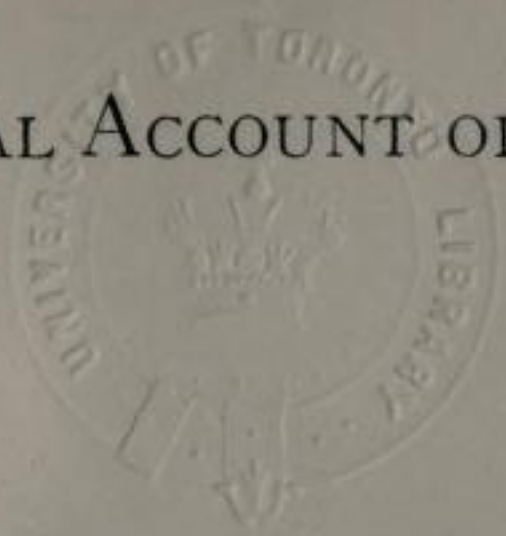


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A STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF ASSAM.

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VOLUME I.

DISTRICTS OF KAMRUP, DARRANG, NOWGONG, SIBSAGAR,
AND LAKHIMPUR.

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FERÆ NATURÆ.—Elephants, tigers, leopards, bears, rhinoceros, buffaloes, large deer, and wild pigs are the wild animals common in Kám-rúp, found especially in the north of the District, which swarms with animal life of all kinds. Wild elephants frequently do great damage to the crops; and in the winter of 1866-67, one village was abandoned in consequence of the destruction caused by them. The Cáchá-rí villages are usually surrounded by a stout fence to keep out wild beasts. The cost of keeping down wild animals amounted to £67, 18s. od. in 1865; £401, 16s. od. in 1868; £110, 18s. od. in 1870; £228, 10s. od. in 1871; £227, 10s. od. in 1872; £182, 15s. od. in 1873; £362, 10s. 3d. in 1874; and £287, 10s. od. in 1875. No rewards have ever been paid for snake-killing. During 1868, 129 persons were reported to have lost their lives from wild beasts, or in consequence of snake bites. The smaller varieties of game consist of hares, peacocks, wild-fowl, herons, wild geese, wild ducks of various sorts, partridges, floricans, and snipe. Among fishes, the principal varieties are the *roi* or *ruhi*, the *pithiá*, and the *chitál*. No trade is carried on in wild-beast skins; and with the exception of the fisheries, the *feræ naturæ* are not made to contribute in any way towards the wealth of the District.

POPULATION; EARLY ESTIMATES.—In an enumeration taken about the year 1840, quoted at page 282 of Mr. Robinson's *Account of Assam*, the population of Kám-rúp was returned at 271,944, made up as follows:—Hindus, 201,608; Muhammadans, 23,490; Cáchá-rís and other tribes, 46,846; slaves and bondsmen, 24,357. In Mills' *Report on Assam*, at page 1 of the section relating to Kám-rúp, it is stated that, according to an enumeration made in 1848, the population was estimated as follows:—Males, 215,210; females, 172,565; total, 387,775. Dividing them according to religion, there were stated to be 276,083 Hindus, 35,863 Muhammadans, and 75,829 of other tribes. No information is given in either of these two cases as to the agency used in collecting the materials; or whether any means were adopted for the purpose of checking the accuracy of the figures.

THE CENSUS OF 1871-72 was commenced throughout Assam in November 1871, and the enumeration of Kám-rúp was finished before the close of that month. The agency employed is thus described in the Census Report:—'The revenue Settlement of Assam is in many respects peculiar; and in its fiscal officers, the

the east by a survey line running in a south-easterly direction from the south-east corner of the above grant, to the junction of a small stream with the Mará Bhorolí; on the south by the Mará Bhorolí, and a survey line running from the latter, and measuring 1255 feet in length; on the west by a survey line running due north from the south-western corner of the reserve to the southern boundary of the above-named grant of waste land, and measuring 8701 feet in length.

