

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

At Bara Bhalka we put up and bagged a 7' Leopard where, according to our information, should have been a Tiger and Tigress. As it happened I had another good *khubber* of Tiger the same morning, so I wasn't particularly pleased at having to go eleven miles for a Leopard.

We had very bad luck at Hamua on the 27th, as late in the afternoon we had a Tigress in the line, but she sneaked through and got clean away; throughout the day absolutely nothing was bagged.

*Khubber* came in on the morning of the 28th of four kills at Chengmari, one of which had been dragged into the Forest Reserves. This sounded bad, as it is next to impossible in the Reserves to beat a Tiger out to stops. However, we went out and first beat a small patch outside which were two kills. Here, as I expected, we drew blank, but on going to the forest, fortune favoured us, and Lawson got the Tiger with a

### AN EXCELLENT FIND.

single shot. There was also a Tigress in the beat, which, though wounded, got away. We tracked her up for some time, but did not see her again. The Tiger measured 9'-9" (new measurement 9'-3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed 490lbs. He was full of beef.

The 1st March was a practically wasted day. We intended beating Bara Dogla for a pair of Tiger. While on the way there, one of the *shikaris* met us and said that the Tigers had crossed over to the near side. We found the fresh tracks right enough and beat several patches, but we turned nothing out.

The next day, Hatashu brought in such glowing accounts that I determined to try a new piece of ground near a Santhal village, north-west of Shamuktola. In the first beat a Sambur Stag, weighing 38 stone, was shot by Adam. Out of three Bear turned out in the second, Lawson knocked over the largest and wounded another. After lunch the first beat produced only a Pig,

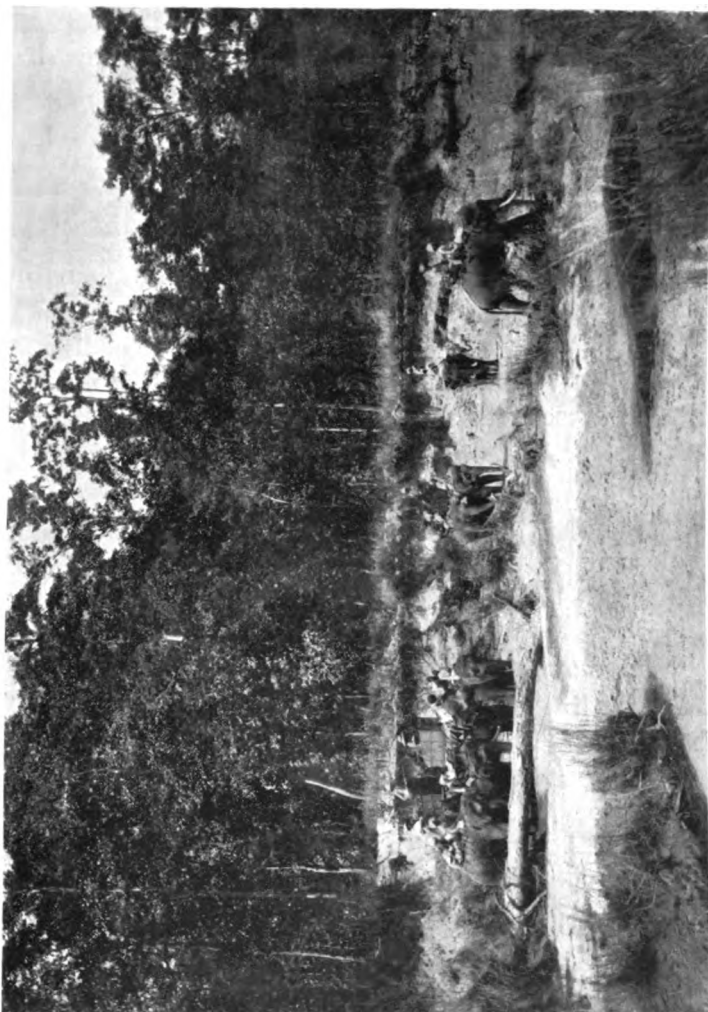
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though in the second, two Tiger were turned out and fired at. Both unfortunately got away into the Reserves. Altogether, Hatashu's new find proved an excellent one.



**Lawson's Bear.**

We shot round about camp on the 3rd and 4th, bagging a Leopard (7'-4") and a Bear, and also had a long day without result after Bison on the 5th. At Baman Kote on the 6th we went after



**In the Forest Reserves.**

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Rhino, but didn't see any, though a Tiger came right out into the open during the last beat and—bad cess to him—got away.

The next ten days of the shoot contains little that is of interest and may be condensed with advantage. Game was scarce pretty well throughout, and though a certain number of big beasts were seen, something always happened to prevent our getting on terms with them. We changed camp several times, but seemed quite unable to break our run of bad luck, until the 15th March, when in the Forest Reserves, I shot a fine cow Buffalo and Rajey a Sambur Stag weighing 48 stone 7lbs. During this very dull period, Adam, Frewen, Neufville, Ezra and Jit left camp, so our party was a good deal reduced.

Still shooting in the Forest Reserves, which we continued to do for several days later. On the 16th we split up our party, Lawson, Rajey, Jaucourt and Ashton tracking in one direction, while I took

## BISON AND RHINO.

the rest of the line and beat towards the Longa River. A young bull Bison got up and I knocked him over, unfortunately as it turned out, for the shot put up a herd of fourteen, which cleared out without giving a chance. I wish I had known they were there. In the last beat, a Rhino, which had been fired at and, I believe, knocked over, came galloping towards me in the open. I tried to cut him off but failed, and then had a couple of shots at over a hundred yards, but neither stopped him, and he got away—confound him. Had the other guns been with us, we should probably have bagged him.

Gauripur joined us on the 17th, a day which we managed effectually to waste. Early in the morning we started for the junction of the Longa and Pepua Rivers, which I was told was only eight miles off. At mid-day, having then travelled hard for four hours, I thought it was about time to stop, and after further enquiry found that the

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place was still five miles off. This wasn't good enough, so, having had all the trouble for nothing, after lunch we beat homewards. A Bear was fired at but not bagged, and several Sambur Stags gave nice shots, but the Jemadar had not explained to the guns what beasts were to be fired at, so they were left alone.

We had a splendid day's sport at Takum Takum Khas on the 18th, three Rhino and a magnificent Sambur Stag being the result. The Sambur looked bigger than the one shot on the 15th. Three other Rhino were also put up, but didn't give a shot. Ezra, who had only just joined us again, had all the luck. He killed a Rhino with one shot and also got the Stag. The other two Rhino fell to me. Ezra's cow Rhino stood 16 hands and mine was a little bit bigger.

We tried the same place the following day and killed one out of the two bull Buffalo that were turned out.



Some of our Tuskers.



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The 20th March was another great day. We beat the forest first without putting anything up. So after lunch we worked a big patch on the Longa River, and here again three Rhino were bagged, two of them bulls. The cow Rhino got home on "Ganesh." The bigger bull Rhino took a lot of killing even after he was knocked over. His measurements were: height 18 hands  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", girth 112", largest girth 146", length 11'-10", body 10'-2" (the last two measurements were between pegs). A third bull Buffalo came out to one of the stops, but in the scrimmage after the three Rhino he managed to slip back.

At Pechadavri, on the 21st, we had a long day after Rhino, but saw nothing and did no good. Some of the mahouts were stung by hornets. The 22nd and 23rd, the last two days of our shoot, brought us in two Sambur and two Barasingh Stag. One of the Sambur, a fine Stag, was shot by Rajey.

## OPINION OF THE SHOOT.

With better knowledge of the country, we should, I think, have made a finer bag. There were lots of Rhino and Bison, though Buffs were not so plentiful. Tigers were also numerous, but the villagers didn't bring in *khubber* as they ought to have done. Comparatively little was shot in the Reserves, the greater number of our beasts having been killed in the "Khas" jungles outside.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Animals.	Jan. 30th- Feb. 8th.	Feb. 14th- Mar. 23rd.	April.	May.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	...	7	...	...	7
Leopard .. ...	5	5	4 *	8 †	22
Rhino ... ..	...	6	...	...	6
Buffalo ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Bison ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Bear ... ..	...	2	...	...	2
Sambur ... ..	...	12	...	...	12
Barasingh ... ..	...	12	...	...	12
Hog Deer .. ...	...	6	...	...	6
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	4	...	...	4

\* Jotindro, Grove, Sujey and myself made up the party.

† Sujey, Sujan, Grove, Ashton, Gauripur and self took part in the shoot.

## CHAPTER XVI.

1899.

Simlaguri in Assam—A Good Beginning—Wild Tusker visits Camp—The black Leopard—Return of the "Rogue"—The Record Bag at Dhowbeel—Grand Bison—A Watery Shoot—The Summary.

THE shooting party this year included H. R. H. The Count of Turin, Prince Teano, Sir Benjamin Simpson, Hall, Watson, Count Carpenetto, Lord Lonsdale, Lord Elphinstone, Sir Henry Tichborne, Plowden, Prall, Rajey, Gurdon and Vanderbyl.

We started for our camp at Simlaguri in Assam in February and commenced shooting on the 23rd of that month, when Boli brought in *khubber* of a herd of 10 Buffalo. Of these, five cow were bagged (the three biggest having horns measuring 9'-1 $\frac{3}{4}$ " , 8'-11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 8"-7 $\frac{7}{8}$ " ), but I am sorry to say the bull broke the line in the first beat and got away.

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The next day we saw a fair amount of fresh Rhino tracks, but couldn't locate the beasts, and nothing was killed, but a couple of Python, one of them a very big snake, 17' in length, girth  $26\frac{3}{4}$ ' and weight 14 stone.

We bagged a Tigress close to camp on the 26th. She taped  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ", body  $5\text{'-}10\frac{3}{4}$ " and weighed 329lbs. According to the new measurement, her total length and body were  $8\text{'-}7\frac{3}{4}$ " and  $5\text{'-}6$ " respectively. At about 11 p.m. a wild (Gonesh) tusker came into the Elephant "Dhura," and we went out expecting to see him captured at once, but he was very wary and beat us in the end. He went for all the males with great persistency, and we had a good deal of difficulty in keeping him off. Not till 5-30 a.m. did we manage to get a noose round his leg and surround him with our Elephants. By this time it was broad daylight, and catching sight of men, he made frantic efforts to escape, eventually charging "Indrajit," whom he knocked



The Party, 1899 Shoot.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

over and rammed with his tusks on the head and neck. "Indrajit" got up and bolted, and was not found and brought into camp until late in the day. Poor beast, he was awfully knocked about and could neither eat nor drink.

The same morning on which all this disturbance had occurred, separate *khubber* came in of three Tiger and a Leopard. We went to a place where a Tiger and the Leopard were said to be close to one another. The former wasn't at home, but we got the Leopard which proved to be a black one. I had never seen one of this sort before in its wild state. It was a great piece of luck getting so rare a beast. She was 6'-9" in length and weighed 92lbs.

A Tiger which I bagged at Kamargaon on the 27th was a good sized one and gave very little trouble. His full length was 9'-9", body 6'-10½" (new measurements 9'-3" and 6'-4½") and weighed 440lbs. After padding him we had a try for

A "ROGUE" ELEPHANT.

another Tiger, but in this case drew blank. I forgot to mention that the "Rogue" elephant



H. R. H. The Count of Turin mounting in the unorthodox way.

repeated his visit the night after his first. On the second occasion he went for "Rampershad" and knocked him about a good deal, but not so



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

badly as "Indrajit." Ashton and the Jemadar followed him up, and the moment the "Rogue" sighted them, he charged. Both fired at him and brought him on to his knees, but the brute picked himself up and got away.

The next two days were occupied trying to get on terms with another Kamargaon Tiger, but, as before, he bested us completely. Three more thoroughly disappointing days after Tiger and Rhino had to be passed before we got a stroke of luck, but, when we did, it made up for a good deal.

We shifted camp to Bansbari on the 5th March and the next day gave all a rest.

By this time a week had gone by, practically blank so far as big game was concerned, and I had almost despaired of a change in the luck when the 7th March ushered in the grandest day's shooting I have ever had. This was at Dhowbeel,

## THE RECORD BAG.

where, soon after mid-day, we had thirteen head of big game accounted for, a record which I really think has never been beaten. Here are the details: one bull Bison, two bull Rhino and three cows, two bull Buffalo and five cows. Two Bar-



**•A Record Day's Bag: 13 head of Big Game in 2 hours—7 Buffalo, 5 Rhino and 1 Bison.**

sing Stag were also shot. Excepting the Barasingh, all these beasts were turned out of one patch of grass. We had great luck in getting the bull Bison. He was seen by the howdah Elephants before we had actually caught them up, and he

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

turned out to be the same that had bested us some years back. He was a rare old bull and stood 18 hands 1" at the shoulder, the horns were tip to tip along inside curve 67", base 21", span 34½", across forehead 17". One of the bull Buffalo was a fine beast too and in prime condition, but carried marks of severe tussles with others of his kind. His measurements were : height 16 hands and ½", girth 104", neck near body 86", neck near head 58", body between sticks 9'-6", total length 12'-2"; in addition to thoseshot, a bull Rhino and a bull Buffalo were put up, but escaped.

A general shoot on the 8th produced three Barasingh, a Pigmy Hog and a Porcupine. In the last beat we came on three or four wild Elephants and let fly at a *Gonesh*, believing he was the old beast that played the devil at Simlaguri, but we didn't get him.

On the 9th we saw fresh tracks of Bison and the beasts were evidently in the tree jungle, but

## ANOTHER GOOD DAY'S SPORT.

we couldn't circumvent them, and the day after moved camp to Bhuiapara.

Two Buffalo—a bull and a cow—were bagged on the 11th, though, thanks to Boli placing the stops all wrong, the majority of the herd bolted without being fired at. The cow Buffalo was killed in the line, and a Rhino, put up in the same beat, managed to slip through between two howdahs. The bull was got in the beat after luncheon, during which another Rhino and Buffalo bested us by outflanking the line.

On our return to camp we heard *khubber* of a Tiger having killed four cows close to camp, so at 9 a.m. the following morning we looked him up and had him padded by quarter past ten. He was a goodish beast : length 9'-5", body 6'-5", or between sticks 9' and 6'.

We had real good sport on the 13th March, bagging a grand Bison, a Rhino and a Buffalo. The bull Bison was killed before lunch and died

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very game. He charged Ashton's Elephant, and very nearly got him, and did actually get home on a pad Elephant in the line. He was the finest Bison I had ever seen, standing 18 hands  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " at the shoulder, and in the prime of life; the other measurements were: girth 124", body (between sticks)  $9'-6\frac{1}{2}"$ , full length  $12'-3\frac{3}{4}"$ , horns round curves  $76\frac{1}{2}"$ , base  $20\frac{1}{2}"$ , between tips  $26\frac{1}{4}"$ , and widest splay 39". The Rhino and Buffalo were bagged in the only beat we had after lunch. Two other Buffalo, a Bison and a couple of Rhino went off without being fired at.

On the 14th we strove after Buffalo, and up to lunch time had seen nothing except a few doubtfully fresh tracks, so I despatched Boli for information. Lunch was barely over before we heard Boli "cooeing" in the distance. As we were climbing into our howdahs we saw a Buffalo gallop out of the patch, but we failed to get round him. Meanwhile Boli appeared and said that the



Count of Turin's bull Bison.

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herd were in the big nullah, that he had been right in amongst them, but couldn't induce them to come over our way. Now this enormous jungle was all under water, but with news like this something had to be done, so I decided to go in, four stops being left outside on the off-chance of the beasts breaking out. Boli took us straight in, and the line had hardly moved before we found ourselves in the thick of the herd. A merry twenty minutes followed, during which we killed three in the line and a fourth was bagged by the stops. The bull was a fine beast, but, knee-deep in water as we all were, it was impossible to measure any of them.

Another good Bison was bagged on the 15th. We began the day by putting up a small herd of Buffalo before we had come in sight of the howdahs, but they got into a patch of grass, and from there, somehow or other, managed to slip us. In the beat after lunch five more Buffalo were put up

### LONSDALE'S BULL BISON.

and 'did' us again by breaking back through the line. However, towards the end of the day, luck favoured us with a fine bull Bison which came out to Lonsdale. The following are his measurements: height 17 hands  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ", girth 114", length 11'-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and body 8'-9". His neck was covered with scars, evidently the results of fighting. A wild tusker with only one tusk—the left one—came into camp during the night and woke us all up. Ashton went out and drove him off before any damage was done.

The 16th was kept as a rest day and the 17th turned out a blank, though I had good *khubber* of Rhino and we saw fresh tracks galore.

In the first beat of the 18th, two Rhino got up, one of which went to Tichborne, who wounded and eventually finished her. The other one was wounded but got off. After lunch we had three beats, in each of which Rhino were put up, but in each of which, alas, there was a repetition of



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many previous days' experience and none were bagged.

We saw two Rhino again the next day and both went to the stops, but neither was killed.



•Rhino dropped in his tracks.

A general shoot on the 20th gave us only one Sambur Stag, though, I believe, we had a Bear at one time in front of the line.

## A BAG OF BUFFALOES.

The 21st was still more unproductive and the result was absolutely *nil*. Rhino were about, and I believe the left of the line almost came in touch with them. The place, too, was full of fresh tracks, though that wasn't much of a solace, as we didn't see a single beast.

However, the 22nd brought us some consolation in the shape of six Buffalo—five cow and a bull. They were cleverly located in a small patch by Doba and we had no trouble in getting them. The big bull of the herd was the first beast fired at, but as he never came out to the stops, I suppose he broke back. Another Buffalo also cleared off in the same way.

The 23rd was our last day, and possibly we might have had a good finish had not our sport been ruined by some idiots setting fire to the very patch in which the Rhino and Buffalo were lying. As it was the day was blank.

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Elphinstone and Vanderbyl stayed on for another six days, at the end of which their bag amounted to three bull Bison, two Rhino, two Buffalo and a Bear.



One of the Count's staff on a baby elephant.

The following extract from my shooting diary, written at the time, pretty well sums up the situation as I left it :—

The country is full of game, *viz.*, Buffalo, Rhino and Bison, but the Deer seem to have left

### SITUATION SUMMED UP.

the country, and there are very few Tiger about. The earthquake has altered and changed the whole face of the country, and many patches of good jungle that I got game out of in 1896 are now mere swamps full of *fasan*. The small nullahs especially are very bad, being crossable in only a few places.

## SHOOTING IN COUCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1899.

*February and March.*

Animals.	Feb 23rd- Mar. 23rd.	Mar. 24th-29th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	3	.....	3
Leopard ... ..	1*	.....	1
Rhino ... ..	7	2‡	9
Buffalo ... ..	25	2‡	27
Bear ... ..	.....	1‡	1
Bison ... ..	3†	3‡	6
Sambur ... ..	2	.....	2
Barasingh ... ..	8	.....	8
Hog Deer .. ..	2	.....	2
Antelope ... ..	.....	.....	.....
Pig ... ..	.....	.....	.....

\* Black Leopard.

† All bulls.

‡ Shot by Elphinstone and Vanderbyl.

## CHAPTER XVII.

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1899—*contd.*

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An April shoot—A notorious couple pay the penalty—Leopard defeats us—But we find Bruin “at home”—A big she-Bear—An unsatisfactory day—We finish with Barasingh and Pig.

**A**PRIL 10th found Elphinstone, Vanderbyl, Melville, Plowden, Vines, Sujey and myself again encamped—this time on the Cheepla River, and *khubber* of the notable Bara Dogla pair of Tiger that had defeated us so often last year came in the same morning. It was then raining hard and everything looked pretty hopeless, but later on the weather cleared up, and at half past eleven we made a start for Sanka Bhangee. We did not reach the ground till a quarter to two, and by 3 p.m. both beasts were padded. Considering that the kill—a big cow Buffalo—was four days old, and that the burnt

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jungle outside the patch they were lying in was so high that they might easily have sneaked off without being seen, luck certainly greatly favoured us in getting them at all. The Tiger, though only 9' in length, was a heavily built beast, and weighed 420lbs. The Tigress was 8'-6". Between sticks the Tiger's measurements were 8'-7" and 6'-2½".

The next morning it rained heavily again and we didn't leave camp till after luncheon and then devoted ourselves to general shooting and possible Bear. The result was three Barasingh and a Pig.

A Leopard was shot on the 12th, after padding which we beat for Bear and a Tiger that was seen to go into the 'gurh' patch, but none of these were at home. Rajey and Peter Sen arrived in camp on this date. The Forest Reserves produced nothing on the 13th, when the much-beaten Buffs beat us, and the 14th saw us at Peulaguri,



Jungle Scenery



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whither we had gone on the off-chance of picking up a Tiger. We found oldish marks, but no Tiger. The fact is that about this time the Tiger were bent on game-killing tactics, and in consequence no *khubber* reached us, though I knew of the general whereabouts of several.

On the 15th we put up a Leopard in the first beat, which ought to have been bagged, but wasn't, and an unsuccessful beat after Bear followed. Next morning we went for a Leopard that had killed and eaten a small calf, and it also had cleared. After lunch we tried another small patch in hopes of getting a Bear out of it, and this time we found him at home. Bruin, who looked a fine big beast, opened proceedings by charging a pad Elephant and biting it badly on the trunk. He then came out to the stops who let him off, and he went straight for the 'gurrh'. I was pretty certain this was not the first time by a long chalk

## SPORT WITH BEAR.

that we had come across this beast. However, we were to meet soon again for the last time.

