



Progress
Report of Forest
Administration in the
Province of Assam for the year
1940-41.



SHILLONG

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS

3358

146. Relations between revenue and forest officers with the exception of one Division continued to be good. The assistance and advice given by the Political Officers of Balipara Frontier Tract and Sadiya are gratefully acknowledged. Particular mention is made of the help afforded by the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, Mr. G. P. Stewart, I.C.S., who made a point of acquainting himself with our regeneration work and was extremely helpful over reservation proposals. Help and interest in our work are warmly welcomed in these days when such are more often conspicuous by their absence. It is fully realised that the work of Deputy Commissioners is extremely heavy and it is difficult for them to spare time to visit the forests and see our work, but since the forests are so closely concerned with the needs and welfare of the people, an occasional tour with the Divisional Forest Officer would it is felt be mutually beneficial, and would also enable the Head of the District to gain a better knowledge of an individual officer than can be obtained from occasional interviews at headquarters. That some District Officers are quite out of touch with forest activities is apparent from their absence of comment when forwarding the Divisional Annual Report. Since we are all part of one machine, a closer liaison between local Departments seems to be desirable.

CHAPTER VIII

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE AND ELEPHANT CONTROL

I.—THE PRESERVATION OF WILD LIFE

147. The Pobha Reserve was added to the list of Sanctuaries during the year. The late Mr. Milroy, Conservator of Forests originally initiated this project of a sanctuary for the preservation of the wild buffalo and improvement of local stock of the domesticated animal. There have been many delays and arguments regarding the creation of this Sanctuary and it is satisfactory to be able to record that it has now been finally notified.

148. Game is reported to be on the increase in most of our Sanctuaries, and the improvements in patrol in Nowgong has had satisfactory results in the Laokhwa Reserve, part of which is preserved for wild life, and rhino are reported to have been frequently seen. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge-Forests, who takes a keen interest in this branch of our work, paid a brief visit to this Sanctuary and expressed satisfaction with what he saw, 3 rhino, 8 buffalo and a number of hog deer. Poaching is still reported in this area and 3 guns were seized during the year.

149. Rhino in the Kaziranga Sanctuary are reported to be increasing and a number of young calves have been observed. The appointment of a local stockman as Honorary Forest Officer has produced good results. A sum. of Rs.215(Rs.305) was received from visitors to this Reserve. In the North Kanirup Sanctuary buffalo are reported to be increasing but rhino and swamp deer have become regrettably scarce due to poaching, mainly it is reported by concessionaires, who remove produce in exchange for free labour. The matter is being enquired into and it is probable that such concessions will have to be withdrawn. An interesting report on this Sanctuary was submitted by Mr. C. G. Baron, Honorary Forest Officer, at the close of the year. Poaching is reported in Kochugaon and Darrang (Orang Sanctuary) where 2 rhino were destroyed.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, ASSAM—RETURN OF WILD ANIMALS SHOT IN THE RESERVED FORESTS DURING 1940-41

All-India serial number	Species	Total in 1940-41	Average of the 4 years from 1937-38 to 1940-41*
1a	Tiger	13	17
1b	Tigress	5	4
2	Leopard or Panther ...	1	10
3	Wild cats ... ... ...	...	...
4	Lynx ... ... ...	...	...
5	Hunting leopard or Cheetah ...	...	...
6	Hyæna ... ... ...	...	...
7	Wolf ... ... ...	...	...
8	Wild dog... ... ...	...	...
9	Martens ... ... ...	...	...
10	Rateł ... ... ...	...	...
11	Brown bear ...	...	...
12	Himalayan black bear ...	...	...
13	Malayan bear ...	...	...
14	Sloth bear ...	...	4
15	Wild elephant ...	71	42
16	Rhinoceros unicornis...	2	1
17	Gaur or Bison ...	...	...
18	Gayal or Mithan ...	...	...
19	Banting or Tsine ...	...	...
20	Wild buffalo ...	2	4
21	Urial or Shapu ...	...	...
22	Bharal or Blue sheep...	...	...
23	Ibex ...	...	...
24	Markhor ...	...	...