(6) The Chardwár rubber plantation, containing an area of 80 square miles, and bounded as follows:—On the north by the frontier line between Bhután and the Aká hills, and British territory, from the Belsorí river on the west to the Mansirí river on the east; on the east by the Mansirí river from the point where it enters British territory to a point situated about a mile from the confluence of the Kherkolá *koli* with the Mansirí; on the south by a straight line running due west from the before-mentioned point on the Mansirí river, through the southern side of the Moran *pukrí* to a second point on the Dipotá *nadí*, thence up the latter stream about one mile to a third point, thence a straight line running due west from the third mentioned point on the Dipotá *nadí* to a fourth point on the Belsirí river; on the west by the Belsirí river from the fourth mentioned point upwards to the spot where it enters British territory.

The total amount of revenue realized in 1874-75 from the direct sale of timber, or from royalties on the sale of timber, amounted to £152, 6s. od. The rubber trees in the Chardwár caoutchouc reserve, and indeed in similar reserves in all other Assam Districts except the Gáro Hills, are not yet allowed to be tapped. But in the case of the scattered trees, this restriction cannot be enforced. Formerly, the purchase of rubber was a Government monopoly. The Assam Government used to lease out the right to purchase rubber from native collectors over large and loosely defined tracts. Nominally, the farm was only of the right to purchase rubber grown within revenue limits; but, practically, the farmer monopolized the right to purchase all rubber, whether collected on foreign territory or within our territory, but beyond revenue limits. This system was put a stop to in May 1872, chiefly for political reasons. In 1870, the right of collecting rubber in Darrang was leased for £1422.

FERÆ NATURÆ.—Darrang swarms with elephants, tigers, rhinoceros, buffaloes, bison, deer of many kinds, bears, pigs, etc. These

wild animals inhabit the large wastes of reed and grass jungle, and occasionally do considerable harm to the crops. Since 1874-75, the District has been divided into seven *maháls* or partitions, for the purpose of hunting elephants by means of stockades or *kheddás*. The right of elephant-hunting in these tracts is put up to auction and sold to the highest bidder. The lessee is only allowed to hunt for six months, viz. from 1st October to 31st March. In addition to his payment for the right to hunt, he has to pay a royalty of £10 for every animal captured; and the Government reserves to itself the right to purchase all elephants from the lessee which range from 6 to 7½ feet high for £60. The amount of revenue derived from this source, including royalty, during 1874-75 and 1875-76 was £307, 4s. od. The figures for the two years are given in a lump, as the tracts were leased for that period. Recent orders, however, have been issued that these hunting tracts are to have rest, and they will not be hunted again for a couple of years. The yearly cost of keeping down wild beasts amounted to about £50 in 1870, and to £172 in 1875. The increase is attributable to the higher rates of rewards now paid for the destruction of tigers and leopards. In 1870, the rewards paid for killing these animals were Rs. 5 (10s.) and Rs. 2. 8. 0 (5s.) respectively; but in 1873 the rewards were increased to Rs. 25 (£2, 10s. od.) for a tiger, and Rs. 5 (10s.) for a leopard. No rewards are given for snake-killing. In 1870 twenty-five deaths were reported to have been caused by wild beasts, and ten to have resulted from snake bites. Small game, such as florican, partridge, snipe, quail, wild duck, etc., exist in abundance. There is no trade carried on in wild-beasts' skins, and with the exception of the fisheries and elephant-hunting, the *feræ naturæ* are not made to contribute towards the wealth of the District.

POPULATION.—Prior to 1871-72, there had been no systematic attempt towards obtaining an accurate enumeration of the people. In 1840, Mr. Robinson, in his *Descriptive Account of Assam*, mentions the population of Darrang as numbering about 80,000 souls. In 1870, the Deputy-Commissioner estimated it at 202,179. During the year 1871-72, the first regular Census of the District disclosed a population of 236,009. A simultaneous enumeration could not be effected, and the work was spread over the entire month of November 1871. The agency employed was the same as that in the other Assam Districts, described in my Statistical Account of Kámrup (*ante*, p. 26).

or marshes by which the surface water finds its way through or out of the District. When the Brahmaputra rises, a considerable part of the country is flooded. Part of this water is carried off by the Kalang, and the remainder pours westward across country back into the Brahmaputra.