I gave the Elephants a rest on the 17th, and in the afternoon went out a short way from camp to try and put up a Tiger that we heard had killed a Deer the day before. We didn't find him though.

At Bara Dogla, the following day, we came across fresh tracks of a Tigress that for her iniquities had earned the name of the "Demon." Unfortunately she had crossed over to the other side before we got there. Soon after ascertaining this, a fine Bear, which Elphinstone had all to himself, was turned out of a patch. He was an oldish Bear, and measured 6'-7" in total length, body 6'-6½", biceps 25", forearm 17¼", girth 55½", and weighed 378lbs.

Two Bear, a male and a female, were killed on the 19th, the former being our old acquaintance of the 16th. There was no doubt about this, as on

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that date he had been fired at with a Paradox gun, and he was found with a fresh wound with a Paradox bullet inside him. The male Bear measured : full length 6'-2½", body 5'-10½", girth 50¾", biceps height 20¾", and forearm 16½". The



Crossing a jungle stream.

female was one of the largest I have seen and scaled 287lbs.

The 20th March was a thoroughly unsatisfactory day. We went to Jeypur and saw nothing,

## LEOPARDS.

not even tracks, except of Bear. In the second beat I believe a Bear was put up, but the "Gajeri" was too high to admit of anything smaller than a Rhino or a Buffalo being seen.

As the 21st was the festival of the "Eed," we didn't go out till after lunch, and the Bears we were then looking for didn't turn up. We got two Leopard and a Bear on the 22nd, the latter having a wonderfully good coat, and the shoot ended on the 23rd with two Barasingh and a Pig.

An extract from my diary says : "Tigers on the whole have beaten us, principally owing to the 'Gajeri,' which was too high for sport, and also to the number of Deer there are to kill. We are just three weeks too late to do any good, though there are plenty of Tiger about."

During May, Rajey, Nimrod (N. Sen), Ghose, Plowden and I went out for Leopard and killed three : two—a male and a female—at Naotara and

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one near Kalighat. The male was a very big, heavy beast, and must have been close on 8', but unluckily I had not got the tape with me. The new 12-bore Paradox gun that I tried on this occasion proved a most excellent weapon, rolling the big Leopard over like a rabbit.

Later on in the year a 9'-5" Tiger was bagged.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1899.

*April and May.*

Animals.	April 10th- 23rd.	May.	Additional.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	2	.....	1	3
Leopard ... ..	3	3	.....	6
Rhino ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Buffalo ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bear ... ..	3	.....	.....	3
Bison ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sambhur ... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....
Barasingh... ..	15	.....	.....	15
Hog Deer... ..	2	.....	.....	2
Antelope ... ..	... ..	.....	.....	.....
Pig ... ..	6	.....	.....	6

## CHAPTER XVIII.

1900.

Commence the year with Leopards—The big Camp at Bara Dogla—Disappointing Days—The Phantom Tiger—A General Shoot—Change of Camp—A Brace of Tiger—"Runjit Singh" bitten—More Tiger—Mahout has a Narrow Shave.

1900. **T**OWARDS the end of January and beginning of February I had several little darts after Leopard, which resulted in the death of six, the largest 7'-9"—a cowardly beast—being killed at the Pilkhana. The others ranged in size from 7'-2" to 7'-7".

On the 10th February the big shoot commenced. On this occasion I was accompanied by Stavordale (now Lord Ilchester), Hyde (Lord), Colvin and E. Colvin, Hare, Tichborne, Baker-Carr, James, Hawkins, N. Sen, Sant and Sujei. The Maharani, Mrs. Colvin, Mrs. Hawkins, Miss Maclean, Sukriti and Victor were also with us.

### DISAPPOINTING RESULTS.

Hatashu and Boli told me that at Bara Dogla fifteen Buffalo had been killed in the last three weeks – one only three days before. So, as this sounded good enough, I was persuaded to go there the first day, with the disappointing result that not a Tiger was seen and only three Barasingh and a couple of Pigmy Hog bagged.

The next day's bag consisted of a Bear and three Sambhur. In the morning a start was made after a herd of fifteen Buffalo, one a very fine bull, which were said to be about six miles north of camp, but on reaching the place we found that they had all crossed over to the Reserves. The Bear was bagged in the first beat. He weighed 294lbs. The bigger of the Sambhur stag scaled 36 stone 7lbs.

Good Tiger *khubber* came in again from Bara Dogla, and though I rather think we had him in front of the line at one time, he was never actually viewed. And to think that we had abandoned a



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promising chance of Buffalo and three Bear in order to have the pleasure of meeting him ! Fate seemed determined at this time that Tiger should best us on every occasion A stag Sambhur and



Where "Stripes" comes down to drink.

a Pig were shot.

We began the morning of the 13th by going to Pimulaguri after Buffalo, but they weren't on view.

## THE PHANTOM TIGER.

In the first beat we found fresh tracks of Tiger, but not the beast himself. I was told that a Tiger had paid a visit to the Pilkhana the night before. There were evidently plenty of Tiger about, but they wouldn't kill. I fancy we must have had a Jonah in camp about this time !

At last, on the 24th, a Tiger was brought to book close to Haldibari, and if we could only have got quite clear of our spell of bad luck, the result would have been much better. Four Tiger were actually turned out and sent past the guns, but the shooting was very difficult. In the first place half a gale was blowing, and, in the second, the patch of grass in which the Tiger were touched the forest, so that one could only get a snapshot as the beast bounded across.

The next day *khubber* of the "Phantom" Tiger at Bara Dogla again arrived. This time he was credited with having killed a Buffalo the previous evening. From all I could elicit, the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

news sounded true enough, but it wasn't, as we found, on going out to negotiate for him, that no Buffalo had been killed at all. The day was saved from being a blank, however, by our bagging three Bear after lunch. They gave us lots of fun, the she-bear making it pretty hot for several of the line Elephants for a bit and actually mauling one.

The 16th was an absolutely blank day and— one tires of the constant repetition—we were again bested by a Tiger, an enormous beast, so Sujei told me, that roared at the advancing line before anyone was aware of his presence.

We had a general shoot on the 18th in the grasses between camp and Samuktola, bagging a Leopard, a Bear, two Sambhur, two Barasingh and a Hog Deer.

We had the same old tale again on the 18th. Excellent Tiger *khubber* and no result. As a matter of fact we found the kill—a Buffalo—

### CHANGE OF CAMP.

finished, and at least three Tiger had been on the "eat," though they had all left as soon as they had got a good meal inside them.

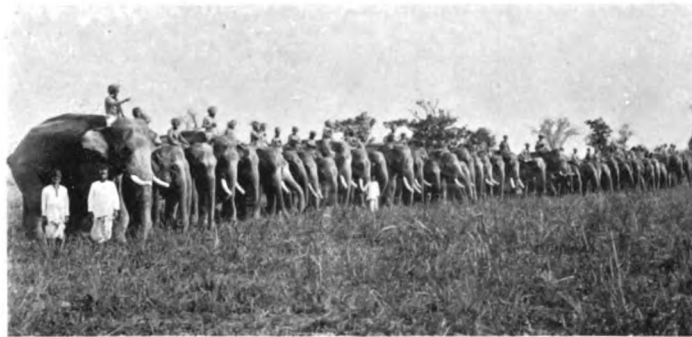
After all this, it was about time to change camp, which we did first to Roymana and then to Patgaon. A good many of the party left for Cooch Behar about this time, including the Maharani, the Hawkinses, Colvins, Baker-Carr and N. Sen.

Change of camp did not produce change of luck,—at any rate, for some days. On the night of the 20th February, a Tiger was heard roaring, and in the morning we had a try for him, but failed to find him. The 22nd was another blank day, though two Bison, a Rhino, a Tiger and one Elephant were seen. Sujey had two shots at the bull Bison and claimed to have knocked him over. The Elephant (Muckna) didn't seem in the least anxious to hurry away. Hatashu, the *shikari*, found himself face to face with a Tiger while

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

examining Rhino tracks. Gave him a bit of a start, I expect !

We had one more unlucky day, the 23rd, and then our run of evil fortune broke. The greater part of the 24th gave no greater promise than the



A\*Parade of Tuskers.

previous days, and we were returning in very low spirits when *khubber* was brought in of two Tiger being quite close. Both beasts showed sport, and both were padded within a quarter of a mile of camp.

## BRISKER SPORT.

The 25th gave us another Tiger. We were beating in the forest for Rhino, and the Tiger turned up in the first beat. He was full of courage and charged home on "Runjit Singh," giving him a bad bite over the eye. Another Tiger got through the line and the Rhino went past one of the guns, but at too great a distance to shoot at. The bagged Tiger measured 9' and weighed 315lbs. He was a youngish one.

I gave the Elephants a rest on the 26th, and in the afternoon, about 4 o'clock, went out for a bit to beat the grass and tree jungle out of which we had got the Tiger on the 24th. A Tiger had been heard roaring in that direction early in the morning, and luck did not desert us, for we had her—she was a Tigress—padded within three-quarters of an hour of leaving camp.

We bagged another Tigress and a Leopard the next day. The former was put up in the third beat before lunch, and I tracked her into a big

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

patch. The first time of asking, she got through the guns, cut across the river, and lay up in some long grass. On getting up to her, we found her savage enough. Before she was killed, she gave a lot of trouble, getting well home on "Bushiran" and as near as a toucher laying hold of the mahout. She measured 8'-10". The Leopard (7'-2" in length) was bagged in the general line on our way home. Altogether the day was a very lucky one, as though Ashton came across a bullock the Tigress had killed, no *khubber* whatever had been brought in. It is rather curious where the Tiger could have been. I saw very fresh footmarks myself, and it is quite possible he may have sneaked through the beat.

On returning to camp, we got *khubber* of another kill, so I sent out a man to find out if it had been eaten ;



Changing Camp : our Bed-room suite.

## THE YEAR'S RECORD.

and, as it turned out to have been so, we started out in great hopes the next morning, but the Tiger wasn't at home, and probably cleared out shortly before our arrival.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1900.

Animals.	Between Jan. 27th and Feb. 2nd.	Feb. 10th-25th.
Tiger ... ..	..	6
Leopard ... ..	6	2
Rhino ... ..	..	..
Buffalo ... ..	..	..
Bison ... ..	..	..
Bear ... ..	..	5
Sambhur... ..	..	8
Barasingh ... ..	..	6
Hog Deer ... ..	..	5
Antelope ... ..	..	..
Pig ... ..	..	5*

\* Also two Pigmy Hogs. This shoot was continued till March 22nd. Details of the latter part are given under the next chapter.



## CHAPTER XIX.

1900—*contd.*

The same Shoot—Obstacles to Sport—Buffalo and Rhino—Two Light Tiger—On the Banks of the Saralbhanga—A Lost Opportunity—Tiger at Kachugaon—Four padded near Chota Bhalka—A Slice of Luck—Summary.

I HAVE taken up so much space in narrating the events of this shoot that it may be as well to commence the new month with a fresh chapter.

To continue, the 1st March was a long and hard day, spent in the nullahs south-west of camp beating for Tiger, but the whole place was so full of *fasan* that it was impossible to work it thoroughly, and the Tiger was probably left behind in some corner. I had sent Jemadar Asgar and Hatashu to the Aye River to find out how the land lay there, and they both returned on this date with a very depressing account. All the



Getting across Stream.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

good jungles appear to have been burnt, and the only thing left was to go for the game in Perrée's Preserves, which meant precious hard work.

I rested the Elephant on the 2nd, and went to the forest for Rhino and Buffalo on the 3rd. There nothing but fresh tracks were seen, and the next day we tried the banks of the Lanka, where we did better. A good number of big beasts were seen, including five Rhino, a bull Buffalo and several Bison. We actually bagged a bull Bison and a Rhino, and might—with any luck—have got two more Rhino. The bull Bison stood 17 hands 2", horns, from tip to tip along inside curve and across forehead, 69", base 20", and widest span 34".

Ghose joined us on the 5th, when we got a Tiger on the Saralbhanga River, about six miles south of camp, and Suffolk (the Earl of) arrived on the 6th, when another Tiger was padded. Neither beast gave any trouble, and though of a fair

## THE SARALBHANGA RIVER.

length, 9'-5" and 9'-2", both weighed light for their size, 379lbs. and 371lbs., respectively.

We started at 4 a.m. on the 7th to get to our ground, which lay near the Saralbhanga River, right on the boundary between the Government District and Bhutan. On arrival at about 10 a.m. we saw six Buffalo standing and lying about in the open. Luck favoured us and we got round them, bagging three, but we ought to have had the lot. A King Cobra was also killed.

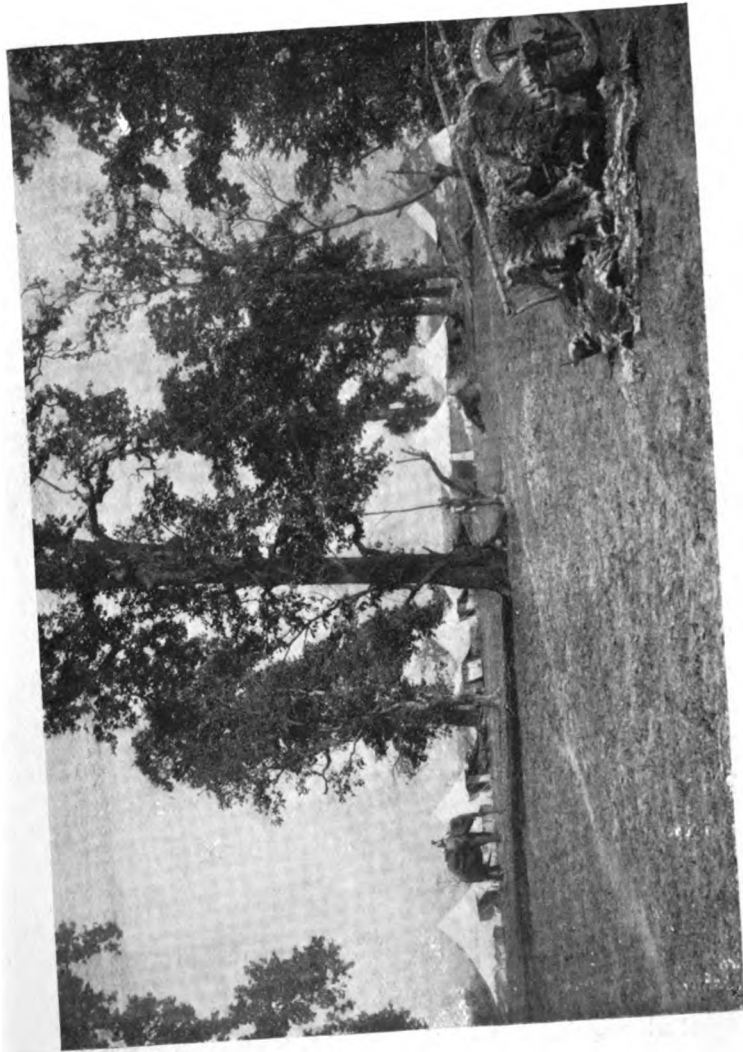
Still shooting on the Saralbhanga, this time about three miles south of camp, we padded a fine massive Tiger on the 8th. He showed no fight for the best of reasons, in that he was given no chance of doing so. Measurements : length 9'-8", body 6'-7" (between sticks 9'-3" and 6'-2"), and weight 472lbs.

The 9th March was a blank, but it might well have been otherwise. We were shooting in the forest, and as we came on the line I saw a big

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

black beast feeding in front of me. We nipped off the howdahs and commenced a stalk. As we got up to about forty yards of him, the beast suddenly jumped round and galloped into the forest. The reason was clear enough. The Elephants, which I had left behind with positive orders not to come out of the jungle until a shot was heard, were within 150 yards. The mahouts declared one of the *shikaris* had told them to come on, and that *shikari*—wisely enough, perhaps—had made himself scarce! Another Bison got away on the right of the line; had the stop moved round towards the bed of the river, he might have got a shot. To make the tale of our lost chances complete, the luncheon Elephants came across two Tiger and several big beasts were put up on the way home.

The next day a “Mache”—confound him!—took us a wild goose chase after Rhino where none existed. After dinner I went out on the forest line and was lucky enough to get a shot at a



One of our Camps.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Bison, but the light was bad and I did not bag him.

Good *khubber* of a Tigress and cubs came from the forest on the 11th, but on getting there the jungle looked hopeless. One of the cubs, however, was bagged and the other fired at. As for the Tigress, it would have taken a De Grey to bag her in such a place.

After changing camp to Kachugaon, we had an absolutely blank day on the 13th, though two Rhino were turned out of the Dhoombarjhar jungles, which here again were practically unbeatable.

On the 14th, shooting north of Kachugaon, a pair of Tiger were bagged. Till lunch time nothing had been killed, and Suffolk left us immediately after. It was a pity he did not stay on, as on making a long line for home, the Tiger were almost at once put out of a small and rather isolated patch. Both beasts looked starved.

#### FOUR TIGER PADDED.

We again moved camp to Chota Bhalka on the 15th and five different *khubber* of Tigers were brought in that day, resulting in the padding of four on the 16th. The first Tiger was killed on the further side of the Sunkos. He showed no fight even when wounded, which perhaps was just as well, as the patch we had to beat him out of was a *fasan*. His measurements were :—Full length 9'-5", body 6'-1½" (between sticks 9' and 5'-½"), and he weighed 469. After lunch we went on to my new Preserves, where the second *khubber* had come from. Regarding this no kills had been reported, though some cows were said to have been lost. As a matter of fact we found five drags and came across three kills, so I expect at least seven or eight cattle must have been killed. To get on to business, however, four Tiger—up to date a record in these parts as to numbers—were turned out of the first patch beaten and three were bagged. The fourth might have been too, but I didn't expect



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

him, and was re-loading my Paradox when he caught me napping. Among those bagged was a Tigress, said to have killed a man last year.

The 17th was a nasty, windy day. There was good *khubber* of Bear, so we went to Chuckchuka after them, but saw nothing except a Barasingh fawn that was caught.

No news of game came in on the 18th, so we had a turn at Haldibari on the off-chance of putting something up, and we were rewarded with a Tigress and two Bear. The first two beats were blank, and while line was being formed for the third, Sujey came across a bullock just killed by a Tiger. I placed the howdahs round at once and the two Bear broke first and then the Tigress. All three were bagged.

Stavordale and Hyde left early next day and the same morning *khubber* came in of a Tiger having killed two cows at Bhalka on the Sunkos. We went out and very narrowly missed coming

## THE BHALKA TIGER.

across him, as the kills showed he had left a very short time before we got there. I returned to camp early as the Elephant needed a rest, and I had not intended to take them out that day.



**Tame Buffaloes.**

We had another try for the Bhalka Tiger on the 20th, and this time managed to pad him. The beat was nearly over, and I had almost made up

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

my mind that we weren't to see "Stripes" that day, when up he jumped with a roar and made a bee-line for one of the howdahs. He was knocked over though not killed. As he didn't seem able to move, I thought at first his back was broken. He was sitting up snarling at us. I never saw a more perfect picture of impotent fury. Tichborne was photographing him, when he gave another roar and came straight for my Elephant. I wasn't prepared for this, and he very nearly got home on "Indrajit." But the old Elephant kept him off with his tusks and just gave me time to bang off both barrels, which practically finished him. We had left camp at 7-15 a.m., and we had one Tiger shot within an hour from that time. He was 9'-2" in length (new method 8'-9"), body 6'-3" and weight 385lbs.

We heard of a Leopard on the morning of the 21st and went out, but things looked very dismal. The sky was overcast with heavy, black clouds,

## HEAVY RAIN.

and we had hardly begun to beat when down came the rain in torrents. We had to take refuge in a village till it cleared off a bit, which it did about half past twelve, and we then took up the piece of "null" again. The Leopard broke out from the patch we were beating and bolted into a heavy patch on the other side of the nullah. On beating this we not only put him up, but also three Bear, and bagged all the four within twenty minutes. A real slice of luck.

A general shoot, in which nothing particular was killed, occupied us on the 22nd, and the day after, I broke up camp.

