. Of the presentations made, there were 48 mammals, 79 birds, and four reptiles. As many as 131 presentations were made during the year.