MINES, QUARRIES, ETC.—A salt mine is known to exist at Jangthang, in the Míkír hills, and good building stone and limestone abound at Pánimur. Coal and limestone of excellent quality are found in some parts of the beds of the Jamuná and Dhaneswarí rivers.

THE FORESTS have only lately been utilised as a source of revenue. In 1865 the revenue derived from the forests was only 16s.; in 1866 it was £24, 6s. od.; in 1867, £360; in 1868, £365; and in 1869, £180: average annual revenue for the five years, £186. The extensive forests and grass wastes are sources of great profit to the inhabitants, supplying building materials as well as pasture for the cattle. The finer description of forest trees, such as *sál*, etc., which grow on the southern slopes of the hills, are young, the best timber having been cut down twelve or fifteen years ago by gangs of men from Darrang, sent up by a contractor, who stripped the forests of the finest *sál* trees over a long belt of country skirting the hills. The pasture lands of the District are held in common, and no revenue is derived from them; as the greater part of the District is waste, no restrictions have ever been put upon cattle grazing. The chief jungle products consist of lac, beeswax, Brazil moad, and *uddál*. The class which chiefly deals in jungle products are the Míkírs; but they only make this an auxiliary to their ordinary means of subsistence.

WILD ANIMALS.—The cost of keeping down tigers and leopards, the principal destructive wild animals of the District, amounted to £15, 6s. od. in 1866-67, £18, 4s. od. in 1867-68, and £9, 5s. od. in 1868-69. The rewards for tiger-killing were formerly only Rs. 5 or 10s. a head, but it has been found necessary since 1870 to increase the rate to Rs. 15 or 30s., and subsequently to Rs. 25 or £2, 10s. od. No rewards have ever been paid for snake-killing. During the five years ending 1869, 254 people met their death from wild beasts, and 102 from snake-bites, or an average from both causes of about seventy a year. No trade is carried on in wild-beast skins, and, with the exception of the fisheries, the *feræ naturæ* are not made in any way to contribute to the wealth of the District.

cows, but covered with water during the rains. None of the inhabitants gain a livelihood by pasturing cattle in the forest. No revenue is at present derived from the forests; but in 1853 the tracts producing the *súm* trees on which the *mugá* silkworm feeds, were farmed out for about Rs. 2 or 4s. an acre.

FERÆ NATURÆ.—Of the larger sort of game, elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, leopards, bears, buffaloes, and deer are found in abundance. In 1859, £18, 4s. od. was paid in rewards for the destruction of wild animals, and in 1869 the amount paid for the same purpose was £4. The number of deaths from wild beasts during 1869 was reported to be 9. The smaller sorts of animals consist of monkeys, tiger-cats, weasels, wild hog, porcupine, and squirrels. Among birds—floricane, pheasants, partridge, snipe, wild geese, ducks, and peacocks are the most common. The principal fish are the *mahásaul*, *rohi*, *pabdá*, *mágur*, *boyál*, *kai*, *kuri*, *chítál*, *áir*, *sául*, *tengrá*, *máli*, *garái*, and *michá*. No trade is carried on in wild-beast skins; and with the exception of a charge made for hunting wild elephants (which realised £180 in 1870-71), and the fisheries already referred to, the *feræ naturæ* are not made in any way to contribute towards the wealth of the District.

POPULATION.—Mr. Robinson, in his *Descriptive Account of Assam* (1840), roughly estimated the population of Sibságar District at 200,000 souls. It must be remembered that at that time the District contained a considerably larger area than at present. An attempt at a Census was made in 1853-54, which showed an estimated population of 211,477 souls. The houses, which were counted, were returned at 42,972, giving an average throughout the whole District of nearly five inmates to each house.