The following remarks, written at the time, sum up my opinion on the sport as I found it :—

“There are a good number of Tigers round about, but they have been shot at and chased a good deal by village *shikaris* and are consequently very wild. Buffalo are few and far between, though there are a good many Bison. Deer have thinned

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

out terribly, the reason being that Tiger in the district have killed a lot and frightened the rest. Outside the Forest Reserves there are next to no Bears. The burning of the jungles on the Aye River prevented us going there. Had we been able to do so the bag—at any rate as regards Tiger—would probably have been much larger.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1900—*contd.*

Animals.	1st March to 22nd March.	March 29th, 30th.	Additional.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	11	...	...	11
Leopard ... ..	1	2	8*	11
Rhino ... ..	1	...	...	1
Buffalo ... ..	3	...	...	3
Bear ... ..	5	...	...	5
Bison ... ..	1	...	...	1
Sambhur ... ..	2	...	...	2
Barasingh ... ..	3	...	...	3
Hog Deer ... ..	3	...	...	3
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	3	...	...	3

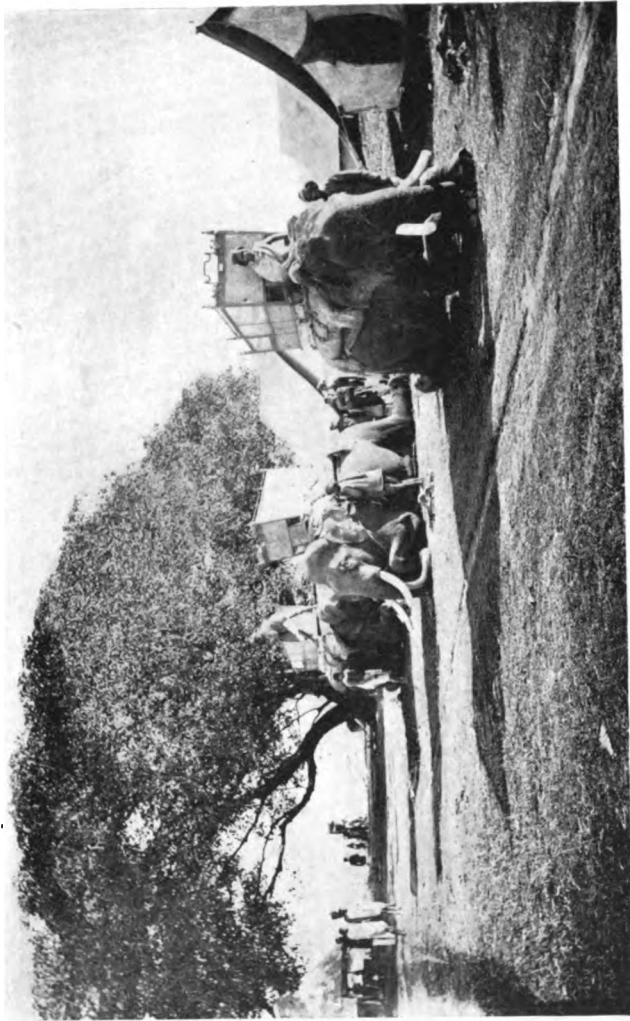
\* This summary is of the latter part of the shoot that commenced in February 10th. Details of the first part have been already given.

## CHAPTER XX.

1901.

Camp at Chuckchuka—Three Tiger bagged—Sambhur on the Jorai—An unlucky day—Big cow Rhino—Sport in the Forest Reserves—"Stripes" not at home—A magnificent Bison—A day with Buffalo.

**S**TARTING on the 1st March for Chuckchuka, my party included Grimston, Waldstein (Count) Mr. and Mrs. Heber Percy, James, Helbert, Tichborne, Raja of Pudokota, Beaumont, J. Ezra and Plowden. Such *khubber* as I had got was already four days old, but in lieu of anything better, we decided to go for it. The Tiger or Tigers, however, weren't at home, a disappointing result, inasmuch as the *shikari* told us when we got to the ground that the Tiger had fed on the kill the night before. It is just possible that the beast was left outside when the first line was made.



Preparing to start.



## SHOOTING IN COCCH BEHAR.

The next day we beat both banks of the Jorai, south of camp, for Tiger, but saw nothing—not even pugs. Plowden and Pudokota's brother caught five Mahaseer between them, varying in weight between six and fifteen pounds.

Good *khubber* came in from Falimari, about fourteen miles off, and we put up and bagged three Tiger, all in the same patch. The fourth, the mother of the family, was not apparently in the beat. I certainly only saw three come out from a smaller into a larger patch, though after we had left off shooting, and were on the way to another *khubber*, the men on the luncheon Elephants saw her slink away. Rather unfortunate, as had I had any idea there was another Tiger, I should have beaten the patch again and perhaps bagged her. At the time, however, we were hurrying all we knew to get to the second *khubber*—which seemed good, but turned out worthless—and so did not stop to think about possibilities.

“ NOT AT HOME.”

On the 4th, *khubber* came from Kumargaon, and on reaching the spot, there was no doubt it was perfectly good, though, for some reason or other, the Tiger had left the kill. We beat a good many patches for him without success, and only saved a blank day by killing a Leopard which was put up in the second beat. After lunch we met a Nepaulese boy who told us he had seen the Tiger heading for the Hamoa jungles, so we tried there, too, but without result.

On the 5th we worked the banks of the Jorai just outside the Forest Reserves, on the off-chance of finding Buffalo. The jungles looked good enough, and there were plenty of fresh tracks, but we saw no Buffs. Four Sambhur and a Hog Deer were shot, the largest Sambhur Stag weighing 43 stone 10lbs.

A Leopard was bagged on the 6th in the small patch of *null* under the Garad Haut trees. He lay very close, and it took four beats to get him out.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Five Barasingh were also shot in the "Batani" on the banks of the Jorai, opposite Garad Haut.

We did no shooting on the next two days, changing camp to Patgaon on the first and



**Moving Camp.**

utilising the second as a rest day for the Elephants.

The 9th was passed in a fruitless track after Tiger on the banks of the Saralbhangha River, south of camp. We put up nothing, not even a feather, and, to make a consistent finish to a

## RHINO.

thoroughly unlucky day, we lost our way back and didn't get home till 9 p.m.

The day following these misfortunes, we went to the Forest Reserves, where three Rhino were put up in the first beat. One, a cow, standing 17 hands 1" at the shoulder, was bagged. This is exceptionally large for a cow Rhino, and she had, moreover, the second longest horn ( $14\frac{1}{2}$ " ) I have ever seen. Another Rhino went away badly wounded and the third broke back through the line. A Tiger was also turned out on the left flank of the line, but most of us were then busy with the Rhino, and, as a matter of fact, I heard nothing about it until the beat was over.

We found and killed a fair Tiger on the 11th. We were again in the Forest Reserves. He was put up in the first beat, and had evidently been gorging himself on the carcase of a Bison close to where we bagged him. Full length  $9'-3\frac{3}{4}$ " ,

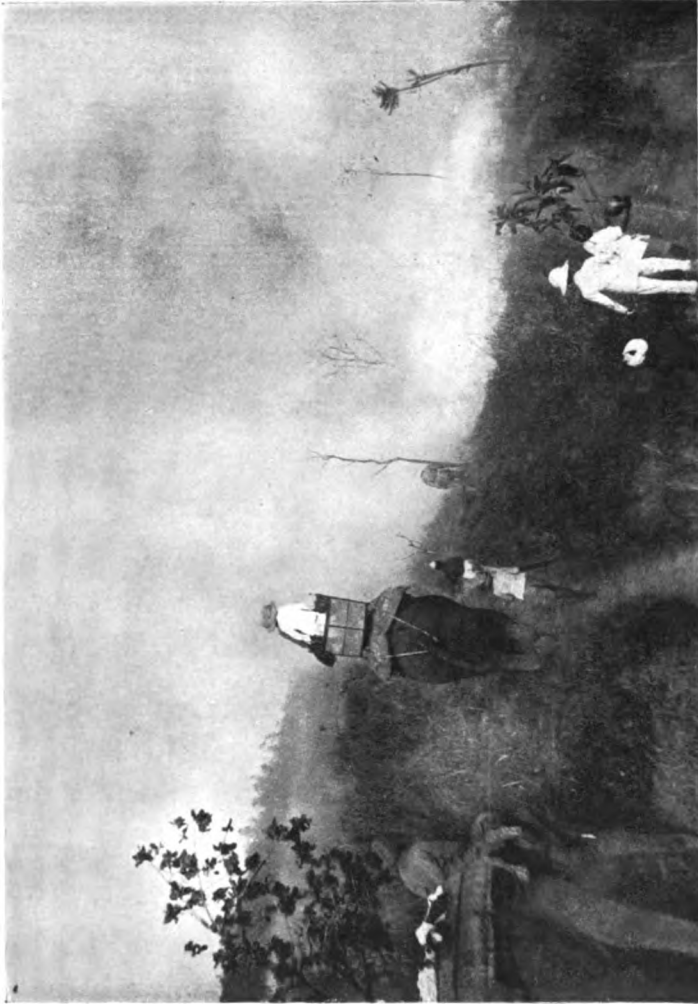
## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

body 6'-4½" (between sticks 8'-9½" and 5'-10¼"), weight 461lbs.

We went on the 12th again to Saralbhanga in hopes of getting a chance at the Tiger we missed seeing on the 9th, but we did no better the second time as, beyond a wild cat and a lot of bad language, the result was *nil*.

A fine Bear, weighing 368lbs., was killed on the 13th in the Khas jungles to the north of our camp. We came across no other beasts, though there were any number of tracks of Bison, Buffalo and Tiger, one of the latter being so fresh that I really thought we were bound to turn him out.

The day after this we had just finished a second beat after lunch—having got nothing up to then—when one of my own *shikaris* came in to say that a Tiger had killed a bullock about an hour ago. Luckily the place was close by, and the Tiger was turned out in the first beat. He got through the



A Jungle Fire.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

stops, waited a bit in a patch of *null* put behind them and then took to the river. Beaumont killed him as he was swimming across, and as these jungles were in the very same *fasani nullah* that defeated us last year, this was probably the only chance we should have had of getting him.

Plenty of *khubber* came in on the morning of the 15th,—two of Tiger and one of Bear. The first sounded well. The man who brought in the news had actually seen the Tiger strike a bullock down, but he forgot to mention, what we found on arrival, that the kill was right out in the open paddy fields, miles away from either cover or water. By the time we reached the place vultures had finished the carcass, and as beating for the Tiger under these circumstances would have been like looking for a needle in a bundle of hay, we went on to where the Bear were supposed to be. Here we found lots of signs of them, but not

## BISON.

the Bear themselves, and, very disappointed, we turned homewards.

On the 16th we made straight for the place in the Forest Reserves where, last year, we had killed a Rhino and found fresh tracks of some seven or eight different Rhino and Bison, besides those of a Tiger, all leading into the patch we had intended working. Nothing was put up in the first beat, but in the next two Bison were bagged and two others seen. The Rhino probably remained behind on a flank of the line. During the beat we came across a young Rhino, killed by a Tiger, which must have been on the kill a very short time before, as we put him up soon afterwards. He was just seen and that was all, the jungle being too heavy to get a shot at him.

After giving the Elephants a day's rest, we started after Rhino and Bison on the 18th, but we had no luck. There were plenty of fresh Rhino tracks, but we couldn't somehow manage to come



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

up with the beasts themselves. Ashton got one shot at a bull Bison, and then his Elephant, "Smith," prevented his getting in another by turning round and bolting.

Jemadar Asgar brought in *khubber* on the 19th that couldn't have sounded better. He had



Human Vultures.

actually seen the Tiger kill a cow and drag it into the jungle. And yet, in spite of all this, we never saw the Tiger. The place was eleven miles off, and we beat the patch where the beast should have been lying, but we found the kill entirely eaten and "Stripes" had left. The pug marks seemed to show that there were two Tiger, and if

### PLENTY OF GAME AFOOT.

this was the case, it accounts for the kill being finished up so soon. On the way home, the leading gun came up with a small herd of Bison. All got away except a young one.

Tracking early in the morning of the 20th, Beaumont and Plowden came across a herd of 16 Bison. They bagged the bull, which stood 17 hands 2" at the shoulder.

At 3 a.m. on the 21st I started off four different parties tracking, and though only one bull Bison was killed, no less than thirty-four head of big game were actually seen during the day. In the morning the four lots put up one Elephant, one Rhino, one bull Buffalo, ten Bison, a Bear and a Tiger. With a bit of luck Grimston and Beaumont might have bagged the Rhino. In the afternoon Beaumont and Pudokota went off together and came across and bagged the big bull Bison we have been after for a year past. Grimston, Sujev and Nimrod (N. Sen) came up

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

with a herd of eighteen Bison, which all got away. The bull Bison that was killed was a magnificent beast in the prime of life. He stood 18 hands 3" at the shoulder, girth 120", largest girth 128", neck nearest body 90", neck close to head 66", length 12'-2", body 9'-5½", height at hump 19 hands 1¼". Thirteen 10-bore shots were fired into him at 30 yards, and even then he wasn't dead, though practically so. They told me he simply stood still while they pumped in lead.

On the 22nd I moved the camp to Doragaon and gave up the 23rd as a rest day for the Elephants.

Two Tigress were bagged on the 24th, and both padded before lunch. The first one killed was 7'-8" in length, but was somewhat bigger than this would imply, as her tail was only 2'-7". The other one was rather larger. I have noticed that the Tiger in this district, as well as in Patgaon, generally run small, though there are some big

## BUFFALO.

ones amongst them. The jungles, too, about here were not easy on account of the numerous *fasau* nullahs that intersect them; on the other hand, they were not so large as those we had last been shooting in.



Sonthalis.

On the 25th we got three Buffalo a couple of miles north of camp on the Champamoti River. One of them, a fine cow with goodish horns, got home on me and chased me about for a bit. There were ten beasts in the herd, a fine bull amongst them, but he did not show himself to the guns.

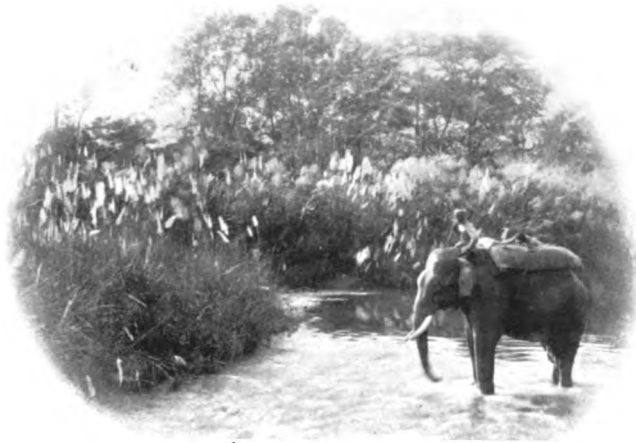
## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The next day I had intended having another turn at the Buffalo, but changed my mind on hearing that good Tiger *khubber* had been brought. The man who came with the news described the whole incident connected with the kill so graphically that I was bound to believe him. On getting to the ground, however, I found that by far the greater and most important part of his tale was pure embroidery. A Tiger had killed a bullock, but had been driven off by the villagers, and we hadn't the slightest clue as to where he was likely to be. The Buff ground was too far for us to revert to the original plans, so there was nothing for it but to beat likely patches, an amusement that palled after a bit as nothing was turned out. Pudokota, Tichborne and Helbert left camp on this date.

I see from my shooting diary that from the 26th March to the end of the month, the only thing shot was one Pigeon. My inclination is

## DULL DAYS.

certainly to skip over this dull time as I have done before and get on to a better. As, however, I have invariably recorded all our good days, so I think should those which are very much the reverse



**In a Jungle Stream.**

be sometimes set down in detail, uninteresting reading though they are. What occurred on the first of these blank days has already been written, and I will now go on to the next, the 27th, when we

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

again tried for Buff. In the first beat a small bull was put up, not worth shooting, so we let him alone. Several patches, in which were lots of fresh tracks, were beaten during the day, but nothing in the shape of a living beast seen, though we did find the skeleton of a big tusker, which, I rather fancy, had been shot by P— .

I gave the Elephants a rest on the 28th and utilised the spare time by sending off Boli and Hatashu to try and locate the game. They returned in the evening to say that the beasts had gone deep into the jungle miles away. As this did not sound promising, I moved camp on to Patgaon, and early on the 30th started Waldstein and Percy off tracking. They nearly got up to a Rhino, though not close enough to get a shot. In the afternoon we went after a bull Bison that had been seen in the morning. He came out of the jungle—too far off for us to get a shot—and then moved on to an open burnt space. We waited till

## A NIGHT SHOOT.

the moon rose, and then tried to get up to him. But he had evidently taken a hand in this sort of game before, and got off in time to save his horns. After dinner, hearing that two bull Buffalo were in the habit of coming into Moni Ram's tame herd, I sat up till 3 a.m., saw nothing and then retired a bit fed up.

We tried another night shoot on the 31st, starting just before sunset and taking up positions along the forest line. I sent Boli up a tree to warn us if any beast approached, and in about half an hour he gave the signal. Almost immediately after I heard a bull Bison lowing and also a Tiger, but the latter was a long way off. Presently I saw Boli beckon to me to get near his tree, and on doing so he had just time to tell me he had counted seventeen Bison when I heard them crashing all round me. The leader of the herd came out, but the others would not follow, and after waiting a quarter of an hour, I whistled to



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Percy to fire. He did so and I saw the Bull stagger to the shot, but together with the rest of the herd he disappeared into the *null* and grass, and though I beat for him with the pad Elephant, we lost him. The whole affair was disappointing. At one time I could see three Bison not fifteen yards off. One, the hindmost, looked like a big bull, but as I could not make sure, I decided to wait and so lost a fairish chance. Some of the others must have been even close to Percy, who, like myself, was standing behind a Simul tree. Beaumont told me that the first beast I saw was a good bull, and as he was slowly feeding up to him, he wisely decided to wait before firing. Of course he did not know that there was a big herd of Bison close up. Just before I left my post to speak to Boli, I saw Nimrod (N. Sen) leave his and join James. I could not understand it at the time, but he gave me good enough reasons for his action. He was on foot, all by himself, on the extreme left of the line, when he

## WHAT WE SAW.

saw a big Tiger moving towards him and naturally enough concluded his isolation was a bit too splendid! On comparing notes I found that Beaumont and Waldstein had seen one bull



**A Line of Elephants meeting light Grass.**

Bison, a Bear and a Sambhur Stag, Nimrod a Tiger and Percy and myself two bull Bison, besides the three in the grass. If I hadn't signalled to Percy to fire, we should probably have seen nineteen Bison, a Tiger, a Bear and a

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Sambhur Stag. We were all on foot and our posts were about 150 yards apart. As we had only hoped for a shot at the bull, it was extraordinary our coming across so many beasts. It was rather bad luck bagging nothing, but I think I ought to have placed the guns differently.

**RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1901.\***

Animal.										March 1st to 31st.
<b>Tiger</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>7</b>
<b>Leopard</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>2</b>
<b>Rhino</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>1</b>
<b>Buffalo</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>3</b>
<b>Bison</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>6</b>
<b>Bear</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>1</b>
<b>Sambhur</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>6</b>
<b>Barasingh</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>6</b>
<b>Hog Deer</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>4</b>
<b>Antelope</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Pig</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	<b>2</b>

\* The remainder of this shoot is given in the next chapter.

## CHAPTER XXI.

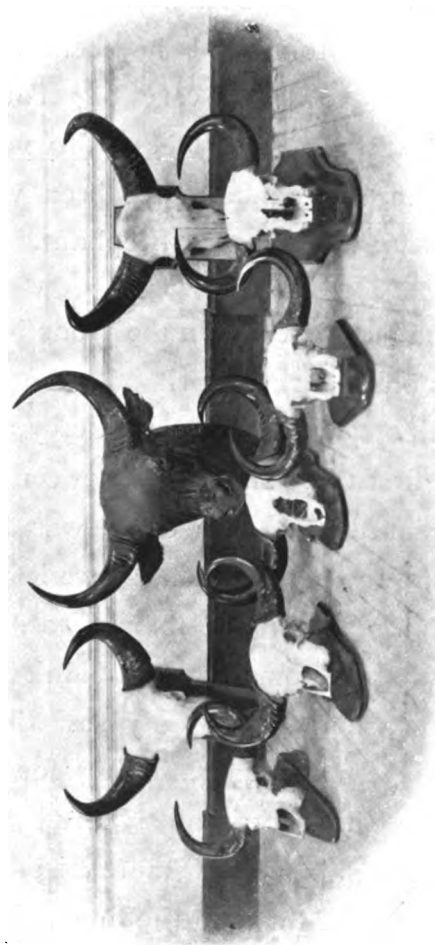
1901.

### *April and May.*

The shoot continued—A big cow Bison—Great sport in the Doombar Jhar Khas jungles—Camp at Haldibaree—Two Bison bagged—A fighting Tigress—Shooting on the Manas.

ON the first of the new month, I changed camp to Roymana. Percy, accompanied by Jemadar Bisad, started off to try and get the beast he wounded in our night skirmish with the Bison, and, as it turned out, he had quite an adventure, which he was lucky to get out of as well as he did. It seems they found blood very soon, so Percy and the Jemadar got off the Elephant and commenced tracking in the grass. They had not gone far when the beast sprang up and charged. Percy first managed to jump out of the way, and as the Bison went past, placed a bullet in the neck and another in the

SOME RECORD BISON HEADS.



Bull 78½" Horns. Shot 1901.	Bull 84" Horns. Shot 1902.	Bull 76½" Horns. Shot 1899.
Cow 71½" Horns. Shot 1902.	Bull 81½" Horns. Bull 73" Horns.	Cow 73½" Horns. Shot 1902.

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

quarters. This finished *her*, for instead of a bull, as Percy, Ashton and I had believed her to be, she proved to be a very big cow. She was turned out of a place about fifty yards from the forest line, so we must have been very near putting her up with the pad Elephant.

We had a great day in the Doombar Jhar Khas jungles on the 2nd April. In the second beat, two Rhino came out between Percy and me. He got the first three shots and between us one was soon finished off. The other was too small to shoot and too big to catch, so we let him run. A Bison jumped up in the fourth beat, quite close on my left, but for some time I couldn't catch sight of him, and when I did, only saw the tips of his horns. He was then galloping for dear life. I had three snapshots and Nimrod four, but he gave us the slip. A few more Bison were turned out; one broke through the line and the other—a good bull—went to Waldstein, who bagged him.

