



**QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW
OF
Forest Administration in the Province of
Assam for the period 1929-30 to 1933-34
WITH THE
Progress Report of Forest
Administration for
1933-34**

SHILLONG

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS

1934

Price 6s. 9d.]

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[Price Rs. 4-8]

Original from
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

PROGRESS REPORT OF Forest Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1933-34

CHAPTER I.

CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

1.—ALTERATION IN AREA—(FORM No.7).

(i) *Reserved Forests.*

Eight new reserves were formed during the year comprising 54 square miles, viz., the Singrimara Reserve in the Darrang Division, the Disama Reserve in the Nowgong Division, the Duarmara and Tirap Reserves in the Lakhimpur Division, the Bateswar and Ranikhai Reserves in the Sylhet Division and the Khatajuli and Gohaingurung Reserves in the Kamrup Division. Additions to the extent of 30 square miles were made to certain reserves in Darrang, Nowgong, Lakhimpur, Cachar, and Kamrup Divisions, while 4 square miles were disforested in the Sadiya, Sylhet, Goalpara and Kamrup Divisions. Full details will be found in Form No. 7. The total area of Reserves in the Province stood at 6,630 square miles at the close of the year including 366 square miles of Protected Forests in Sadiya added under Reserved Forests for statistical purposes.

(ii) *Village Forests.*

2. Nil.

(iii) *Unclassed State Forests.*

3. The area of Unclassed State Forests at the close of the year was, according to the figures supplied by the Deputy Commissioners, 14,818 square miles, as compared with 14,882 square miles at the commencement, or a decrease of 64 square miles. Alterations were due to reservations and disforestation and to the leasing out and relinquishment of land for cultivation.

2.—FOREST SETTLEMENTS—(FORM No. 8).

4. The area under settlement at the commencement of the year was 108 square miles, of which 84 square miles were finally settled. Preliminary Notification in respect of the proposed second addition to the Singla Reserve in Sylhet was cancelled. Settlement proceedings in respect of 44 square miles were taken in hand during the year.

3.—DEMARCATION—(FORM No. 9).

5. During the year 1,542 miles of previously existing boundaries were repaired at a cost of Rs. 6,099 exclusive of the value of forest produce given in exchange for labour. The total length of the boundaries was 5,476 miles as compared with 5,009 miles at commencement of the year.

4.—FOREST SURVEYS—(FORM No. 10).

6. The Officer in charge No. 12 Party, Survey of India, reports that no forest surveys were undertaken during the year.

7. The expenditure on the constitution of State Forests amounted to Rs. 8,736,

20. The total revenue realized amounted to Rs. 45,272 including previous year's outstandings against an expenditure of Rs. 36,661 excluding "Interest on capital outlay."

(b) *Buildings.*

21. The total expenditure on new buildings amounted to Rs. 10,803, the expenditure on houses for the subordinate establishment and repairs to the existing buildings amounting to Rs. 10,059 and Rs. 36,425 respectively against Rs. 15,091 and Rs. 28,707 in the previous year.

(c) *Miscellaneous Works.*

22. Rupees 2,632 was spent in sinking 8 wells in continuation of the programme for providing wells where good water is not available.

23. Considerable success has been achieved as regards keeping the Kuls river to its proper bed, as mentioned in paragraph 21 of last year's report, and training operations will be continued.

24. Rupees 680, as against Rs. 750, was spent by the Public Health Department in the anti-malarial campaign at Kochugaon. Statistics prove how beneficial these operations have been since their commencement but the fact that the incidence of malaria rose during the absence of the anti-malarial staff for a month or so on cholera duty in Cachar shows that any relaxation of these efforts would only lead to Kochugaon regaining its previous sinister reputation as regards black-water and malaria.

25. The leprosy clinic started last year at Kochugaon was continued. The number of patients has increased so much that the funds available are no longer sufficient for the purpose.

26. The total expenditure on miscellaneous works including repairs of compound, fencing etc., was Rs. 17,303 against Rs. 15,921 in the previous year.

3.—PROTECTION OF FORESTS.

(a) *General Protection—(Form No. 13).*

27. There were 2,329 new cases against 2,140 in the previous year. Five hundred and thirty-eight cases including 142 of the previous year were tried in Court and conviction was obtained in 323 cases in which 728 persons were involved, 153 persons accused in 58 cases were acquitted and 157 cases remained pending at the close of the year. The percentage of acquittals to the number of cases tried was 11 against 9 in the preceding year.

The high percentage of acquittals is reported to be due to cases not being well put up where Forest Pleaders are not employed and to Magistrates not being willing to convict in the absence of independent witnesses, though the presence of these in a forest is usually improbable. One Magistrate dismissed 2 cases from ignorance of the fact that timber was forest produce whether it came from a forest or not. The question of engaging Forest Pleaders where none are now employed is being considered.

28. It was found after the close of the year that rhinoceros-poaching by shooting and pitting was being carried on systematically in the Kaziranga Sanctuary. The suppression of these illicit operations was taken up energetically by the Divisional Forest Officer and more adequate arrangements for the safeguarding of the fauna in this Sanctuary are under consideration of Government.

An Assistant Conservator of Forests was attached to Kamrup to be in charge of the Monas Sanctuary under the Conservator, and to attend in Court whenever poaching cases were being tried. Game preservation in the Sanctuary and the adjacent forests of Goalpara, where the Divisional Staff rendered valuable assistance to the Assistant Conservator of Forests, is now satisfactorily effective.

Three cases of rhino-horn smuggling were detected in Goalpara but prosecutions could not be made for want of sufficient evidence; the horns have, however, been retained by Government.

Eight cases of elephant shooting occurred in Nowgong, some of which had undoubtedly been killed for their tusks. Ivory poaching has always been prevalent in Nowgong and the North Cachar Hills, and unfortunately received a stimulus from the creation a few years ago of an ill-advised Ivory Mahal in Nowgong. It is almost impossible to obtain witnesses in such case.

105. The question of amending the import and Transit Rules which involves the necessity of revising the list of Revenue Stations in the Province was under consideration.

106. There were 30 elephants and 2 calves at the beginning of the year against the revised sanctioned strength of 26 elephants. One elephant and 1 calf died, 1 elephant was sold and 1 elephant was killed as a result of injuries received from a train on the Tezpur-Balipara Railway against whom a Civil Suit has been instituted for compensation. The total number of elephants stood at 27 at the close of the year excluding 1 calf.

107. A male rhino calf, which was found wandering and captured by some villagers in Darrang, was subsequently sold by the Department for Rs, 3,000 to a representative of the Paris Zoo.

DATED SHILLONG : }
The 21st August 1934. }

A. J. W. MILROY,
Conservator of Forests, Assam.