

PROGRESS REPORT
OF
FOREST ADMINISTRATION
IN THE
PROVINCE OF ASSAM
FOR THE YEAR
1904-1905.

CHAPTER I.

CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

1.—*Alteration in area (Form No. 46).*

(i) *Reserved forests.*

The alterations in the area during the year raise the reserved forests from 2,417,960 acres to 2,430,027 acres as a net result of reservation in the Kamrup, Darrang, and Nowgong Divisions and disforestation in Darrang (where a small portion of the Charduar reserve was given up for cultivation) and in Garo Hills (where two areas included in the Chima-Bangshi and Dhima reserves were found to belong to the Rani of Bijni, and two small plots in the Siju reserve were excluded to rectify the boundary).

(ii) *Unclassed forests.*

2. The alterations in unclassed forest are due to increase in reserved forest and to the leasing of land for cultivation or relinquishment of land so leased previously. The net result is an increase from 11,845,597 acres to 12,161,538 acres.

The chief increase is in Cachar, where the area for which no information is available, was reduced from 1,655 square miles to 637 square miles.

The areas given in Form No. 46 are arrived at from information supplied by Deputy Commissioners; they include waste lands much of which is not under tree forest.

2.—*Forest settlements (Form No. 47.)*

3. The three areas aggregating 21 square miles in the Kamrup, Darrang, and Nowgong Divisions under settlement during 1903-1904 were reserved; a sum of Rs. 1,213-7-6 was paid to villagers who removed from the addition to the Pantan reserve, Kamrup, as compensation for houses and fruit trees; no other expenditure on account of forest settlement was charged to the Forest Department, the work being done by local officers.

4. With regard to other areas under settlement on 1st July 1904 the field work in connection with the settlement of the additions to the Dehingmukh and Upper Dehing reserves in Lakhimpur was completed before the end of the year: the former has since been reserved.

No further progress has been made in the settlement of the forests proposed for reservation in the Garo Hills.

5. Some 243 square miles of forest, for which preliminary notifications under section 5, Assam Forest Regulation, issued during the year, remained under settlement on the 30th June 1905. These areas include 90 square miles in Kamrup and 129 in Sibsagar and Nowgong in which the object of reservation is the protection of game.

6. Further proposals for reservation have been made in Cachar (7 square miles), in Lakhimpur (11 square miles), in Sylhet (4 square miles), and in Khasi and Jaintia Hills (30 square miles). The first and second proposals await an expression of opinion by the Deputy Commissioner, the third relates to an area, the chief product of which is thatching grass and requires to be further considered, and the fourth proposal was submitted in June 1905 for the orders of the Local Government.

7. The question of reserving areas suitable for the growth of *simul* (*Bombax malabaricum*) has engaged the attention of the Divisional Forest Officer, Lakhimpur; the only suitable forest which this officer found was, however, situated beyond the "Inner Line" and was open to political objection.

The Deputy Commissioner has remarked on the Lakhimpur Division Annual Report that he believes large suitable areas for *simul* exist on the south bank of the Brahmaputra, and the Divisional Forest Officer has been instructed to examine them. *Simul* is the most suitable indigenous wood for tea boxes, and it appears that the supply of this wood is not likely to last unless special measures are taken to assist its growth by fire protection in suitable localities from which the timber can be floated to the saw mills; the matter is therefore of much importance.

3.—Demarcation (Form No. 48).

8. The length of new boundary demarcated during the year was 14 miles. The work on 8 miles in Darrang is, however, incomplete, the clearing of the boundary of the addition to the Nowduar reserve being partial only. The method of demarcating was by posts and mounds with cleared lines between.

The cost of the work was Rs. 221-12, of which Rs. 63-12 remained undisbursed at the end of the year. The cost per mile, therefore, averages Rs. 15-8.

9. One thousand one hundred and forty-nine miles of boundaries were repaired at a cost of Rs. 2,503 in cash and free labour to the value of Rs. 3,438. The cost includes 7 miles of Assam-Bhutan boundary in Goalpara which is not shown as forest boundary, as it is ordinarily cleared by the civil authorities, but was this year cleared by the Forest Department, encroachment being feared as people had newly settled in Bhutan near that part of the boundary.

The total length of boundary was shortened by 6 miles owing to disforestation.

10. Three hundred and ninety-eight miles of artificial boundary (about 34 per cent. of the whole) were inspected during the year. No inspection was done in Sibsagar, as the Divisional Forest Officer was chiefly engaged in the other part of his double charge and only 13 per cent. of the boundary was inspected in the Garo Hills.

The Divisional Forest Officer, Darrang, remarks that the clearing of boundary lines is not in a very satisfactory condition and that additional posts are required; he cites the south boundary of the Charduar reserve and the entire boundaries of the Singri Hill and Bhamaraguri reserves as specially requiring attention.

4.—Forest surveys (Form No. 49).