## GREAT SPORT.

Beating the same patch again, two more Rhino got up and Waldstein had five shots at a bull. Some one mistook him for a Tiger, and word was passed down the line to that effect. Seeing a lot of confusion among the line Elephants, I concluded that the Tiger was playing "Old Harry" with them, so hurried up to help with my 12-bore Paradox in hand and met a beast coming towards me. I only just realised it was a Rhino in time to change my rifle and let fly a couple of shots. The moment I had hit him I knew by his making no noise that he was a young Rhino, as old ones nearly always grunt, and I was sorry I had fired. However, looking back, I can't blame myself much, for it was a matter of seconds and there was no time to think. We followed him up, but didn't see him again. Waldstein had, as it turned out, fired at the other Rhino, so that there were now two wounded. After lunch we had a beat for Waldstein's Rhino, which, after putting up a Bison that got away



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

without being fired at, I came right on to ; the beast charged at once and I finished him. I found that Waldstein had hit him quite in the right place, and it was surprising that he should have had a charge left in him.

The first Rhino stood 17 hands and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder. I didn't measure the other Rhino, but if anything he was the larger of the two. The bull Bison stood 18 hands at the shoulder; horns, tip to tip round curve and across forehead,  $71\frac{7}{8}$ ", base  $19\frac{1}{3}$ ".

We devoted the 3rd April to a general shoot north-east of the Doombar Jhar Khas jungles, which produced one Sambhur Stag, two Barasingh Stag and a Bear which we found on the way home.

On the 4th we moved camp to Haldibari, and on the 5th beat the Muktaigaon Reserves for Bison. Two were put up in the first beat, but

## WIND AND RAIN.

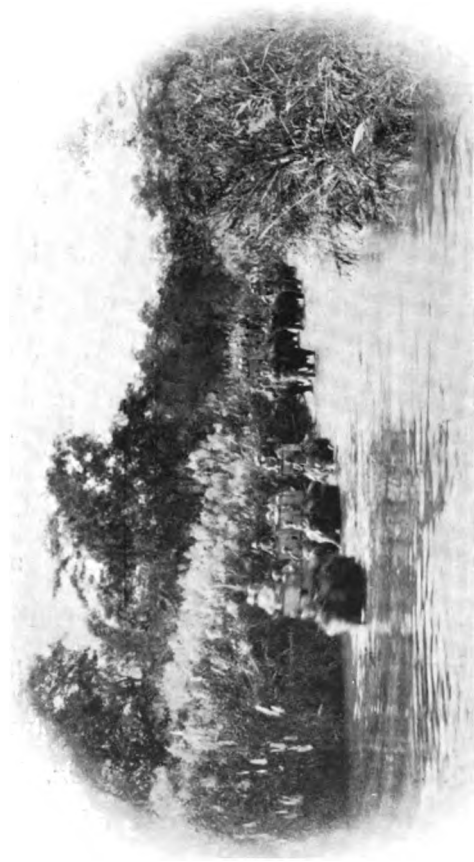
neither showed himself. In the second beat a Sambhur Stag was bagged. After lunch, while going from one heavy patch of *null* to another, a Bison jumped up, but was out of sight like a flash. I made an attempt to cut him off, but did not succeed.

On the 6th we beat a patch for a Bear that the *shikaris* had seen go in, but he was not at home, or at any rate we did not put him out. We got caught in a big storm of wind and rain, and on reaching camp found some of the tents blown down, mine amongst the number.

Two Bison were bagged in the old Dhoompara Forest on the 7th and several others were put up, but these were not fired at.

Plowden joined us on the 8th and the same day we got a Tiger. There was no *khubber*, but as I came across fresh tracks in one of the small churs on the Raidak, north of the Tiamari Ghat, I put in the Elephants and Percy shot him.

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



River and Jungle in the Forest Reserves.

## SALSARABARI.

Camp was changed to Salsarabari on the 9th, and the next day we bagged a couple of Leopard and a Bear. In the same patch in which the second Leopard was killed, we also found the carcass of a cow, evidently killed by a Tiger, but we had not time to look him up.

The 11th was occupied in a fruitless search after a Tiger that had been marked down. On getting to the place the look-out men, who had been posted on trees, said that the Tiger had moved into another patch. We beat that and several other patches for him, but did no good. One of the *Begari* Elephants got stuck in a *fasan*, and we had a great deal of difficulty in extricating him.

*Khubber* of Tiger, which proved good, was brought in on the 12th, and just at the end of the beat she walked out to me and I bowled her over, first shot. She rolled about a good bit, and

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

I kept pulling at the trigger to finish her, not realising till too late that I was not using a single-trigger gun. Suddenly recovering herself, she dashed down the bank out of sight. I knew she was badly hit, and on the line coming up, told Jemadar Asgar to take it in and, if dead, to pick her up or let me know if she was inclined to be "ugly." I was standing on the top of the bank at this time, and "Tangru" called out that the Tiger was lying on its side. I shouted out to them to back out the Elephants and let me have a look at the beast. The words were hardly out of my mouth when the Tigress drove out the elephants and charged home on the Jemadar's mount. Her teeth were fastened on the pad, and the Jemadar, by the greatest piece of luck, was just clear of her. I told the Jemadar and mahout to jump off, which they did, and I put two shots into the Tigress while still hanging on to the pad. The second one finished her, and as she dropped off dead, the Elephant set to work pound-

### A NARROW SQUEAK.

ing her. The men, especially the Jemadar, had a very narrow squeak, but, beyond a scratch in the ear, the Elephant was uninjured. I found my first bullet, a 12-bore Paradox firing  $4\frac{1}{2}$  drams of powder, had hit her exactly on the right spot, and why it did not kill her dead I cannot understand.

Shooting on the 13th, I believe we had a Tiger in the beat, and if so he got through. We had a lot of trouble on the 14th getting a Leopard (7'-1") out of the Warsi nullah and jungles and round about the "Gurh." He wouldn't break cover, and we had to beat four times for him before he was bagged.

On the 15th two Tiger were padded. Both were started in the same beat. The first was disposed of without much trouble, but the second looked as if he was going to show fight. All he really wanted though was to save his skin. He doubled about like a Leopard, and like the one

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

killed the day before required four beats to get him.

I broke up camp on the 17th, but Beaumont and Arthur shot on through parts of April and May on the banks of the Manas, the place Pollok



**Amusement in Camp.**

wrote about. They made a goodish bag, killing one Rhino, two Buffalo, five Bison, one Sambhur, a Barasingh and a Hog Deer. Beaumont told me there were plenty of Rhino, Buffalo and Bison, also an occasional Tiger, but that they had

THE BAG.

got there a month too late for the cream of the shooting, which, in their case, was all tracking.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1901.—*contd.*

Animals.	• April 1st, 16th.	Part of April and May.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	4	...	4
Leopard ... ..	3	...	3
Rhino ... ..	2	1†	3
Buffalo ... ..	...	2†	2
Bison ... ..	4	5†	9
Bear ... ..	2	...	2
Sambhur ... ..	3	1†	4
Barasingh ... ..	4	1†	5
Hog Deer ... ..	1	1†	2
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	5	...	5

• This was a continuation of the shoot that commenced on the 1st March.

† Shot by Beaumont and Arthur.



## CHAPTER XXII.

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1902.

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### *January and March.*

**A January Shoot—The annual Expedition—A good start with Tiger, Rhino and Buffalo—The record Tiger—Change of Camp—Luck leaves us for a bit—Rhino in the Daimasi—Bison—A real good Day—Record bag of Bison.**

1902. **I** MANAGED to arrange a preliminary shoot this year before the big one, and starting on the 21st January my party included Mr. and Mrs. Pelham-Clinton, Colonel and Mrs. Burn, Colonel and Mrs. Baird, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest, Miss Elphinstone, Miss Mackenzie, Helmsley (Lord), Colvin, James and Jit.

The shoot, so far as I was concerned, ended on the 30th January, on which date I returned to Cooch Behar. Some of the party, however, remained on till the 5th February. Nothing of any very special interest occurred, and as my

### THE BOGIDARA CAMP.

manuscript has already reached rather formidable dimensions, I will limit myself to giving the main results. There were six Tiger, two Leopard, two Bear, two Buffalo and two Hog Deer.



The 1902 Party.

For the annual expedition my camp was pitched at Bogidara on the banks of the Manas. We, that is, Orr-Ewing, Sir B. Simpson, A. Ezra, Villiers (Lord), James, Blackett, Richards, N.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Sen, Sujey, Jit and myself commenced shooting on the 4th March.

We made a good beginning, bagging three Tiger the first day. This was close to Hala-



1908 Shoot.

pakri, about 15 miles south-east of camp, and we covered the distance on pad Elephants in three and a half hours. The Tigers gave a certain amount of fun, but we had no difficulty in disposing of

### A FINE BULL RHINO.

them. The Tigress was a fine beast and measured 9'-1" in length, body 6' and weight 330½ lbs.

We had a long try after Buffalo on the 5th, but did not manage to meet them. Two of them were bagged, however, at Gosiengaon the next day in addition to a fine bull Rhino that measured between sticks as follows: length 12'-9", body 10'-5½", girth 118", greatest girth 144", and height 17 hands 2½". A Tiger and several other Buffalo were put up, but all these got clean away.

A bull Buffalo was bagged on the 7th. We had hoped to come across the herd, but they had evidently moved off. We put up a Tiger in a beat after lunch, but the jungle was very wide and the Elephants were kept 20 yards apart, so it is not surprising that he got through the line.

On the 8th we worked the *churs* north of camp for Buffs without getting up to them that day, but we killed three cow on the next in the same

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The 10'5" Tiger.

### MY LONGEST TIGER.

place. The bull was wounded, and though we chased him over all sorts of country, from one patch to another and across rivers, he bested us in the end. I shall always believe that had I stuck to my own plans instead of listening to Hatashu's suggestions, we would have got him.

The 10th March will always stand out in my memory as the date on which at Bholkadota Holkadoba, I bagged the longest Tiger by two inches that I have ever seen. He gave no trouble whatever, behaving, in fact, like a coward. His measurements are as follows: total length 10'-5", body 6'-11", girth 51", upper arm 26", forearm 18½", head 36", height 41", and weight 504lbs. Between sticks he measured 9'-10½". Before this my longest Tiger, 10'-3", it may be remembered, was killed at Samerdanga in Assam on the 14th March 1894. After padding the great beast we went after another *khubber* of Tiger, but though

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

I believe there were two of them, we didn't put them up in either of the two beats.

The 11th was a blank day in spite of a long chase after a Tiger which the *shikaris* had seen, and on the 12th I gave all in camp a rest.

After the rest we had a good day's sport, killing a Tiger and a Tigress,—the one before and the other after lunch. Neither gave us any trouble.

At Gosiengaon on the 14th we had a beat for Buffs, but saw none. On the way home a Bear, weighing 304lbs., was killed in the last patch. We tried the same place again on the 15th, and this time put up two Tiger and several Buffalo, but luck was against us. Both Tiger were fired at, and one, I believe, hit. They escaped us, however, as did the Buffs, among which was a big bull seen by the *shikaris* though not by us.

A party of trackers bagged a cow Buffalo on the 16th, and on the 17th I moved camp to Lahapara

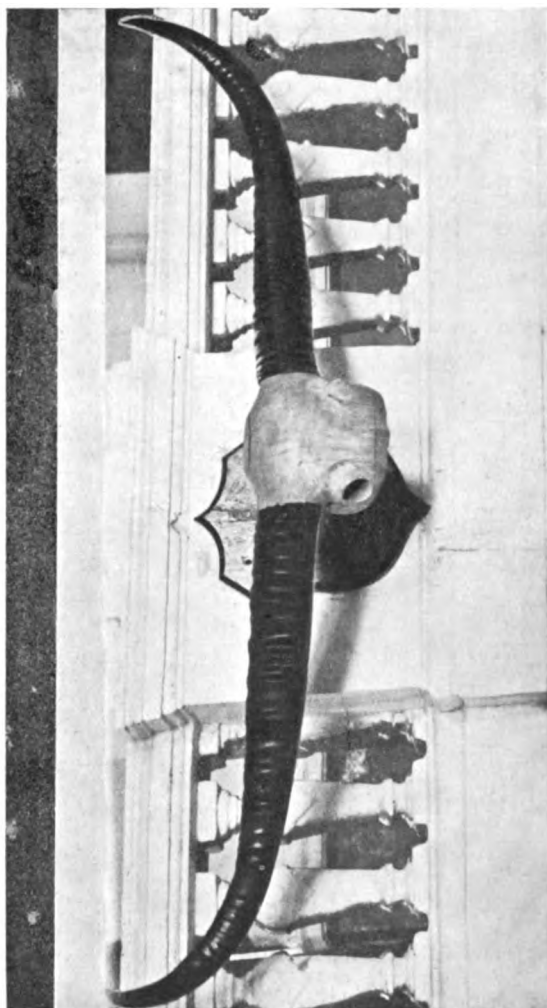
## FORTUNE AGAINST US.

From this place we tried the Rangapani jungles, where, after a long chase, we managed to head a herd of Buffalo and bag two. A Tiger was also turned out. He slipped into another patch, and after lunch we followed him and again put him up. Twice he faced the open, and though he was fired at he bested us completely.

At this time we were evidently in the throes of another spasm of bad luck, for the 20th was another blank day. It had rained heavily during the night and we did not move from camp till mid-day. In spite of the want of *khubber*, things looked hopeful when we came across a fresh Tiger kill in the shape of a dead Barasingh, but a beat showed us that the Tiger had slipped away. I had sent out Hatashu and Boli early in the morning for news of Buffs, and they were to have met us in the course of the day to tell us how the land lay. We missed each other somehow, and I only learned, on return to camp, that Boli had got some Buffs marked



SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



**Straight-horned cow Buffalo Horns 10'-5"; between Tips 8'-4".  
Presented to the Natural History Museum, Kensington.**

### A PRODUCTIVE PATCH.

down for us. After this wasted day, my feelings were more easily imagined than described.

What happened on the 21st and 22nd may be given in a sentence. Rain spoiled every chance of sport and we had none. With the 23rd came a change of luck, and not before it was wanted. Shooting on the Daimasi, we got one Bear, a bull Rhino and two cow Rhino. I distinguished myself letting off a Rhino, a fairly easy shot too! We turned all the beasts that were killed out of the same patch—a very big one—and saw others in it as well, including a fourth Rhino and a bull Bison.

At the north end of Dhun Bheel, inside the tree jungle, a herd of Bison and a herd of Buffalo had been marked down, so on the 24th we went for them and bagged two Bison, a cow and a bull. The Buffalo, as usual, made themselves scarce before we got there. The bull Bison's horns were 70" and 18½" at the base.

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Being Padded.

### A RATTLING GOOD DAY.

On the 25th we worked the beats in much the same direction again, and had a rattling good day with Rhino and Bison, killing two of each. Two Rhino got away—one very badly wounded—as did also a very fine bull Bison. The two Buffs were part of a large herd which we found lying out in the open. The greater number got clear off, but four came towards the stops, and of these—with Simpson's help—I got two. Altogether we saw during the day five Rhino, eleven Buff and six or seven Bison. Of those bagged, the bull Rhino looked a very big beast, but I hadn't time to measure him; one of the Buffs was killed with a cordite bullet when galloping fully 300 yards away.

Next morning early we started off to try and pick up the wounded animals of the day before, but all three had gone clean away.

The morning wasn't ill-spent as it turned out, for we picked up a fair bull Bison instead. We were back in camp by 1 o'clock.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

One bull and two cow Bison fell to us on the 27th in a small tree jungle north-west of Dhun Bheel. We saw plenty of fresh Bison tracks, but being quite satisfied with our bag I resolved to keep the Rhino for another day.



A record day's Bag of Bison—3 bulls and 8 cows.

The last days of March witnessed some of the best sport I have ever had in my life, and records were made which, I believe, stand till the present day.

## RECORD BAG OF BISON.

To commence with the 20th, we didn't go after the Rhino of the previous day, as between thirty and forty Bison had been marked down at a place north-east of Dhun Bheel. It was here that we shot the two Bison on the 24th. On taking up our positions, I was the last flank stop on the east side, and as it chanced the whole herd came out in a procession past me, ending up with two bull which I killed in addition to a very fine cow. Before we had done with them, eleven Bison, three bull and eight cow, were down, a record bag of Bison for one day. The largest bull stood 17 hands  $3\frac{1}{4}$ " at the shoulder and 18 hands  $3\frac{3}{4}$ " at the hump; the horns were 77" round the curve and  $18\frac{3}{4}$ " at the base. The largest cow stood 17 hands  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and had horns of  $73\frac{1}{4}$ " round curves, which, I am inclined to think, is also a record. A Sambhur Stag completed the bag.

After such a day, man and beast deserved a rest and nothing was done till the 30th, when a



Record cow Bison with 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Horns, shot March 28th, 1902.

## SPLENDID BULL BISON.

magnificent bull Bison with the record head for this part of the country was killed. He stood 18 hands  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " at the shoulder, 19 hands 3" at the hump.



The Record bull Bison, 1902 Shoot.

Between sticks his full length was 12'-3", body 9'-5", and girth behind shoulder 118". His horns were : round curves 84", left horn base  $20\frac{2}{8}$ ", right horn base 21", between points  $31\frac{1}{4}$ ", in greatest



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

spread outside 43". The Elephant, "Kennedy," had a tremendous turn up in the jungle with this bull Bison, and gave him a terrible pounding, though he got gored badly in two or three places himself. There were two or three other Bison and several Buffalo in the same beat the big bull was bagged in, but all except a cow Buffalo got away.

The month ended with a great Tiger day at Kamalabari. Four were put up in a long strip of jungle, and though we had some trouble with them, all were bagged. On the way home I got a Bear, and a second one escaped.

We had by this date completed exactly a fortnight's shooting at Lahapara, and though from 19th to the 22nd little or nothing was bagged, taking the whole 14 days together, thirty-three head of big game were killed. With such a bag one would naturally expect the country to be depleted of beasts worth shooting, but this was not

## THE RECORD.

so. So far as one could judge, the district remained full of big game, including a fair number of Tiger.

### RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1902.

Animals.	Jan. 21st to Feb. 5th.	Mar. 1st to 31st.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	6	10	16
Leopard ... ..	2	...	2
Rhino ... ..	...	6	6
Buffalo ... ..	2	12	14
Bison ... ..	...	18	18
Bear ... ..	2	3	5
Sambhur ... ..	...	5	5
Barasingh ... ..	...	2	2
Hog Deer ... ..	2	...	2
Antelope.. ... ..	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	...	...

## CHAPTER XXIII.

1902—*contd.*

Still at Lahapara - Big Bull- Buffalo—Five Tiger in two days—  
Rain and "Gajari" spoil sport—Bested by the Buffalo—A record  
Tigress—Summary of the Shoot.

I HAD originally intended to leave Lahapara on the 1st April, but Boli artfully played on my feelings by holding out hopes of bagging a really good bull Buffalo on the Dannara nullah. I fancy he knew I wanted to make the Lahapara bag quite complete, so I put off the move for a day and tried for the bull instead. As luck would have it, we had the bull down and done for in the very first beat. He was not a very tall beast—17 hands 1", but heavily built. These are the measurements: total length between sticks 12'-6", body 9'-4 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", girth 110", biggest girth 130", round neck nearest body 92", neck close to head 58 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

### SPORT WITH TIGER.

After moving to Halapakri we killed a short-tailed, rather heavily built Tiger about 4 miles west of camp. *Khubber* of another Tiger came in, but it was too far off to manage the same day, so we left it for the morrow. Poor "Bhup Bahadur," a young Elephant, had to be left behind in the jungle suffering from apoplexy.

The 4th April was another splendid day with Tiger. We killed a Tigress and two cubs on the Mora Manas in the morning, only about a mile from camp, and a fourth Tiger close to Roha Thamia after lunch. The Tigress was an exceptionally fine beast, 9'-3" in length, equalling a previous record. This made a total of five Tiger in the two days,—distinctly good sport.

Orr-Ewing, Simpson (Sir Benjamin), Blackett, and Nimrod (N. Sen) left on the morning of the 5th, when I gave the Elephants a rest. *Khubber* of two Bear was brought in the afternoon, and at 4-30 p.m.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

we went out and, after an animating quarter of an hour, bagged them both.

We got excellent *khubber* on the 6th, the kill dragged into the jungle and so on; and full of



**Making himself useful in Camp.**

hope we started for a place five miles west of camp. The Tigress—as she was said to be—had, however, evidently been hunted before, for she slipped away before we could circumvent her.

## RAIN DEFEATS US.

We had besides certain difficulties to contend with. The jungle was large, and a nullah, with jungle close up to it, made it hard to place the howdahs properly.

We had a general shoot on the 7th, in which we did no good owing to the "gajari" being so high, and on the 8th tried the Kalibhanga jungles for Buffalo. Here again we were unsuccessful. It rained practically the whole day; the jungle, where the Buffalo had been located, was a huge "Jheel," and the patch we eventually found them in was enormous. The rain and the heavy going made rapid movement impossible, and the moment we started to beat, the Buffalo broke through the line.

I had intended giving the Elephants a rest on the 9th, but a villager ran into camp to say that he had just heard a Tiger roaring about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile off. I could not resist this, so went out, and as we

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

saw nothing, wished I hadn't, for the Elephants would have been all the better for a day off.

We heard of Bear in the morning of the 10th, but heavy rain prevented us going for them till after lunch. Then we killed two about a mile south-east of camp. Meanwhile a Tiger had been tracked into another patch, and after bagging the Bear we had a beat for him. The patch, however, was too big for the number of Elephants, and, though I believe he was there, we did not manage to turn him out. There was a slight shock of earthquake on this date.

There being no news of game on the 11th, we had a general shoot, but the "gajari" again spoiled it. Practically the same thing happened the next day, but in this case we should have done better to remain in camp, as on our return we found that *khubber* of two different Tiger had been brought.