During the year 1871-72 a regular Census was taken of the District for the first time. The agency employed was that of the *mauzáddárs* described in my Statistical Account of Kámrup (*ante*, p. 26). A simultaneous enumeration was found impracticable, and the operations were spread over the months of November and December 1871. The results of the Census disclosed a total population of 296,589 persons, living in 203 *mauzás* or collections of villages, and in 55,604 houses. The total area of the District, as ascertained by the recent professional Survey, is 2855 square miles, showing the average density of the population to be 104 per square mile; average population of each *mauzá*, 1461; average number of

[Sentence continued on page 234.

only fair in the District is one lately established by Government at Sadiyá. The hill tribes assemble here annually to receive Government presents, and bring down with them skins, musk-pods, wax, bamboos, and cane mats, to barter for salt, beads, ironware, cooking pots, etc. Cotton also is exported from the Sadiyá country. The annual fair at Sadiyá, however, is regarded rather as a means of maintaining some political communication with the neighbouring hill tribes, than as a channel of distribution for articles of trade. None of the local manufactures, with the exception of tea and silk thread, are exported from the District; the crops which are raised are all consumed locally. It is chiefly owing to the extension of the cultivation and manufacture of tea, and the export of india-rubber, that the exports exceed the imports in value; but this does not include opium in the calculation, which is largely imported by Government, and of which the yearly consumption is said to amount to the value of £25,000. The profits derived from trade are almost confined to the foreign merchants, and therefore there is not much accumulation of coin from this source going on in the District.

CAPITAL.—Such accumulations when they do occur are probably hoarded. The rate of interest in small transactions, when money is lent on the security of ornaments or household utensils, ranges from twelve to thirty per cent. In larger loan transactions the rate of interest fluctuates considerably, and is fixed between the borrower and the lender entirely with regard to the particular circumstances of each case. The rate is generally from 6 *pies* to one *ánná* in the rupee per mensem, or from thirty-seven and a half to seventy-five per cent. per annum. In the first of these cases, property is generally pledged to the full value of the loan; while the second class of transactions appear as a rule to be merely secured on a personal bond executed by the borrower, and hence the higher rate of interest charged. Mortgages on houses or lands are very uncommon. Advances to cultivators are generally made on the personal security of the borrower or on a bond, and bear interest at the rate of about thirty-seven and a half per cent. per annum; it is not customary for money-lenders to secure a loan by a lien upon the crops. Native capital is never employed in the purchase of estates, and therefore it is impossible to say what a purchaser would consider to be a fair return for the investment of his capital in land. There are no regular banking establishments in the District. Loans are chiefly conducted by

the Márwáří merchants and shopkeepers, who combine trade with money-lending.

