

thousands. Cheetahs do not exceed a few thousands, if as many.

*Primates*.—No estimate has been attempted of baboons and monkeys. The former, in the Luangwa Valley, must total many thousands.

## ASSAM

### FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT, 1934-5.

(Extracts from.)

#### THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE AND ELEPHANT CONTROL.

##### *The Preservation of Wild Life.*

The outstanding event of the year was the assembling of an All-India Conference on this subject at New Delhi in January, 1935.

To accompany the writer as a co-representative for Assam the Local Government were fortunate enough to secure Mr. T. R. Phukan, Barrister-at-Law, who has been for very many years one of the most prominent public men in the Assam Valley.

A Resolution agreed to at the Conference was that provincial Forest Departments should deal with this question in a separate section of their Annual Reports, which accounts for the introduction for the first time of this additional chapter : the descriptions now given at some length of the Sanctuaries should not need repetition in subsequent Annual Reports. It had been recognised before the suggestion of holding the Delhi Conference had been mooted that efforts in Assam should be confined to the 6,600 square miles of Reserved Forest where there are already laws which, where not so at present, can be made adequate without difficulty and a staff which, if not adequate everywhere, can be augmented in important localities without very great cost.

It may seem shocking, especially to those who confound Game Preservation with Wild Life Protection, that it is

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not proposed to do anything very definite over the 14,800 square miles of waste lands still at the disposal of Government, but there are good reasons for this, the principal ones being the absence of staff and the impossibility of finding money to pay for one, and the fact that most of this large area is open to settlement and is bound either to be turned into cultivated fields in the not far distant future, or else to be so cut up by settlement that the larger animals at any rate will not be able to exist in the intervening patches without being a source of danger to human life and to the crops.

The policy to which we are committed in Assam in fact is that the Preservation of Wild Life should be so reasonably conducted that the cost involved is not out of proportion in these days of financial difficulties, and that public opinion is not antagonized.

The Reserved Forests may be divided from the animal point of view into —

(1) Game sanctuaries where complete protection is afforded. The conversion of these into national parks for the preservation of both fauna and flora is now under consideration.

(2) Reserves where game is still found in some abundance, and where it can be encouraged without inflicting injury upon villagers.

(3) Reserves where there is a certain amount of game which does no harm if the numbers are kept in check.

(4) Reserves which contain none of the bigger game animals owing to unfavourable conditions, which may be natural, such as insufficiency of suitable fodder, or artificially induced as when a large human population surrounds a small tract of isolated forest.

##### *Game Sanctuaries.*

(a) *The Monas Sanctuary* on the Bhutan boundary consists of 159 square miles lying partly in the Haltugaon and partly in the Kamrup Divisions.

Elephants, sambhur, swamp deer, hog, and barking deer are plentiful in the appropriate localities, as is also the pygmy