## A RECORD TIGRESS.

On the 13th we went for the previous day's *khubber*. They both came from the Bakie River, about 2 miles apart from one another.



"Rattanpershad" carrying a Boar.

The Tigress walked out first, quite quietly, and was soon bagged. She proved to be another record, being  $2\frac{1}{2}$ " longer than any Tigress



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

yet shot. Length 9'-5½", body 6'-2½", girth 42", upper arm 20", forearm 15", height 35". Her weight was not taken. The Tiger looked at one time as if he was going to give a lot of trouble, but he was too hard hit, and directly I heard him groaning, I knew that it was all up with him. He measured 9'-8" in length, body 6'-6", height 41¾" and weight 413lbs. Why he weighed so little I can't now understand, as, judging by his appearance, I expected him to scale about 480lbs.

This turned out to be the last day of the shoot, rain preventing us doing any more. The following is extracted from the diary :—"So ends one of the best shoots I have ever had. Sixty-one head of big game, which include several records. Our bag of Tiger—seventeen—has been exceptionally good, and had we been luckier four more might have been added to the total. On the whole the Buffalo have scored off us. Rainfall has been abnormally heavy for the time of year, and

A GOOD AVERAGE.

besides having rained many nights, has on eight days prevented our shooting, but I don't feel at all inclined to complain. We have actually shot on 32 days, and have averaged very nearly two head of big game a day besides eight Stags.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1902—*contd.*

Animals.	April 1st- 13th.*	Dec. 12th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	7	1†	8
Leopard ... ..	...	...	...
Rhino ... ..	...	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	1	..	1
Bison .. ..	...	...	...
Bear ... ..	4	...	4
Sambhur... ..	...	...	...
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...
Hog Deer ... ..	4	...	4
Antelope ... ..	...	...	...
Pig... ..	1	...	1

\* The shoot, of which this is a continuation, commenced on the 4th March.

† This Tiger was killed at Paltakhoa by me and a small party.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

1903.

Four Leopard to start with—A Couple of Tiger—Long Python killed—An unlucky Day—"Stripes" bests us again—We kill a grand Tiger—One Patch produces a mixed Bag—The Albino Buffalo—A Tame Finish.

FOR the big shoot this year, I had as my guests Lord and Lady Lonsdale, Lady Locke-Elliot, Miss Baird, Ingestre (Lord), Colvin, Reginald Herbert (Lord), Mr. and Mrs. Leveson-Gower, Forrest, Miss Elphinstone, Harold Brassey, E. Ezra, Rajey, Lyon, Victor, Wood, Li Pape and Graham White. The Maharani joined us in camp a day or two later.

We began shooting on the 15th February with a beat for Tiger, but as the *khubber* was four days old and the jungle exceedingly difficult, we could not reasonably expect very much. As a matter of fact we never saw him, though the Elephants

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

jibbed at one time as if there was some animal in the grass.

We broke our luck on the 11th by bagging four Leopard, and on return to camp found that Dr. James had arrived and *khubber* of Tiger had come in.

Fresh *khubber* of Tiger was brought the following morning, and this we elected to pursue as the place, Peitkapara, was nearer than that reported on the previous day. In the first beat we turned the Tiger out and wounded him, and killed him in the second. He measured in length 9'-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ "", body 6'-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and weighed 448lbs. This brought us up to lunch, and while discussing it another Tiger *khubber* arrived from Mandibari. We were just in time to bag him, for by the time the stops were placed, he was already on the move, making for the Forest Reserves. The second Tiger was a good long one, 9'-10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " full length with a body

**TOPSIKATA DRAWN BLANK.**

6'-8½". He only weighed 408lbs., very light for a Tiger of his length.

On the 21st a Leopard was killed close to camp,



**Going to the meet, Topsikata Camp.**

and the 22nd, at Topsikata, proved a long day after a Tiger that had killed a bullock close to the Reserves and apparently went back into the forest before we got there.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Another Leopard was killed on the 23rd. Before starting we had *khubber* both of Leopard and Bear, and we chose the former. In the first beat, two Leopards were put up and both were fired at and cleared out ; a third and fourth beat failed to put them up again. One, however, was picked up dead, a day or two afterwards.

The 24th was very nearly a repetition of the previous day, with this difference that the Leopard did not show up at all. A Leopard was shot each day on the 25th and 26th, and on the latter date we had an unsuccessful beat for Bear. We ought to have been getting lots of *khubber* of Tiger at this time, but hardly any came in, though I knew there were several knocking about.

A general shoot on the 27th resulted in the death of five Pig and a Python 16'-10" long. At last on the 28th *khubber* of Tiger from Topsikata was brought in, and it certainly sounded good

## A GENERAL SHOOT.

enough. The beast, evidently a great big one, had dragged a Buffalo for nearly 300 yards over very rough ground. On our arrival, however, I discovered that a sportsman from Alipur had already had a shot at him, so it is little wonder that we didn't come across him. Judging from his pugs he must have been a huge beast.

We had a day off on the 1st March, a general shoot on the 2nd, in which two Barasingh Stags, a Hog Deer, and a couple of Pig were bagged, and on the 3rd changed camp to the Raidak, feeling that the Topsikata Tigers had thoroughly done us. By this time many changes had taken place in our party. The Leveson-Gowers, Lady Locke-Elliott, White, Li Pape, Ingestre and Herbert, had all left camp, while Lumsden and the two Phipps had joined us.

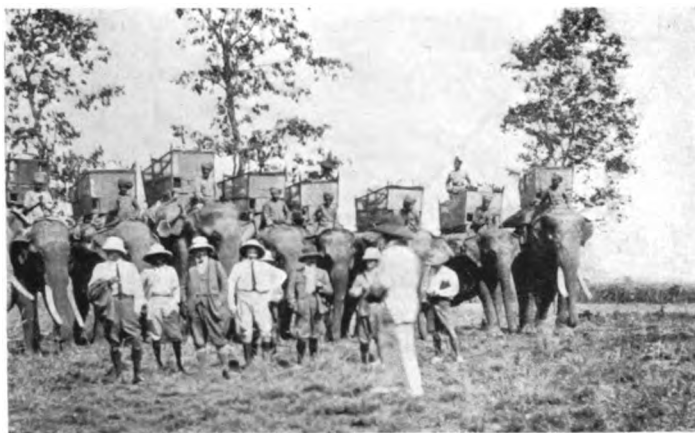
From our new camping ground, we started on the 4th March for the jungle near the Gurh, to beat for Bear. A fairly good one was bagged, as



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

well as a big bulky Boar that stood  $35\frac{3}{4}$ " at the withers.

After resting the Elephants on the 6th, we went the next day to Jeypore in hopes of a Tiger. A



The Guns at the end Camp, Raidak.

Bear was first put up and bagged with a cub clinging to her, which we captured. The Tiger proved to be just outside the beat, and at one time must have been quite close to the howdahs. Probably the firing at the Bear disturbed him, for

### DISAPPOINTING RESULTS.

his tracks, which we afterwards came across, showed that he had made off at a gallop. After lunch another Bear was turned out, but charged back through the line of beaters, and though we tried, we could not turn him out again. On beating an adjoining patch, to my surprise, a Tigress jumped up. The stops had a chance at her, but she was let off. By this time the light had gone and we were forced to stop. Altogether it was rather a disappointing day, for we might with luck have had a really good bag.

The 7th was quite a nice day, spent in the Dal-bilar Dabri jungles. Two Bear were put up in the same beat. One was bagged at the time, but the other gave a lot of trouble, and we did not get him till after lunch. Towards the close of the beat in which the second Bear was bagged a Leopard jumped up from behind the howdahs. He also gave us a longish chase, but eventually we managed to pad him too.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Again on the 8th we failed to bring our Tiger to book. The *khubber* sounded all right, but we found that "Stripes" had contented himself with sucking the blood of the kill, a Buffalo, and then made off.

We had a fairly good general shoot on the 9th, bringing back a Bear, a Barasingh and a Hog Deer, and the next day a good Leopard (7'-7½") and two Bear were shot. On this occasion we had really been beating at Jeypore for a Tiger, which we did not see, when the Leopard jumped up and saved the situation. The Bear were killed near Banir Dabri.

The 11th being the festival of the "Eed," we did not start for Chapanee, from which place Tiger *khubber* had been brought us, till nearly 2 p.m. In the first beat a Bear, a very long one, was shot. He measured 7'-1" in length, body 6'-7" and girth 50". Later on in the day a splendid Tiger was bagged. Not so bulky per-



The 10'-2" Tiger.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR

haps as others that I have shot, but a fine beast all the same and in the prime of life. He made a great show as he galloped out. Measurements: length 10'-2", body 6'-11", and weight 476lbs.

On the 12th two Bear were killed at Malakata and four different *khubber* of Tiger--three from the east bank of the Raidak and one from Dhobicura--reached us on the 13th. I decided in favour of numbers and we started eastwards. The first beat was quite close to camp, but the patch was full of bad *fasan*, so, as the chances seemed against us, I left it and went to the next *khubber* at Barabhisa, five miles further on. I was sorry afterwards I had done so, for the beast there turned out to be a Leopard, and though he was a good one (7'-7"), I should much rather have taken the chance of a Tiger.

We tried the Dhobicura jungle on the 14th and got a Tigress, a Leopard and two Sambhur out



The 10'-2" Tiger padded.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

of it. The Tigress looked at first as if she meant mischief, but she thought better of it and was killed swimming the nullah, out of which we had to fish her. The Leopard—a small one—was killed after lunch and gave a lot of trouble.

The day after this a Leopard was killed at Chukchuka. We also had a beat for Bear, but didn't come across any. By this time a lot of sportsmen had left camp, including Forrest, Wood, White, the two Phipps and Lumsden.

The 16th was a great day, indeed a record one in these parts. Shooting the Reserves on the Jorai nullah, we killed five Tiger within twelve minutes. I suppose I was not in the vein for writing that day, for the only detail I find given in my diary is that "one of them very nearly got home on an Elephant."

We tried for Tiger again on the 17th. This time on the banks of the Sunkos, but though the

“CHEEK.”

*khubber* was good and everything seemed favourable, we saw nothing of them. On my return home I was astounded to hear that three cows had been killed close to the very patch and



The five Tiger.

practically at the very time we were beating. Conceive the cheek of the Tigers !

A bit of luck in the shape of a Tiger came our way on the 10th. No *khubber* of any sort having



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

come in, we went out in the direction of Borshikata and beat a likely looking patch on the Raidak, purely on chance. The result was a Tiger, 9'-1" in length.

For some time we had been hearing of an Albino bull Buffalo that had been playing havoc with tame bull Buffaloes, so on the 19th we went to the Reserves after him towards Bachamari and Salmara. A Leopard was killed in the first beat, but the Albino wasn't in it, so after lunch we got on his tracks and followed him up into a bit of *null*, where he was killed. He was a fine beast, in dealer's condition, standing 16 hands  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " with horns  $8'-7\frac{1}{2}$ ".

I shifted camp on the 20th and the day after went after Tiger. No sooner had we got to the ground than down came the rain and we couldn't commence beating till after lunch. As the villagers had set fire to the very patch into which

## TWO GAME BEASTS.

the kill had been dragged, it wasn't very surprising to find that the Tiger had quitted.

The 22nd and 23rd were spent in pursuit of the wily Leopard, and the first day we got a goodish one (7'-6") close to the Alipur road. The second day was rather mismanaged. *Khubber* came in of a Leopard about ten miles off, and while I was considering the advisability of going for him, news of another quite close to camp arrived. This we went out for, only to find the *khubber* was bad.

We padded a Tiger (9'-2") and a Leopard on the 24th, and both beasts gave us quite a merry time of it. The Tiger in particular looked like giving a lot of trouble and charged about a good deal, but I don't think he ever really meant business. The Leopard was first wounded and then we had to leave him to go after the Tiger. But we picked him up on our way home, though in the interim he had succeeded in mauling a villager,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

who, in trying to locate him, suddenly came right on top of him.

Our bag on the 15th consisted only of one Barasingh. Every thing seemed to go wrong, for, with a little bit of luck, we might have got a Tiger and a Leopard. The 26th and 27th gave us a Leopard each day. On the latter date, by the way, a tremendous hailstorm broke while we were at lunch, some of the hailstones being as large as a small fowl's egg.

Dal Dalia was a long way off camp, nevertheless the 28th found us there, beating the jungle for a Tiger of which we had heard, and we were rewarded by padding him all right. He was a heavily built beast, 9'-5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " in length.

The next day three Leopard were killed. As we did not leave camp till 3 p.m., we were certainly lucky in getting them. Moreover, the tree jungle in which we found them was difficult, and



**A Tigress shot in the 'River Raidak.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

a very winding nullah that ran through it didn't make the beating any easier. Altogether, we had a lot of trouble getting the beasts to break.

The greater part of the 30th was occupied in a futile hunt after a Tiger near Jeypore. We saw his tracks and that was all. For the last day of the month we had a general shoot, in which five Barasingh and three Hog Deer were bagged. Out of the eight Deer, five were stags.

After our repulse at Jeypore on the 28th, we tied up for the Tiger, and on the 1st April *khubber* arrived of a kill. The information was right enough, but the Tiger was not. He must have been very near us, I think, though again he succeeded—remembering the date perhaps—in giving us the slip.

For three days no big game had been killed, and three Bear, killed on the 2nd April, broke the run of bad luck. The day following a Leopard

#### A TAME FINISH.

(7'-2½") was also bagged. This beast was full of courage, charged about and managed to maul an Elephant.

The last day of the shoot, the 4th, we tried the forest for Tiger, but saw nothing better than their tracks. We had not done badly on the whole, though, owing to the country having been so much burned, the Tigers had mostly retired into the forest, out of which it was very hard to get them.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1903.

Animals.	Feb. 7th, 10th, and 11th.	Feb. 16th to April 4th	November.	December.	Total.
Tiger ...	...	12	1†	...	13
Leopard ...	5	22	...	1‡	28
Rhino ..	...	...	...	...	...
Buffalo ...	...	1 <sup>•</sup>	...	...	1
Bison ...	...	...	...	...	...
Bear ...	...	15	...	...	15
Sambhur ...	...	...	...	...	...
Barasingh ...	...	20	...	...	20
Hog Deer ..	...	9	...	...	9
Antelope ...	...	...	...	...	...
Pig ...	...	16	...	...	16

*Party* :- Lumsden, Phipps, H. Phipps, Pape, James and self.

<sup>•</sup> An Albino bull Buffalo.

† 9 ft. in length. *Party* :- Wimberley, James, Gojendro and self.

‡ *Party* :- B. Ghose, Sujey, Sujan and self.

## CHAPTER XXV.

1904.

*Jan., Feb. and March.*

**An indifferent start—Two Tigress—We slay the Jeypore Tiger—  
A mixed Bag—Succession of Defeats—Shoot ends for a Time—A  
Fresh Start—Poor Sport—Big Game on the Bakla.**

**T**OGETHER with Mr. and Mrs. Bankier, Hammond, French, Beecher, James, Mr. and the Misses Miller and Sujey, I started for a shoot on the 17th January. On arrival in camp we got two *khubbers* of Tiger. On going for them the next morning, the first kill proved to be a Leopard's. It was eaten up by vultures, and so was not worth trying for. The other kill was a Tiger's, but we did not find him at home, and, judging from his tracks, he had evidently cleared off early in the morning.

For the two next days we had no better success. On the 19th we had two separate *khubbers* of



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Leopard and got neither, though I was told that, after we had left the place, a Leopard walked out quite close to where we had been beating. Except



Starting on our first Shoot.

that we were after Bear instead of Leopards, the 20th told much the same tale and beyond a Sambhur nothing was bagged.

At last on the 21st a Leopard was padded, though here again luck was none of the best, as

## A BEGINNING WITH TIGER.

only the light failing prevented us getting another. The 22nd was another tantalizing day. In the Reserves close to camp we saw plenty of fresh Tiger tracks, and at one time we had a Rhino in the line, but we saw neither him nor any Tigers.

We got a Tigress on the 23rd—the first this year—she showed no fight, though at one time she looked as if she was going to. A fair beast, 8'-8" in length. After lunch a Tiger was put up in the first beat and slipped off through the line somehow. A second beat turned him out again, and this time he was fired at but without result. The 24th was a very dull day, passed in trying unsuccessfully to get a Bear, and on the 25th we killed another Tigress (8'-4"). She had two cubs with her, but they got away and it was just as well they did.

We had a general shoot on the 26th, but got nothing except a few birds out of it. Indeed, for the next four days the shooting was singularly

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

devoid of incident. I moved camp to Cheephla on the 27th, and from that date until the 31st we saw no four-footed game whatever, though some *khubber* was brought in.

On the last day of January, however, we slew the Jeypore Tiger that had defeated us time after time for years. He had no opportunity of showing his metal, as a single bullet did the trick. He proved to be a very good beast, 9'-6" in length, body 6'-5" and weight 445lbs.

A Sambhur and a Pig were bagged in a general shoot near the old "Gurh" on the 1st February, and on the 2nd no big game again was seen until we were on our way home. Then some big beast—no one knew quite what—was put up, but though we had a beat for him, it was by that time too dark to do any good.

On the 3rd *khubber* was brought of the Bara Dogla Tiger having killed, and I really thought we were

## TOO WARY.

going to have a chance of getting on terms with him. We had a long day trying to get him, but he was too wary and didn't put in an appearance.

We got a bag on the 4th, consisting of a Leopard, a Sambhur, a Barasingh and a Pig. The Leopard was a fair one and looked to me about 7', but I didn't measure him. The 5th was taken up in moving camp to Alipur Duars, and for the two days following our arrival there we did no shooting



The Jeypore Tiger padded.

Two Leopard were killed on the 8th, one in a patch close to the village and the other in a large

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

piece of jungle some way off. The second was a fairly big one (7'-2") and gave us a lot of trouble in getting him to break. He was bagged just before lunch.

We had a long day after Tiger on the 9th, and eventually found that the jungle, which the beast was said especially to favour, was occupied by a pack of wild dogs. So we had our day for nothing. The 10th was a day off, and we were again defeated by the Tiger on the 11th. In this case the kill was near the forest and he evidently heard us and sneaked off.

A Leopard on the 12th, a rest for the Elephant on the 13th, and then a third defeat on the 14th by the same Tiger, though the beast had killed two days running; it was the old story—slipped away. We had no better luck in the afternoon. A Leopard we were after was put up and fired at several times, but went off apparently unscathed.

## A FRESH START.

Up to the last I had hopes of getting him, but want of light beat us.

Just before leaving for Cooch Behar on the 15th, we got a Leopard and so ended the shoot.

A month later Hammond, Voretzsch, Jyotsna, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards, Miss Porter, P. Sen, Ghose, Sujey, James and myself were again out in camp. We commenced on March 15th with an unsuccessful hunt after a Leopard, but the next day a fine big one (7'-8 $\frac{3}{4}$ "") was bagged. After padding him we beat for Bear. The jungle, however, was against us and we didn't put any up.

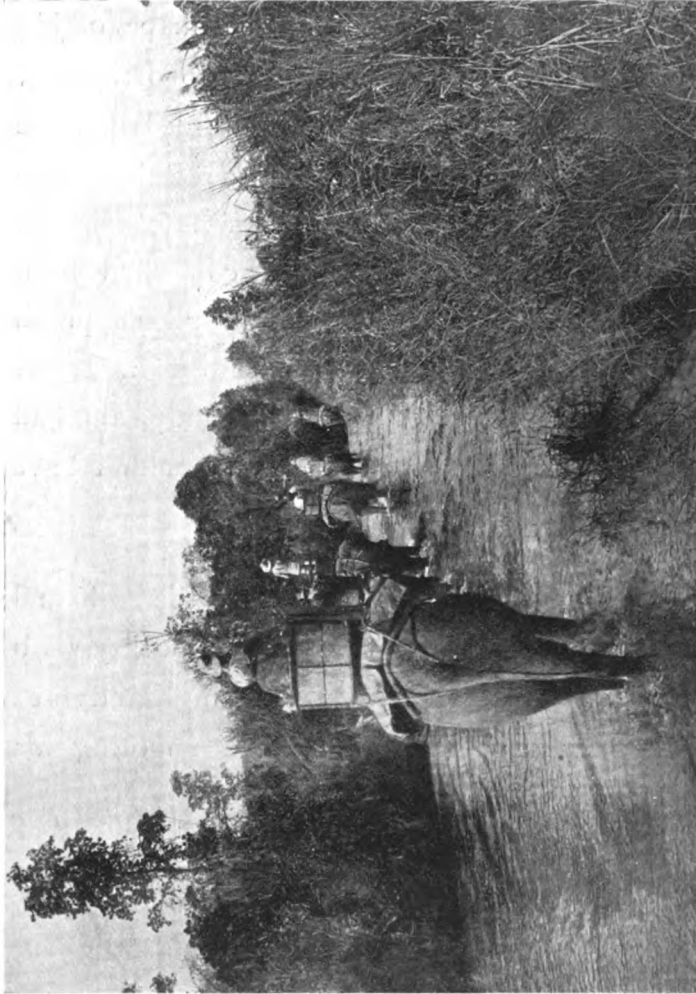
Before making a start in the morning of the 17th, three separate *khubbers*—two of Leopard and one of Bear—had come in. And yet, in spite of it all, we had no show, though I believe some big beast was in the last beat. A little better luck gave us two Bear and a couple of Pig on

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

the 18th. We had a tremendous lot of trouble getting the Bear out; in fact had not the beaters done their work right well we should not have got them at all.