IMPORTED CAPITAL.—TEA PLANTING is the only enterprise in Lakhimpur at present conducted with European capital and under European supervision. In 1871 there were about ninety tea plantations in the District, divided among nine or ten companies and several private individuals. These gardens give employment to about fifty European managers and assistants, and upwards of five thousand imported coolies, in addition to local labourers and native subordinates. The following is a list of the different tea gardens in the District in that year, showing where possible the names of the proprietors, the extent of land under cultivation, and the approximate out-turn of tea. Many planters evince an objection to supply information about their concerns, and in consequence the extent and out-turn of several of the gardens cannot be given. (1) Rámáří garden; amount of land under cultivation, 60 acres; approximate yearly out-turn of tea, $67\frac{1}{2}$ hundredweights. (2) Típlung; extent of land under cultivation, 30 acres; approximate out-turn, 15 hundredweights; name of proprietor, Kitsi Dás. (3) Matalá; 130 acres. (4) Dibrugarh; 150 acres. (5) Cháulkhoá; 60 acres; out-turn of the three, $867\frac{3}{4}$ hundredweights; proprietor, the Hamay Tea Estate. (6) Timoná. (7) Lahwál. (8) Bakol. (9) Mankátá; 270 acres; out-turn, 600 hundredweights; proprietor, the Matak Tea Company. (10) Sisá; 120 acres; out-turn, 375 hundredweights. (11) Mankátá; 120 acres; out-turn, 375 hundredweights. (12) Rhea; 75 acres; out-turn, 150 hundredweights; proprietor, British India Tea Company. (13) Chaukdingiá; 100 acres; out-turn, $187\frac{1}{2}$ hundredweights. (14) Bangpárá; 70 acres; out-turn, 150 hundredweights; proprietor, Rev. J. H. Osborne. (15) Jahái; 35 acres; 80 hundredweights; and (16) Bákol; 50 acres; out-turn, 75 hundredweights; proprietor, Mr. W. Forbes. (17) Chubwá; 713 acres; out-turn, $851\frac{3}{4}$ hundredweights; proprietor, Chubwá Tea Company. (18) Pánitulá, and (19) Dahutiá; 86 acres; out-turn, $63\frac{3}{4}$ hundredweights; proprietor, Mr. N. White. (20) Moran; (21) Tikarái; (22) Sipon; total area, 400 acres; total out-turn, 900 hundredweights; proprietors, Moran Tea Company. (23) Dam-Dam, and (24) Bishákopái; total area, 250 acres; out-turn, 825 hundredweights; proprietors, W. Warren and Company. (25) Máiján; (26) Májáguli; (27) Nadwá; (28) Tingri; (29) Rangágorá; (30) Bar Baruá; (31) Bajáltali; and (32) Tengsilhoriá: total cultivated area, 1125 acres; total out-turn, 3000

hundredweights; proprietor, Upper Assam Tea Company. (33) Kubang; area, 100 acres; out-turn, 225 hundredweights; proprietor, Mr. G. H. Lindsay. (34) Talap, and (35) Dhangorí; area, 385 acres; out-turn, 750 hundredweights; proprietor, Mr. R. G. Shaw. (36) Khoyáng; (37) Báhman; (38) Tingkang; and (39) Hargauríján; total cultivated area, 550 acres; out-turn, 1237½ hundredweights; proprietor, Dihing Tea Company. (40) Rájgarh; (41) Bolái; (42) Dirán; (43) Roámáriá; (44) Gaiján; (45) Mohanbári; (46) Silikághát; (47) Kolegná; (48) Báliján; and (49) Dibrubári; total cultivated area, 300 acres; out-turn, 675 hundredweights; proprietor, Eastern Assam Company. (50) Singliján, and (51) Mádhábkhat; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietor, Messrs. John Teil and Company. (52) Bángpára, and (53) Sisá; area, 195 acres; out-turn, 375 hundredweights; proprietors, Messrs. Rayson and Teil. (54) Bhogpára; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietor, Bhogpára Tea Company. (55) Mohanbári, and (56) Oakland; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietor, Mr. W. G. Wagentrieber. (57) Tiphuk; area, 70 acres; out-turn, 150 hundredweights; proprietor, Mr. A. B. St. George. (58) Cháulkhoá; (59) Medlá; (60) Kanekor; (61) Baumáriá; (62) Lipuli; (63) Cato; (64) Tingri; (65) Kungrián; (66) Kehang; (67) Tipum; (68) Hukánjuri; (69) Jáipur; (70) Naholía; (71) Diwál; (72) Taurak; total cultivated area, 600 acres; total out-turn, 1350 hundredweights; proprietor, late Northern Assam Tea Company. (73) Atábári; area, 250 acres; out-turn, 637½ hundredweights; proprietor, Colonel Rattray. (74) Naharání; area, 117 acres; out-turn, 263¼ hundredweights; proprietor, Mr. A. J. Peat. (75) Kumátutiá; (76) Hátilong; (77) Kadam; (78) Elengámára; and (79) Deobil; total cultivated area, 203 acres; out-turn, 456¾ hundredweights; proprietor, Lakhipur Tea Company. (80) Jaihing; (81) Diyu; and (82) Pátálipani; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietors, Messrs. Wise and Smith. (83) Hálmári; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietors, Messrs. Watson and Company. (84) Duláhát; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietors, Messrs. Gibson and Hall. (85) Siloni; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietors, Messrs. Stewart, Hall, and Langlois. (86) Bhipuriá; no information as to area and out-turn; proprietors, Messrs. Wise and Belle.