11. The Superintendent, Forest Surveys' report shows that survey work was done in the Garo Hills, Kamrup, Darrang, Nowgong, and Sibsagar. A large area was triangulated and traversed in advance and 145 square miles were topographically surveyed on the 4-inch scale. The total expenditure for the year, including preparation of maps, was Rs. 41,969, of which Rs. 29,637 is debitable to the Forest Department, in addition to which the Divisional Forest Officers, Darrang and Sibsagar, spent Rs. 404 on clearing lines for the forest survey parties. Part of the cost was not adjusted in forest accounts of the year.

12. In Nowgong, local survey was made of the proposed additions to the Chelabor and Doboka reserves.

13. The total expenditure on the constitution of State forest was Rs. 25,928.

CHAPTER II.

MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

1. REGULATION OF MANAGEMENT.

(a) Preparation and control of regular working plans (Form No. 50).

14. The working plan for the Nambor reserved forest 64 square miles in extent in the Sibsagar Division, referred to in paragraph 17 of last year's report, was drawn up by Mr. Dicks, Deputy Conservator of Forests; it was printed during the year and has been submitted to the Inspector General of Forests for opinion and remarks.

This plan will regulate the working of the Nambor forest for a period of fifteen years. No special expenditure was incurred in its preparation.

15. As stated in paragraph 16 of last year's report the provisions of the working plans for the Dambu and Darugiri forests in the Garo Hills will continue to be acted on to the extent of the arrears in the fellings which at the close of the year, amounted to 2,961 *sal* trees in Dambu and to the entire prescribed fellings (7,000 *sal* trees) in Darugiri.

16. In Goalpara, the provisional scheme of felling sanctioned pending the revision of the working plan was carried out exactly in the Guma Working Circle; in the Eastern Working Circle sanction to fell 4,142 *sal* trees in place of 1,853 prescribed by the scheme

FOREST DEPARTMENT, ASSAM.—STATEMENT SHOWING THE PROGRESS MADE IN

Name of forest division.	Name of civil district or territory.	Area already settled at commencement of the year, in square miles.	Area finally settled during the year.					
			Number and date of Government order according to final sanction to the settlement.	Name of forest settled.	Area, in square miles.	Expenditure incurred during the year on areas finally settled.		Entire cost per square mile of area finally settled during the year.
						In forest accounts.	In other accounts.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cachar ...	Cachar...	806*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	103	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara ...	Goalpara	787	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kamrup ...	Kamrup	149	Notification No. 4194R., dated the 22nd September 1904.	Second addition to the Pantan reserve.	6	1,213	...	208
Darrang ...	Darrang	321	Notification No. 5321R., dated the 23rd November 1904.	Addition to the Nowduar reserve.	15	...	...	...
Nowgong	Nowgong	143†	Notification No. 3714R., dated the 11th August 1904.	Addition to the Rongkhong reserve.	(a)	...	...	...
Sibsagar ...	Sibsagar and Naga Hills.	939	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	340	...	...	...	...	...	...
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	52‡	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garohills	Garohills	139	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	3,778	...	...	21	1,213	...	...

* Incorrectly shown as 80
† " " " 142
‡ " " " 51

No. 47.

AND THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON, FOREST SETTLEMENTS DURING 1904-1905.

Areas undergoing settlement.						Remarks.
At commencement of the year.		Taken in hand during the year.		Expenditure incurred during the year on areas undergoing settlement.		
Name of tract.	Area, in square miles.	Name of tract.	Area, in square miles.	In forest accounts.	In other accounts.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
...	...	Krungmin ...	10	...	...	Notification No. 2728R., dated the 10th June 1905.
...	
...	
...	...	North Kamrup reserve ...	90	...	...	Notification No. 2441R., dated the 1st June 1905.
...	
...	...	.....	...	...	...	(a) 304 acres being less than half a square mile cannot be shown in column 6.
		Second addition to the Doboka reserve.	1	...	...	Notification No. 305R., dated the 17th January 1905, 426.4 acres.
		Chelabor ...	13	...	...	Notification No. 3025R., dated the 19th June 1905.
		Laokhawa ...	40	...	...	Notification No. 2440R., dated the 1st June 1905.
...	...	Kaziranga reserve.(b) ...	89	...	...	Notification No. 2442R., dated the 1st June 1905.
Addition to the Dehingmukh reserve.	2	.....	...	...	...	(b) Partly in the Sibsagar and partly in the Nowgong Divisions.
Addition to the Western Block, Upper Dehing reserve.	4	.....	...	...	...
...	
First addition to the Dhima reserve.	1(c)	.....	...	...	...	(c) 338.8 acres. Incorrectly shown as 53 square miles in last report (section 268, Forest Department Code).
		First addition to the Siju reserve.	(d)	...	...	(d) 21 acres. Notification No. 1808R., dated the 29th April 1905.
Second addition to the Dhima reserve.	17(e)	.....	...	...	...	(e) 10,977 acres. Incorrectly shown as 17.15 square miles in last report.
		Second addition to the Siju reserve.	(f)	...	...	(f) 76.5 acres. Notification No. 1808R., dated the 29th April 1905.
Third addition to the Chima-Bangshi reserve	18(g)	(g) 11,355 acres. Incorrectly shown as 17.74 square miles in last report.
.....	42	243	

square miles last year.

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