On the 19th we had general shooting in some patches near the Forest Reserves and only bagged two Hog Deer. There were fresh tracks of Rhino and Bison about, but no signs of "Stripes". After another blank day, I moved camp on the 21st to Salsarabari and gave the Elephants a rest the day following.

The 23rd brought with it quite a pleasant change, for on that day, at last, we got the better of a Tiger, or rather Tigress, as she turned out to be. It was on the banks of the Bakla River, and we put her up in the first beat after lunch. She showed a certain amount of sport, scratching one of the beating Elephants slightly. On the way back to camp a King Cobra, measuring 10'-3", was killed.



Placing Stops.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The 24th gave us nothing in the shape of big game. We had a long day beating for Leopards, but didn't see any. However, we killed one the next day, this time again on the Bakla. He wasn't a bad beast as regards size (7'-5"), but a coward at heart. The kill—a cow—had been dragged over 300 yards, and we all supposed from the *khubber* that it must have been a Tiger. The place was 8 miles away from camp, and had I known it was only a Leopard, I shouldn't have gone such a distance.

No *khubber* whatever came in on the 26th and 27th. Tiger had evidently left the locality. So after bagging a Sambhur, a Barasingh and three Hog Deer on the 28th I stopped shooting for the time being.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1904.

January, February and March.

Animals.	Jan. 13th.	Jan. 26th to Feb. 15th.	Mar. 15th-28th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	...	3	1	4
Leopard ... ..	† 1	6	2	9
Rhino ... ..	...	...	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bison ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bear ... ..	...	...	2	2
Sambhur ... ..	...	3	1	4
Barasingh ... ..	...	2	1	3
Hog Deer ... ..	...	...	5	5
Antelope... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	11	3	14

† Party :- Hammond, Sujei, Ghose and self.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

1904—*contd.*

### *April and December.*

**The Viceroy's Shoot—Lord Curzon kills with one Shot—Another good Tiger—The Dinah River and Tondur Reserves provide Sport—A Cold Weather Shoot—"Kennedy" mauled—In and out luck—The Summary.**

**O**N the 4th April, just a week after the last shoot terminated, I joined and had the honour of organising with Mr. Marindin H. E. Lord Curzon's shoot at Madari Hat. The others of the party were Baring, Bird, Adam Keighley, Farrington and Armstrong.

The first day was not particularly propitious. Near Chilapata in the Reserves, several Rhino were put up, and these, in spite of great efforts on the part of the beaters, broke back. Neither Bison nor Buffalo were seen in the beat, only a Sambhur Stag and a Hog Deer were bagged, the former by the Viceroy.

Still keeping to the same place, a good Tiger (9'-7") was killed on the 5th, and we did not take

## UP AND THROUGH.

long over the business. We left camp a little before 11 o'clock, and by 12-30 the beast was padded.

On the 6th we moved the camp on to Ramshahaihat, and *en route* we beat the Tondur Reserves. A Tiger got up in the first beat, and also, I am



Our Camp at Ramshahaihat, April 1904.

sorry to say, through it. But forest shooting is always chancy work, and this sort of result must be expected sometimes. I need hardly add that we never saw the Tiger again.

We had a good day in the Tondur Reserves again on the 7th. There was only one beat, but

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Lord Curzon's first Tiger.

### THE VICEROY'S TIGERS.

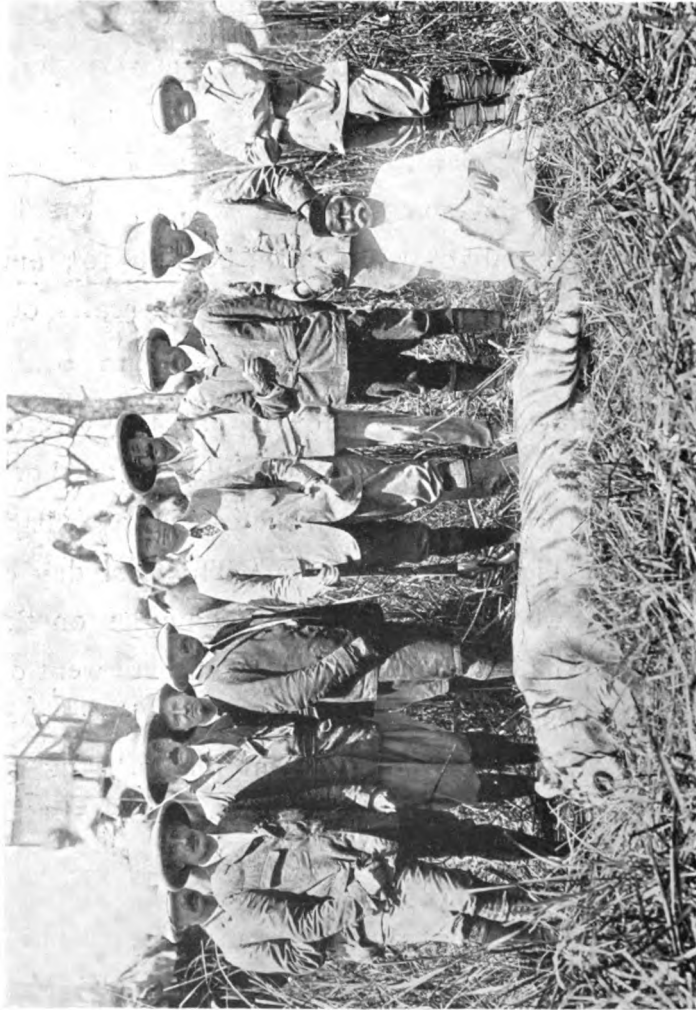
in it were two Tiger and a black Leopard. One Tiger got away, and the other—a very long one—was killed by the Viceroy with a single shot. The Leopard, only the second black one that I have come across, was also bagged. The Tiger measured 10'-2" in length, body 6'-10", and girth 48". Unfortunately we had no scales out with us, so could not weigh him.

At Khateemaree the following day the Viceroy killed another good Tiger—9'-4" in length and body 6'-6"—and we finished up on the 9th in style, bagging two Tigress and a Bear. This last day of the shoot we were out first in the jungles on the banks of the Dinah River, and from there went on to the Tondur Reserves. The Tigers were shot in separate beats and in different places. One of them and also the Bear were got in the same patch that produced the 10'-2" Tiger three days before.

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We had one more shooting expedition to finish up the year. My party were :—Mr. and Mrs.

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Lord Curzon's third Tiger.

## PROFITLESS PURSUIT.

Edwards, Miss Porter, Miss Bainbridge, P. Sen, Jit, James, Ghose and Juggins. We began at Chukchuka on the 7th December, and spent the

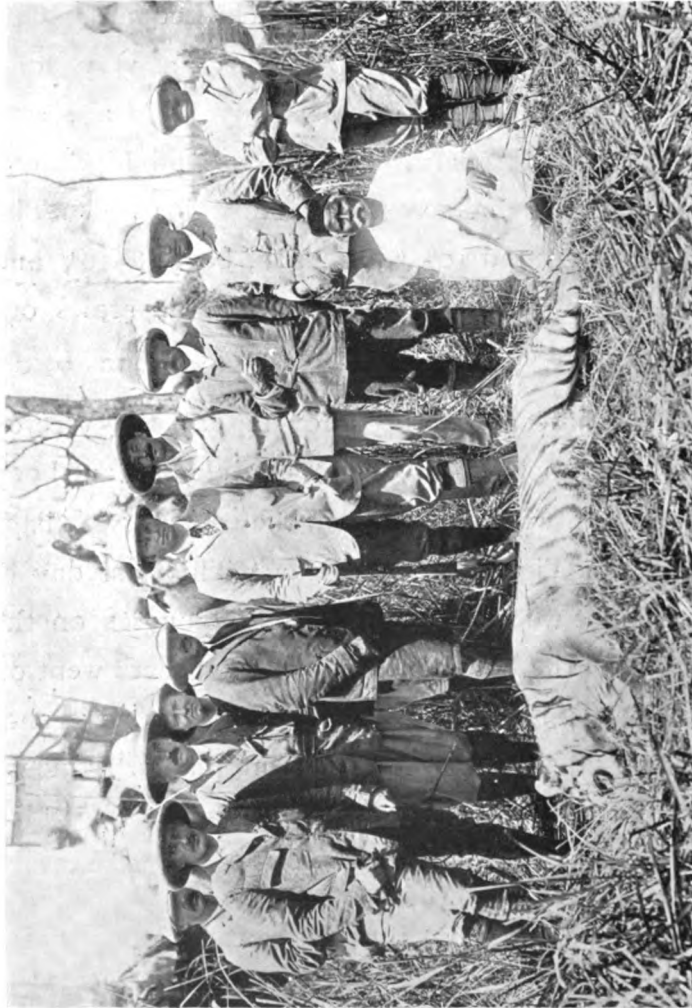


Padding the third Tiger.

first two days in profitless pursuit of Leopard, none of which were seen. The 19th, however, gave us quite good sport, and a Tiger and two Bear



SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Lord Curzon's third Tiger.

The first of these is the fact that the  
 animals are not only tame but also  
 intelligent. They are able to  
 understand the meaning of the  
 words which are spoken to them.



The second of these is the fact that the  
 animals are not only tame but also  
 intelligent. They are able to  
 understand the meaning of the  
 words which are spoken to them.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

were the result. The first beat was on the Jorai River, east of camp, and in it the Tiger—which by the way was supposed to be a Leopard—got through the guns. The second beat put him up again, and this time he was full of fight and succeeded in mauling “Kennedy”. Then he disappeared, and it took a third beat, in which he mauled another Elephant, to make him break cover. Jit and James eventually finished him. Both Bear were bagged after lunch, and they too provided some fun. The larger one took to the open, and we had a long chase before he was brought to book. As we were moving homewards “Kamikhya Pershad” went for my Elephant—a female—and nearly knocked me, or rather my mount, over. As this was a very unusual, not to say unwarranted, proceeding, I had him well hammered afterwards by “Debraj.”

At Balashi, just above Bhalka, we put up two Rhino in the first beat on the 20th. Both got

### LEOPARD CHARGES HOME.

clear away, though one of the stops had five shots. The jungle was very heavy, but it was a disappointing day all the same.

I had intended giving the Elephants a rest on the 21st, but as *khubber* of a Leopard came from a village north-east of our camp, we went out in the afternoon and got him. He gave us plenty of sport, and finally, when cornered, charged home on Jit's Elephant, "Nur Jehan".

We made it up to the Elephants by giving them a rest the next day, going out ourselves for a general shoot. We got nothing out of it, however, but a Hare and a Partridge. On the 23rd we tried the banks of the Jorai for Tiger and put one up in the third beat. This we did not get, as he slipped through, the jungle being really too heavy to beat properly. In the last beat of all we bagged a Bear.

A Leopard and a Pig were killed on the Garad Haut *maidan* on the 24th. The Boar was the

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

largest I had seen for some time. He stood 36" at the shoulder and was a particularly heavy beast, weighing 350lbs.

Fairly good *khubber* of Leopard reached us on the 25th, and as we failed to find him at home, we went on to my Reserves where we put another up. He lay very low and absolutely declined to be driven out, though the jungle in which he was, was beaten three times. Finding fresh tracks of a big Tiger, I decided to go for him, which we did, again without result at Sunkos Balashees. The next day we had precisely the same disappointing experience. Fresh tracks of Tiger and Leopard, much beating and no beast.

Our last shot was fired on the 27th, when a good Leopard (7'-6½") was killed on the banks of the Jorai. The man who brought in the *khubber* told us that a Tiger or a Leopard had carried off a calf from the village. The kill, however,



**in the Forest Reserves, 1904**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

could not be located, as the marauder had simply picked up the calf in his mouth and disappeared. As it was necessary to find out where the beast had gone, if we were to have a reasonable chance of getting him, I sent out some of the *shikaris* to prospect. They returned in due course with the good news that they had actually seen the Tiger and off we went. Several patches had been beaten and nothing turned out, when Hatashu saw what he thought was a Tiger— it turned out to be a Leopard—jump into the water and deliberately come inside the beat. We did not get him to break the first time of asking, but the second time he did. One more beat on the chance of a Tiger finished the day and the shoot.

I made the following note at the time :—“There are several Tiger about, but the jungles are very heavy and the beasts rarely kill. With fair luck we might have bagged three or four more than

## THE BAG.

we did. Six weeks hence this place will be worth camping at.”

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1904—*continued.*

Animals.	April 4th-9th.	May 20th.	Dec. 17th-27th.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	5	...	1	6
Leopard ... ..	*1	†1	3	5
Rhino ... ..	...	...	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bison ... ..	...	...	...	...
Bear ... ..	1	...	3	4
Sambhur ... ..	1	...	...	2
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...	...
Hog Deer ... ..	1	...	...	1
Antelope... ..	...	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	3	...	1	4

\* Black Leopard.

† Gojendro, Ghose, Sujey and I formed the party.



## CHAPTER XXVII.

1905.

Camp at Kalabari—Lord Curzon arrives in Camp—Burnt Tiger—  
A fine lengthy Beast—Results of the Shoot—Another Expedition—  
A Big Python—Three Bear in successive shots.

**T**HIS year I had again the honour of running a shoot for H. E. Lord Curzon with Mr. Perrée, the Forest Officer, at Kalabari, Assam. We commenced shooting on the 18th February, the party at first consisting of H. E. Lord Lamington, Baring, Meynell, Akers-Douglas, Perrée, Ezechiel, Peter and myself. The next day the Viceroy with Hammond, Macnab and Howell joined us. The first day, luck failed us altogether, though the *khubber* was good enough, as the Tigress we were after never appeared in spite of four very careful beats. But on the 19th, a good Tiger was bagged, 9'-10" in length and scaling 532 lbs. Baring got

### A TEN-FOOT TIGER.

a shot at a Tigress, but lost her for the time being, though she was found and brought in the next day, badly burnt, curiously enough, on one side only.

On the 20th we were lucky enough to put up five Tiger, including two cubs, and we bagged two, the other three getting away. The day following we tried a beat on the Hali River and a Tiger turned up all right and gave us a shot, but broke back through the line of beaters. We might still have had a chance of getting him, if a mahout had not set fire to the jungle, which forced us to clear out.

At Kachugaon, about five miles from the Forest Officer's bungalow, we got a fine lengthy Tiger on the 22nd—10'-1"—and weighing over 500 lbs. There was a Tigress about as well, and we actually saw her, but could do no good owing to the *fasan*. A Tiger and Tigress fell to us on the 23rd, the former before lunch and the latter

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The Viceroy's Shoot, 1905.

### LORD LAMINGTON'S BISON.

after. We had some trouble with the Tigress as she broke through the line the first beat, but a gun in the line got her in the second. Lord Lamington and Perrée were out tracking on this occasion and bagged a bull Bison besides having shots at a Rhino.

The 24th gave us another good Tiger which we found in a patch of jungle about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of camp. After lunch a Bear was put up and wounded but he managed to outflank the line and clear out. In the Pechadabri Block, we put up a bull Bison and a bull Buff in the first beat we had on the 25th; the Bison was fired at, but the Buff didn't give a shot and both broke back through the line, beating us completely. A great pity getting neither. In the afternoon, the Viceroy, Baring and Macnab left, Hammond having gone off the previous day.

On the 26th a Tiger and a Tigress were padded. They both showed a certain amount of

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

sport and brought our total of Tiger up to ten, not so bad, I think, for nine days' shooting.

The very beginning of April found our camp pitched at Patlakhowa, the occupants being Count Quadt, F. Grenfell, R. Grenfell, Rajey, Jit, Ghose, Sujey, Juggins and myself. We got nothing the first day unless one counts a big Python, 15'-10" long, that was killed by a mahout. The next day, things looked up a bit; one of the tigers was killed north-east of the camp and though the first beat proved unproductive, on putting the second into a likely looking place, we turned out a Tigress and two nearly full grown cubs. They were all three wounded, yet all managed to break through the flank guns into the Reserves. Taking the line on, we picked up the Tigress dead and also came across one of the cubs, which we killed. The show was quite amusing while it lasted.

On the 4th a Tigress was bagged and that, with the exception of one Bear, was the last big game

### SMALL BUT FIERCE.

that we were to get for some days. During this dull time, the Maharani and Peter Sen joined us, the latter only for a couple of days, and later on Corbett and Hammond arrived in camp.

Just a week after the last Tigress, we killed another in the Reserves, a small one but full of courage that gave plenty of fun and finished up by charging home on a "pad". The 12th was a very disappointing day. Certainly one if not two Rhino, a Tiger and two Bear were seen, but none of the beasts came out to the stops. On our way home we came across another Rhino at the edge of the jungle, but our luck was dead out and we made nothing of the chance.

We tried the Reserves yet again on the 13th and had a much better day's sport. We commenced with a three-quarters grown cub that had the impertinence to charge out at me, but I stopped him all right. In the same beat we got shots at a Rhino and another Tiger, or rather

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Tigress as she proved to be after we had bagged her, and a third Tiger got through the beaters. After lunch we took up the tracks of the Rhino, but had to give up this game on account of the darkness. The next morning we had another try for the same beast but never saw him. Quadt and Hammond left us about this time.

The 15th was quite a nice day. A couple of Leopard were killed and one of them gave quite a lot of trouble before we had done with him. Both the Leopard were shot in the Reserves. A rest-day for the Elephants followed and then came a long and disappointing day after Rhino. I had great hopes of getting one, but we finished up absolutely blank.

We did manage to get one on the 18th. In the first beat four or five Rhino were put up, but all these succeeded in breaking back through the line. I then collected all the howdahs and put them into the line and this time we knocked over

### THREE SHOTS, THREE BEAR.

a fine cow which stood 17 hands at the shoulder. She had a three-quarters grown calf with her, but this we let off. The day after this we had another try after Rhino, but had to stop early as the Grenfells had to catch the mail from Cooch Behar. On our way home three Bear were killed. They were all bagged by the same man in three successive shots and only one required finishing. Besides the Grenfells, Corbett also left camp.

The 21st was a long, tiresome day fooling about after a beastly Leopard which we never saw. A fine Boar was bagged, 33 inches at the shoulder and weighing 346 lbs. Rajey and Jit left on the 22nd, when a Barasingh was shot, which weighed 557 lbs.

The 23rd was the last day of the shoot. In the morning we had a good bit of trouble with a Leopard that wouldn't face the open, but we got him eventually. The actual finish came in the



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shape of a fine Sambhur Stag and the same evening we got back to Cooch Behar.

Captain and Mrs. Derek Keppel, Courage, Ashburner, Victor and Sujey had a small shoot in December, the principal results being 4 Leopard, 3 Bear and a Buffalo.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1905.

Animals.	February.	April.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	10	6	16
Leopard ... ..	...	3	3
Rhino ... ..	...	1	1
Buffalo ... ..	...	...	...
Bison ... ..	1	...	1
Bear ... ..	...	4	4
Sambhur... ..	...	1	1
Barasingh ... ..	...	1	1
Pig ... ..	...	1	1

## CHAPTER XXVIII.

1906.

**Assam—A Troublesome Tiger—"Quits" with an old Friend—Blank days—Things look up—A good fighting Tiger—Poor finish to an indifferent Shoot.**

**T**HIS year I took my party to Assam for the shoot, and on March 22nd we found our camp pitched on the Becki, two miles west of Helapakri. Excluding myself there were Major and Lady Violet Crawley, Rajey, James, Victor and Sujey. The Maharajah of Bikaner, Mr. and Mrs. Edwards and Miss Porter joined us a day or two later. We commenced well on the first day by bagging a Tigress at Roha in the first beat with one shot.

We got nothing else that day or the next, when we found that our ground had already been beaten over, but at Koorebasha on the 24th another Tigress was padded. She gave us 'ot

## KILLED AT LAST.

of trouble one way and another. She was put up in the first beat and fired at but broke back ; the next time I fancy the line must have walked over her, but the third time she broke out to the right hand stops and again got away into another



Going up to Barapeta on the Mundia River.

patch. Two more beats through the same ground failed to turn her out, so we consoled ourselves with lunch. Then the *shikaris* persuaded me to have another try at the same patch and this time she was put out and killed. She made an

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

effort to charge at the end, but she was too far gone to do much. I can't for the life of me understand why she did not turn nasty before. However, it was a bit of luck getting her at all as we had no *khubber*. We heard of another Tiger in a big patch close by, but there wasn't time to beat for him.

On the 25th we had a try for Tiger north-east of the camp, and we actually saw tracks of two pairs, but we didn't come across them. The day after this we had a beat in the opposite direction, and after three hard beats managed to bag a Tigress. As things were not particularly lively, I changed camp to Bogidara. The 28th proved a blank, though the *khubber* was sound enough. The Tiger, as it turned out, had been disturbed by the villagers, which, of course, accounted for our not coming to terms with him. It was baddish luck, as we might have had a try for another of which we had heard nearer home.

## LYING UP.

We gave the Elephants a rest on the 29th, and the following day went to Kamergaon after Buffs. At the meet I was told that a Tiger had killed a cow close to where the Elephants were waiting



**Mounting Howdahs after Lunch.**

for us. We found the cow all right, but no Tiger, so we beat the most likely looking place near to her. As I was placing the stops, I came across a bit of boggy ground which I did not like to leave,

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

so I put the howdahs through it, and sure enough in it was the Tigress. She was killed at once, nine shots being fired at her, so the poor beast had no chance of getting away.

After padding her we had a try for the Buffs we had originally come out for, but beyond a three-quarters grown bull we saw nothing. On the last day of the month we came across an old friend in the shape of a bull Buffalo that had bested us in 1902. He was bagged on the way home, so that we can cry "quits" after four years. A fine massive beast, over 16 hands high.

The next eight days' record is blank, unfortunately, so far as big game is concerned. Most of our energy was fruitlessly expended in hunting Buffs, and though we put them up at times, nothing resulted. A Bear was fired at, but he too got away undamaged so far as I could tell. Rajey left us on the 3rd April. Bikaner shot a Crocodile on the 4th, and then more disappoint-

## A CHANGE OF LUCK.

ing days, so I changed camp to Helapakri in hopes of breaking this spell of bad luck, and on the 9th we padded a Tiger.

We got him at Roha and he showed a certain amount of sport. In the first beat he got through the stops, and we eventually bagged him just before lunch. He wouldn't face the open at any time, but charged the line of beaters several times. However, he never got home.

A real change of luck at last! On the 10th we beat for Tiger at Enagacha and put one up in the first beat. He came out well to the guns, but stopped on being fired at, and laid up in a small patch of burnt-up grass. On the line advancing he charged out and got home on a howdah, clawing the Elephant slightly on the trunk, and then we finished him. On the way home we had a try for Bear, but didn't see any. Altogether a great improvement in the way of sport.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We got the *khubber* from Moirajhar on the 11th, but as it seemed a bit doubtful, and, moreover, I did not know the ground at all, I went out with the *shikaris* to reconnoitre. Skirting a bit of *null* was a low grass jungle and out of this jumped a Tigress. She came straight out to the end guns, who had her all to themselves and promptly finished her. While we were having lunch another *khubber* of a Tiger having killed a bullock close to the *Dandi* made by our Elephants was brought in. We must have passed close to him on our way out. The kill had been dragged into a small patch, and after a little hesitation, out he came with a roar and was despatched without trouble. He was a fine Tiger 9'-11" over all and weighed 444 lbs.

The Crawleys left on the 12th, and we devoted the day to a rest for man and beast. The 13th, we went out, although the *khubber* was not good, mainly because it was the Edwards' last day.

## TWO GOOD TIGER.

However, as luck would have it, we saw nothing. The next day, two good Tiger were padded, a result not to be sneezed at in those hard days.



Major Crawley's 9'-11" Tiger.

Neither showed sport, but as the kills were very far apart it took us all our time getting them. We did not reach camp till after 9 o'clock at night.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

This was our last stroke of luck for some time. I see by my diary that during the next nine days, in spite of a change of camp to Mundia, the total bag was one Sambhur. We tried after Tiger, Buffalo and Bear fairly persistently day by day, but got nothing. Our luck was clean out and once or twice we deserved it. The Maharajah of Bikaner left camp on the 19th.

At last on the 24th we got a Tiger at Mundia. It wasn't till the third beat that he was bagged. For a long time he absolutely declined to face the guns and broke back through the line of beaters. Eventually I went with the line of beaters and killed him as he charged. He was a heavy-built Tiger, but I had no scales to weigh him with. On the 25th we returned to Helapakri and took an "easy" for the two following days.

The 28th brought us another good Tiger at Kamargaon. We had a long way to go, but it proved well worth it. The Tiger was full of



**Group of Howdah Elephants, November 1906.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

beans and meant charging. He broke back twice through the line of beaters and was ultimately killed in the line itself but not before he



Padding one of the Tigers, 1906 shoot.

had scratched one Elephant and had had a good turn up with another. This latter happened to be a howdah Elephant and while the fight was going on I thought at one time that the man would be



Luncheon Group, November 1906.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

shot clean out of the howdah. I must say I like a good Tiger like this one was.

The 29th was a blank and so was the 30th, though on this latter date we really thought we were in for a good thing. A wayfarer reported that he had come across five Tigers on the Barapeta Road. We found the tracks, which were perfectly fresh, and a little further on was a dead Buffalo evidently killed by a Tiger or Tigers. In spite of all this we saw nothing more and had to return home disappointed, a bad ending to an indifferent shoot.

In November of the same year, Sir Andrew and Lady Fraser, Captain and Mrs. Maidlow, Irwin, Todd, Bryan Evans, Ghose and Sujev came out with me to Chalapeta for a five days' shoot. The record is a very poor one. No Tiger, Bison, Rhino or Buffalo, and only one Leopard, a Sambhur and a couple of Boar were

### UNSPORTSMANLIKE.

brought to book. From what the *shikaris* told me the jungles had been disturbed by some persons who should have known better. It was, to say the least, a most unsportsmanlike proceeding.

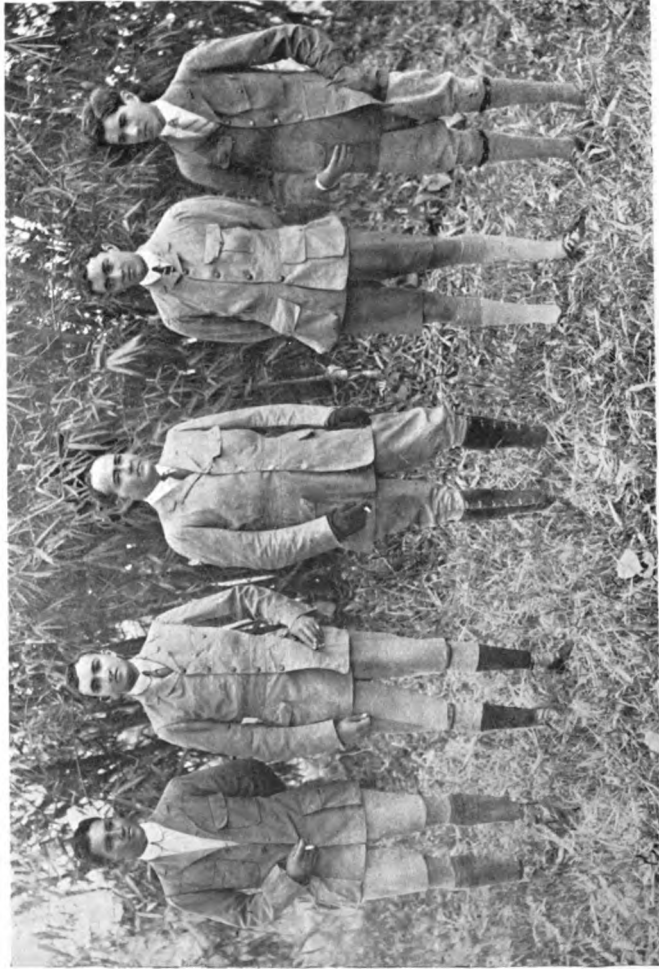


## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1906.

Animals.	March and April.	November.	Total.
Tiger ... ..	12	...	12
Leopard ... ..	...	1	1
Rhino ... ..	..	...	...
Buffalo ... ..	1	...	1
Bison ... ..	...	...	...
Bear ... ..	...	2	2
Sambhur .. ..	...	...	...
Barasingh ... ..	...	...	...
Pig ... ..	...	2	2





Family group, 1907.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

1907.

**T. E. the Earl and Countess of Minto—A Glorious Beginning—  
The Viceroy's Tigress—Wandering Minstrels—Another Shoot—  
"Ratan Pershad" bogged—A curiously mixed Bag—Goodish Sport—  
A first class Day—Boar chases a Leopard.**

**I**N February of 1907, H. E. the Earl of Minto honoured me by asking me to run his shoot which commenced on the 18th. Our camp was pitched on the same spot where Lord Curzon's camp stood in 1905.

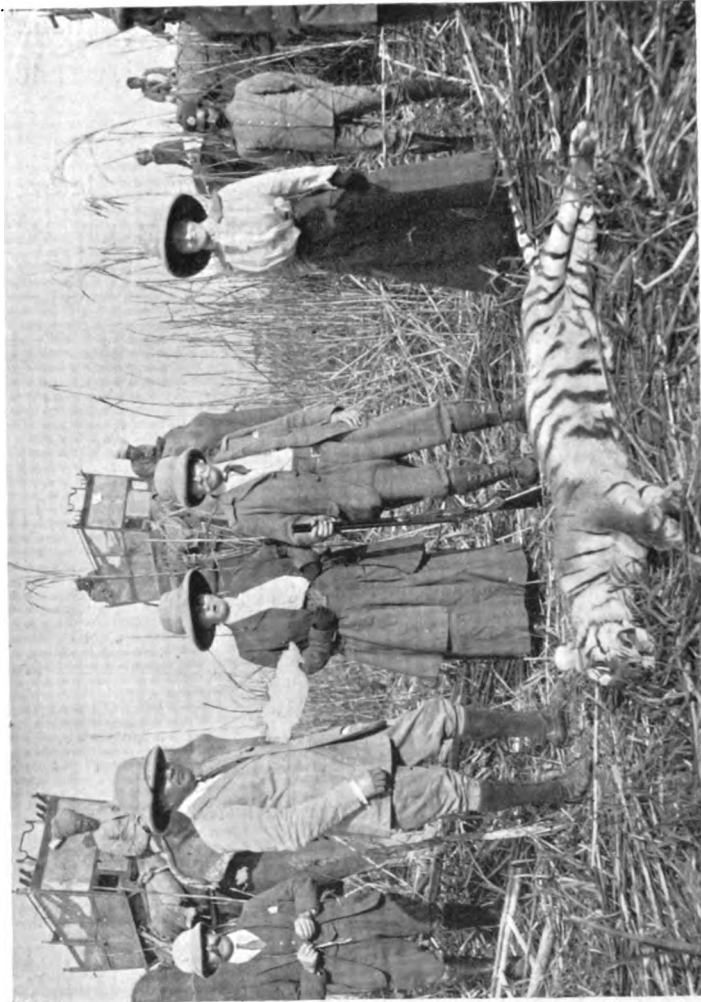
Before Their Excellencies arrived, a small party went out to a place about 17 miles from camp near the railway station at Fakirgaon for Tiger. A couple were turned but only one was bagged.

The big shoot commenced on the 18th at the Saralbhangra River. Our party consisted of Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Minto, Lady Eileen Elliot, Adam, Dunlop-Smith,

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



Viceroy's Shoot Assam, 1907.



One of the Viceroy's Tigers.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Crooke-Lawless, Bulkeley, Mackenzie, Graham, Rajey, Hammond, Lyall, Perrée, Sujey and myself.

The first day was a glorious one. Before lunch we had three Tigers padded and bagged



The meet on the second day.

another four in the afternoon, making in all seven Tigers, which is a record for one day's shoot. None of them showed any real fighting though some pretended to now and then. Lady Minto knocked over the big Tigress galloping away at over sixty yards—no mean performance

### LORD MINTO'S TIGRESS.

for anybody. Two were fair sized beasts; the other five being half or three-quarters grown cubs. The next day was a blank, and on the 20th a general shoot produced a Bear and a couple of Barasingh Stags, so that we were fairly lucky.

We tried the Hali River for Tiger on the 21st, and after beating a very heavy patch of *null* turned out a short thickset Tiger, which was soon finished off. After lunch we had general shooting but did not do much good.

The 22nd gave us a better day. Two *khubber* of Tiger had come in. The first from Garobusti was good enough and there we went to find "Stripes" at home all right. He walked out quite quietly and was killed at once. The second *khubber* was very indefinite, but from what the *shikaris* said I thought we had a fair chance of meeting with the beast and I was not far wrong. The Tigress came out to His Excellency, who disposed of her with a single shot.



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The following day was disappointing. A Bear turned up in the first beat but broke through the line of Elephants. In the afternoon it rained pretty hard, which made things uncomfortable.



Adam's Tiger, being dragged out of the Nullah.

However, we had a couple of beats in the rain, but got nothing. The 24th was our last day and fortunately it did not prove a blank. Two Bears were turned out in the first beat and both were accounted for.



**Howdah Elephants with Their Excellencies.**

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

We returned to camp for lunch and started for the railway station at Fakirgaon shortly after. Sujey told me that just after we had left, the big Tiger, which I was very keen the Viceroy should bag, killed a Buffalo close to camp, also that two other Tiger were wandering about close to camp making that peculiar noise—*a twit*. It was a great pity that His Excellency could not stay a couple of days more.

Our camp being at Chota Bhalka we commenced operations on the 13th of March at Chuckchuka. On this occasion C. W. Graham, J. Daniell, R. L. Morgan, Walker, Rajey, Hitty, Ghose, Sujey and I made up the party; a day or two later the Maharani with N. Sen and the Wolfe-Murrays joined us. We drew blood at the first asking and bagged a Tiger. He made a bit of a charge but thought better of it. At one time he looked like giving trouble as he galloped into a bad boggy nullah, but we found him dead there.

### A TIGRESS GETS OFF.

The next day at Giriakheta we lost a Tigress that had killed a tie-up. She was in a small patch of grass on the banks of the Jorai and close to the forest. As soon as the line was put in she



Measuring the first Tiger, March 1907.

made a bee-line for the Reserves, getting away apparently untouched. After lunch we came back and found another *khubber* waiting for us, and as it sounded quite good, out we went. The

### SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

Tiger gave us a lot of trouble before we padded him. He was a short heavy animal but a fine beast and weighed 469 lbs.

On the 15th we tried for Bears and in the first beat two out of the three got clean away ; the third we killed in the second beat. One of the Elephants "Ratan Pershad" got into a bad quicksand and we had an awful job to get him out.

The 16th gave us a capital day's sport on the Jorai. The first beat was unproductive, but in the second we came on two Tiger but we couldn't get them to break. Eventually we cornered them. The Tigress made many attempts to get back, but did not succeed. She was a really nice beast. The cub was rather small, but quite big enough to shoot. The Tigers were bagged before lunch and four Boars were knocked over during the day, one of which weighed 279 lbs.

We went to a place south of Garad Haut on the 17th where we had news of a kill, and on getting

### KHUBBER BUT NO RESULT.

there found vultures on it. We beat several patches, and as Hatashu was placing the guns for the last beat before lunch, he espied the Tiger or Leopard (he declared it was the former) clearing away. The beast got into a heavy patch, and it wasn't worth while going after him. It rained the whole day and most of us got soaking wet. Morgan left on this date.

As it was raining on the 18th, I sent the Elephants out for fodder. At one o'clock two *khubber* were brought in, one of which was that a Tiger had tried to bone a Buffalo but had been driven off by the other Buffs. As the Elephants did not get back till late and we were not able to make a start before 4-30 p.m., I decided to go after the "sketchy" *khubber*. However, by the time we got out, the Tiger had left the patch and was met--so we heard--by some woodcutters as he was making off for the forest.

Shooting south-east of camp and later on at Chuckchucka, we had an excellent day's sport

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

on the 19th, bagging two Leopard and two Bear. The Leopard were got first in different beats and then we went for the Bear. The male Bear tried to get through the line but he was knocked over by one of the guns. We heard of



The meet, March 1907.

another Leopard having killed a pony, but hadn't time to get to the place.

The 20th was passed in the Haribhanga direction trying for Tiger, but though we had a long tiring day we never came across him.

## A MIXED BAG.

There was hardly any real jungle to beat and what there was, consisted of thin strips along the edges of nullahs. We killed a Bear and thus saved a blank. We also found a dead bullock which was said to have been killed the day before. Vultures were on the kill and we beat an adjacent patch on the off-chance of picking up a Tiger, but nothing turned up.

In spite of rain, which went on the whole day, on the 21st at Chuckchuka we got a Leopard and a Bear with her cub, so we did not do badly. The Elephants were given rest on the 22nd. A curiously mixed bag resulted from the 23rd,—a Leopard, a Bear, a Barasingh, a Boar and a Python. They were all bagged at Khagrabari, the Leopard in the first beat and the other beasts after lunch.

We had a long day after a Bear in the Reserves on the 24th, and got round him eventually. The 25th gave us a Tigress at Bhandani. She gave a



## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

lot of trouble and it took close on two hours to pad her. She never charged home, but laid up in a bad piece of *fasan* through which the beat had to be taken very slowly. No *khubber* of any sort came in on the 26th, but we went out on the off-chance



Crossing the Sunkos, March 1907.

of picking a Leopard. This we failed to do and only a Barasingh was knocked over.

The next day, however, we got a Leopard in the Reserves—in fact in the old Rhino grounds. He was an old brute and almost white. We also

## JUST IN TIME.

shot a half-wild bull Buff. The villagers wanted him killed as he had become dangerous. We were done on the 28th by a Tiger or Tigress—whichever it happened to be—as the beast broke back into the Forest Reserves and I fancied at the time it was the same one that got through the guns before. But the 29th showed me that I was mistaken. On this date we were more fortunate and got our Tiger all right. We found, however, that the beast that got away the day before was not the Tigress that was fired at on the 14th. The Tiger we bagged must have got back yesterday before we had time to surround him. On this occasion we just caught him in time. He was not in the patch where the two tie-ups were killed. The fact is the jungles close to the Forest Reserves are burnt and there are no heavy patches close to the Reserves where a Tiger would care to lie up for many days. We also killed a Leopard at Daldalia, quite a good beast. Altogether the sport was not half so bad.

SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.



The Bag. March Camp, 1907.

## EXCELLENT SPORT.

The 30th was a long disappointing day wasted over a fruitless hunt after Bears and Leopards. We drew blank every beat, except for Pig. And as we might have gone after Buffs, I was precious sorry I hadn't, by the time the end of the day had come.

The last day of the month gave us excellent sport,—a Leopard and four Buffalo. The patch we intended to beat for Buffs was on fire and for some time we were at a loss how to place the herd, the jungle being burnt all round. Eventually I took up a nullah which joined on to the patch they were in and there we put up the whole herd—fourteen in all, two bulls and twelve cows—out of which we got four, three with good heads and one with an especially good one. The Leopard we picked up after luncheon. He was light for his size, but he had evidently not had a good meal for some days. I also saw fresh tracks of a Bear, but we didn't come across him.

## SHOOTING IN COOCH BEHAR.

The first of April was the last day of our shoot and unluckily it turned out a blank. The *khuber* was good enough in a way, but the jungle was full of *fasan* and therefore unbeatable. I think the Tigress we were after must have slunk into one of the patches, which were unbeatable because of bad *fasan*, before we got there.

**RECORD FOR THE YEAR 1907.**

Animals.	February and March.	Total.
<b>Tiger</b> ... ..	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Leopard</b> ... ..	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Rhino</b> ... ..	.....	.....
<b>Buffalo</b> ... ..	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Bison</b> ... ..	.....	.....
<b>Bear</b> ... ..	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sambhur</b> ... ..	.....	.....
<b>Barasingh</b> ... ..	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pig</b> ... ..	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>



**SOME WELL KNOWN ELEPHANTS**

**AT**

**COOCH BEHAR.**

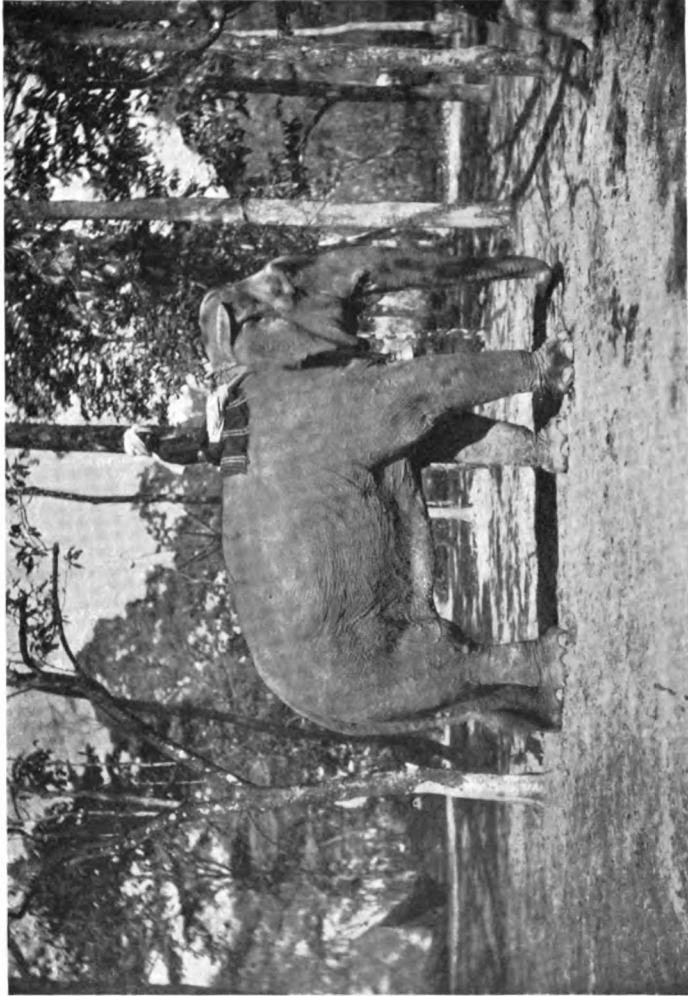






**“Jung Pershad.” The famous Nepalese fighting Elephant (now dead). Height, over 10 feet.**





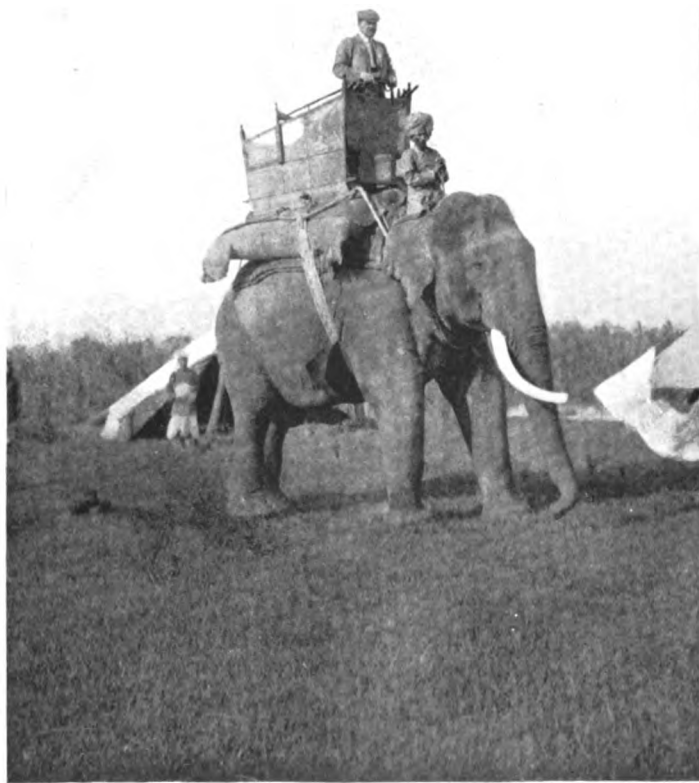
**Bijli Perabad." Nepalese fighting Elephant. Height, over 10 feet**





**"Indrajit" (late "Mowla Buz"). Height 9 ft. 5 in. Cooch Behar, Pithana.**  
This elephant is mentioned in Mr. Sanderson's book. He belonged to Amir Yakubkhan of Afghanistan.





“The Gonesh.” Height 9 ft. 4 in. Cooch Behar Pilkhana,







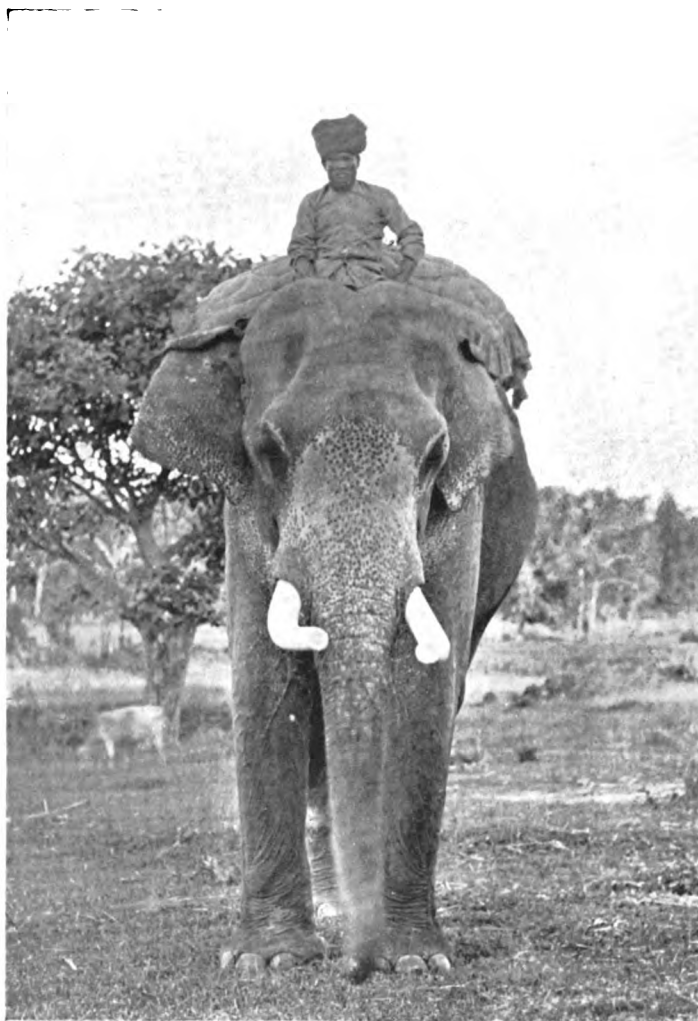
**"Meghnath." Height 9 ft. 9 in. Cooch Behar Pikhana.**





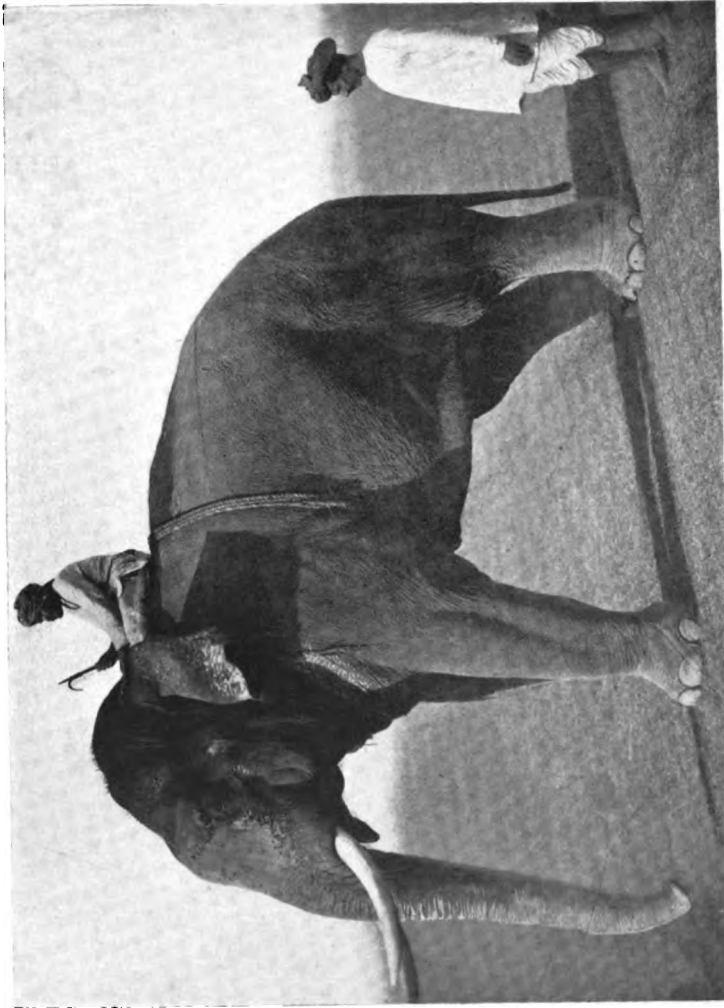
A Nepalese Fighting Elephant.





**"Debraj." Height 10 ft. 4 in. Cooch Behar Pilibhara.**





One of Indore Durbar Elephants.







*One of Indian Burbar Elephants*



**TOTAL BIG GAME SHOT  
DURING THE THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS  
1871-1907.**

<b>Tiger</b> ... ..	<b>365</b>
<b>Leopard</b> ... ..	<b>311</b>
<b>Rhino</b> ... ..	<b>207</b>
<b>Bison</b> ... ..	<b>48</b>
<b>Buffalo</b> ... ..	<b>438</b>
<b>Bear</b> ... ..	<b>133</b>
<b>Sambhur</b> ... ..	<b>259</b>
<b>Barasingh</b> ... ..	<b>318</b>

RECORDS OF BIG TIGERS SHOT.

District where shot.	Year.	Total Length.		Length of Body.		Girth behind shoulders.	Biceps.	Forearm.	Round Head.	Height.	Weight.	Length of Dry Skull.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.								
Assam ...	1902	10	5	6	11	51	26	18½	36	41	504	15½	Longest tiger, tail included, I have seen or shot.
Assam...	1894	10	3	7	1½	52	29	19½	36½	40½	487	15½	Tiger empty.
Cooch Behar ...	1890	10	2½	7	0	48½	26½	20	38½	39½	500	..	Fully gorged.
Assam ...	1908	10	2	7	0	55½	26	20	36	39	546	...	Weights not out.
Duars ..	1903	10	2	6	11	49	27	18½	37	30½	476	...	Tiger empty.
Cooch Behar ...	1904	10	2	6	10	48	25½	17½	36½	34½	..	...	This is by far the biggest and heaviest tiger I have seen or shot. We did not weigh tigers till 1890. This tiger must have weighed close on 600 lbs.
Cooch Behar ...	1806	10	1½	6	10	51½	28½	18½	38	40½	462	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1887	10	1½	7	1½	54	29	21	40½	44½	..	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1883	10	1	6	9½	56	26	19½	36	41	..	...	
Assam ...	1895	10	1	6	11	51½	26½	20	37	36½	456	...	
Assam ...	1905	10	1	6	9	48	25	17½	36	36	507	...	
Duars ...	1891	10	½	6	11	54½	27½	20	38	38	493	...	
Cooch Behar ..	1885	10	0	6	10	51	29	18½	34	40	...	15	Mentioned in Stern- dale's book.
Cooch Behar ...	1890	10	0	6	11	52	26	21	36	40	520	14½	
Cooch Behar ...	1895	9	11	6	8½	51	24	18	36½	36½	422	...	Empty.
Cooch Behar ...	1889	9	11	6	9	50½	28½	20½	37	39½	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1896	9	10½	6	9½	51	28	19½	38	38½	496	...	
Duars ...	1803	9	10	6	7½	52	26	19½	36	39	512	...	Full of beef.

RECORDS OF BIG TIGERS SHOT—contd.

District where shot.	Year.	Total Length.		Length of Body.		Girth behind shoulder.	Biceps.	Forearm.	Round Head.	Height.	Weight.	Length of Dry Skull.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.								
Assam ...	1905	9	10	6	8	53	...	18½	...	...	532	...	Fully gorged.
Assam ...	1905	9	10	6	9½	48½	25½	19½	35½	38½	469	...	
Duars ...	1896	9	9½	6	9½	51	28	19½	38	38½	496	14½	
Cooch Behar ...	1885	9	9½	6	10	50½	26½	18½	36	41	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1886	9	9½	6	7½	54	26	19½	36	39	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1888	9	9	6	9	48½	27½	18½	36½	39½	490	...	Fully gorged.
Assam ...	1899	9	9	6	10	49	25	17½	35½	39½	440	...	Empty.
Duars ...	1896	9	8½	6	8½	51½	28½	19½	36½	40½	489	...	Very heavy tiger.
Duars ...	1891	9	8	6	9	52½	29	18½	38½	40½	467	...	Tiger had a small feed only. Bulky beast.
Assam ...	1900	9	8	6	7	51½	25½	19½	36½	39½	472	...	Splendid beast.
Cooch Behar ...	1839	9	8	6	7	52	35½	19½	39½	40½	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1902	9	7½	6	6½	49½	25½	20½	36½	42½	...	...	Full of beef.
Cooch Behar ...	1892	9	7	6	8	50½	28	18	39	40½	492	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	9	7	6	8	51	27	19	37½	38	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1902	9	6	6	6	52	29	18½	35	42½	450	...	Fully gorged.
Duars ...	1890	9	6	6	5	52	29	19	37	38	481	...	
Duars ...	1891	9	6	6	6	52	26	18	35	39	455	...	
Duars ...	1904	9	6	6	5	47	25½	17	33½	39½	445	...	

RECORDS OF BIG TIGRESSES SHOT.

Where shot.	Year.	Total Length.		Length of Body.		Girth behind shoulder.	Biceps.	Forearm.	Round Head.	Height.	Weight.	Dry Skull.	Remark.
		Pt.	In.	Pt.	In.								
Assam ...	1902	9	5½	6	2½	42	20	15	34	35	...	...	I believe this is a record tigress, no weights out. Exceptionally fine tigress. The heaviest I have seen. No other measurements taken.
Forest Reserves.	1893	9	3½	6	2½	41	23	15½	38½	33½	343	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1890	9	3	6	3	41	22	16	32½	34	360	...	
Assam ...	1902	9	3	6	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	9	3	6	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1891	8	10½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1884	8	10½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1902	8	10½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1904	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1895	8	10	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	296	...	
Assam ...	1895	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	307	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1886	8	10	5	10	41½	22	15	28	34	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1875	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1900	8	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1890	8	9	5	7½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1890	8	9	5	9½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1892	8	9	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	308	...	
Assam ...	1894	8	9	5	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1896	8	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1895	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	278	...	
Duars ...	1904	8	8	5	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Duars ...	1904	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cooch Behar ...	1889	8	8	5	11½	41½	23	15½	29	...	...	...	
Assam ...	1894	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

RECORDS OF BIG BUFFS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length between sticks.		Length of body between sticks.		Girth		Round neck nearest shoulder.		Round neck nearest head.		Height.		Horns tip to tip round outside curves.		Base of horn	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	In.	In.	Hds	In.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	In.		
1830	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	10	7	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fine beast. No other measurements taken.	
1881	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	9	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Huge beast. The biggest I have ever seen or shot. No other measurements taken.	
1882	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	1	6	19	Very fine bull.	
1885	Bull	13	3	10	2	110	100	60	18	2	10	3	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Magnificent bull. In prime of life.	
1892	Bull	13	5	10	3	104	92	63	18	0	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fine bull getting on in years.	
1895	Bull	13	1	10	1	116	90	66	18	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	3	21	Very fine beast. Grand fighter. Took more killing than any buff I have ever come across.	
1902	Bull	12	6	9	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	92	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	1	9	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Heavily built beast.	
1908	Bull	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Finest cow I have ever shot.
1886	Cow	12	2	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	The biggest cow I have ever seen or shot.
1891	Cow	12	6	9	8	94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	3	16	The biggest cow I have ever seen or shot.
1895	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	3	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Good beast.
1902	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	I gave the original of these horns to the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. The horns are peculiar in shape, being very wide spread. They measured 8 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. between tips.
1907	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fine cow.



RECORDS OF BIG RHINOS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length between sticks.		Length of body between sticks.		Girth.	Height at shoulder.		Length of horn.	Remarks.
		Ft.	Ins.	Ft.	Ins.		Hands	Ins.		
1886	Bull	11	7½	10	1	109	18	0	11½	Exceptionally fine beast. Magnificent bull.  Fine bull.  The biggest Rhino I have seen or shot. Magnificent beast in every way. I think he is a record as regards height also.
1886	Bull	12	6	10	9	116	18	½	10½	
1889	Bull	11	10	10	3	112	18	1	13½	
1891	Bull	12	2	10	10	116	17	2	...	
1892	Bull	12	3	10	6	124	17	3½	12	
1893	Bull	11	9	10	5	114	18	½	13	
1895	Bull	11	10	10	2	110	18	1	13½	
1895	Bull	12	9	11	0	119	19	½	13	
1898	Bull	11	10	10	2	112	18	½	...	Biggest cow I have shot. No other measurements taken. Do.
1902	Bull	12	9	10	5½	118	17	2½	12½	
1890	Cow	12	2	10	1	124	17	1	9½	
1895	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16½	
1901	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14½	

RECORDS OF BIG BISON SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length between sticks.	Length of body between sticks.	Girth.	Height at shoulder.	Height at hump.	Horns tip to tip round out.	Base of horn.	Widest display.	Between tips.	Remarks.
...	Bull	Ft. 12 2½	Ft. 9 5	Ins. 116	Hds. 18 3½	Ins. 19 3½	Ins. 81½	Ins. 18½	Ins. 40½	Ins. 23½	Magnificent bull.
1883	Bull	12 1½	9 3	115	18 ½	19 0	76½	18	39½	24½	Fine beast.
1889	Bull	...	...	114	17 2½	...	74½	19½	...	...	No other measurements taken
1891	Bull	12 2½	9 5	116	18 3½	19 3½	72	20½	...	20½	Splendid beast. Very bulky.
1899	Bull	12 3½	9 6½	124	18 3½	20 ½	76½	20½	39	26½	The biggest bison I have ever seen or shot. A great fighter.
1901	Bull	12 2	9 5½	120	18 3	19 3½	78½	19½	39	23½	Fine big bull.
1902	Bull	12 3	9 5	118	18 2½	19 3	84	21	43	31½	Magnificent bull. Though not as big as the one shot in 1899, he possessed a splendid pair of horns. A big fighter.
1902	Bull	12 1½	9 1½	112	17 3½	18 3½	77	18½	37½	21½	Good bull.
1902	Cow	...	...	90	17 1½	17 3	73½	13½	29	10	Magnificent cow, was mis-taken for a bull. Her horns are, I believe, a record. No other measurements taken.
1902	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	71½	12½	29	9½	Fine cow.
1902	Cow	...	...	...	...	...	70	...	...	...	No other measurements taken.

### RECORDS OF BIG BEARS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length.		Length of Body.		Girth.	Biceps.	Fore-arm.		Head.		Height.	Weight.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.			In.	In.	In.	In.			
1903	Male	7	1	6	7	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Pity no other measurements taken. Very big beast.
1890	Male	6	10	6	2	54½	26	19½	35½	36	423	...	...	Splendid beast. The biggest I have seen or shot, except perhaps the one shot in 1903.
1897	Male	6	9	6	2	50	22	18½	37	35½	392	...	...	Fine bear.
1899	Male	6	7	6	½	53½	25	17½	...	...	378	...	...	Oldish bear, but a fine beast.
1883	Male	6	7	6	0	51½	20	16	36½	...	...	...	...	...
1889	Male	6	7	5	11	51	20	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
1895	Male	6	7	6	0	49	22	18	36½	...	341	...	...	...
1897	Male	6	6	6	0	50½	24	17½	...	...	350	...	...	Good bear.

RECORDS OF BIG LEOPARDS SHOT.

Year shot.	Sex.	Total length.		Length of Body.		Height.	Weight.	Remarks.
		Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.			
1885	Male	8	4	...	In.	...	lbs.	This was a magnificent leopard. A record I believe. Pity I did not take other measurements.
1890	Male	8	2½	...	...	...	...	
1883	Male	8	1½	...	...	...	...	
1906	Male	8	1½	...	...	...	...	
1893	Male	8	0	...	...	...	...	
1890	Male	7	10½	4	10	26½	...	
1897	Male	7	10	4	10	...	139	
1900	Male	7	9	4	10	...	...	
1903	Male	7	9	...	...	...	...	
1904	Male	7	8½	...	...	...	...	
1893	Male	7	8½	4	10	...	...	
1898	Male	7	7½	4	8	...	150	
1903	Male	7	7½	...	...	...	...	
1890	Male	7	7½	...	...	...	...	
1892	Male	7	6½	4	9	...	140	

**RECORDS OF BIG SAMBHUR AND BARASINGH.**

Sambhur Stag, shot 1890	...	...	...	...	Weight 51st. 3lbs
„ „ „ 1893	...	..	...	...	„ 53st. 1lb.
„ „ „ 1893	...	„	...	...	„ 48st. 10lbs
„ „ „ 1891	...	...	...	...	„ 40st. 2lbs.
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Barasingh stag, shot in 1893	...	...	...	...	Weight 42st.
„ „ 1893	...	...	...	...	„ 40st. 3lbs.

## APPENDIX.

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### RIFLES AND GUNS.

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I BEGAN shooting in the days of muzzle-loaders, and have, during my time, tried almost every variety of weapon, from a 4-bore double-barrelled rifle firing 15 drams of black powder to the smallest bore modern up-to-date cordite rifle. For big game shooting off *howdahs*, the ideal battery for a sportsman of limited means in the present period when cordite rifles have been brought to such perfection is a '465 or '500 express firing 70 grain or more cordite and a combined ball and shot gun like Holland's Paradox or Westley Richard's 'Explora.' The '465 cordite is powerful enough to kill an Elephant, and can also be used with smaller charges for Carnivora, Deer and Pig.

The 12-bore Cordite Paradox is an excellent weapon for Tiger, Bear or Leopard at short ranges up to 100 yards, and is also an excellent shot gun. When the sportsman can

## APPENDIX.

afford to have more than two guns, I should add to the battery a shot gun by a good maker and a smaller bore high velocity rifle—a .375 or .400. This weapon is powerful enough for even the bigger game and is extremely useful as a second rifle. I have accounted for several tiger and a good many stags and boars with these weapons. I think the days of the big bore rifles firing black powder are over.

It is essential for *howdah* shooting to have a handy weapon—it is also necessary that the weapon should be powerful enough to stop a charging Tiger or Bear, and it is here where the Paradox or the 'Explora' comes in. Both these guns are more powerful than the ordinary 12-bore cylinder gun, and one can do very accurate shooting with them at ranges where a 12-bore cylinder gun would be practically useless. Personally speaking I have had my 'Paradox' built to take a heavier charge of powder than the ordinary pattern. During the days of black powder, my Paradox was built to fire  $4\frac{1}{2}$  drams of black powder, and my new cordite Paradox fires 33 grain of cordite. I have used a Paradox since it was first put on the market, and I hold that the weapon has absolutely no superior for this kind of shooting.

## *APPENDIX.*

With regard to makers of rifles, I consider Messrs. Holland & Holland second to none. I have had rifles of various calibres from them all my life, and do not regret it. I have also had shot guns from this firm at different times, and found them excellent weapons ; as a rule, however, Purdey & Gibbs have generally supplied me with my shot guns and I want nothing better. I would also like to say a word about the rifles I have had from Messrs. Manton & Co. They built me two rifles, No. 2 '450 cordite and a '400 cordite ; these are both excellent weapons in every way and leave nothing to be desired. I might mention here that latterly I have used nothing but hammerless rifles and guns, and though my '577 Westley Richards and my pair of '500 cordite rifles, built by Lang and by Holland & Holland, fire very heavy charges, they have never been out of order or given any trouble. I mention this because I believe there is a general impression that it is unsafe and unsatisfactory to have hammerless cordite weapons built if they are of a larger calibre than '400.