The tea industry, after having passed through periods of depression

[Sentence continued on page 390.]

TEA STATISTICS OF LAKHIMPUR DISTRICT IN 1874.

NAME OF PROPRIETOR.	No. of Gardens of which the Estate consists.	Season in which the Estate was commenced.	Number of European Assistants employed.	Number of Native Officials above the rank of <i>Asst. Comm.</i> employed.	EXTENT OF LAND.				Area under Cultivation at the close of 1873.	Brought under Cultivation in 1874 (year of Report).	Total Area under Cultivation at the close of 1874.	Out-turn of Tea in lbs. in Season 1873.	Out-turn of Tea in lbs. in Season 1874 (year of Report).	Increase.	Decrease.	Average Monthly No. of Labourers employed during the Year.			
					Held in Grants under Old Rules.	Held in Fee-simple under New Rules.	Held under Cultivation Leases or <i>patna</i> .	Total.								Imported.	Local.		
																Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Upper Assam Co.,	6	1863	6	16	4,011	1,920	746	6,677	1,582	...	1,582	309,996	331,475	26,650	5,171	572	476	195	1173
British India Tea Co.,	3	1850-58	...	7	...	2,205	204	2,469	420	50	470	95,462	92,022	...	3,440	109	76	16	201
Warren Brothers,	3	1861	3	6	...	5,500	...	5,500	575	195	720	99,662	140,530	40,868	...	344	264	76	684
Wilton Tea Co., Assam,	10	1861	2	10	2,056	11,172	386	13,614	747	110	857	103,480	104,015	535	...	316	260	42	618
Matak Tea Co.,	4	1862	1	4	2,130	...	40	2,170	335	45	380	61,511	69,008	7,497	...	56	59	6	121
R. Gordon Shaw, Esq.,	3	1866	4	5	...	9,400	165	9,565	1,070	150	1,220	105,211	177,373	72,162	...	567	494	103	1164
J. E. Welborne, Esq.,	5	1858	1	8	587	...	133	720	94	45	139	4,995	3,300	...	1,635	25	18	2	45
Jokai Division,	5	1862	1	14	...	...	341	341	341	...	341	44,557	53,040	8,483	...	91	96	22	209
H. G. Lindesay, Esq.,	2	1864	...	2	...	400	80	480	200	...	200	40,000	68,000	28,000	...	126	110	44	280
G. G. Sellar, Esq.,	1	...	...	1	...	620	...	620	80	...	80	12,800	16,640	3,840	...	...	...	...	...
Arthur J. Peal, Esq.,	1	...	...	1	...	1,470	21	2,873	55	...	55	11,048	16,000	4,952	...	17	19	4	40
Gilbert Finlayson,	1	1863	...	4	1,400	...	100	1,500	6	30	36	...	2,880	2,880	...	28	25	9	62
Jokai (Assam Tea Co.),	3	1860	...	3	...	...	658	658	215	...	215	32,260	44,800	12,540	...	109	73	9	191
Dhing Co. (Limited),	9	1865	4	10	...	7,580	100	7,680	692	120	812	167,840	166,679	...	1,161	89	62	22	173
Messrs. J. W. Holl & Co.,	1	1870	...	3	...	611	175	786	120	20	140	12,960	27,440	14,480	...	56	47	3	116
A. Laurie, Esq.,	4	1864	2	3	...	3,118	55	3,173	268	23	291	46,217	62,168	15,951	...	136	106	16	258
J. H. Williamson,	1	1864	...	3	...	1,224	48	1,272	150	60	210	20,504	24,000	3,496	...	46	37	6	89
William Forbes, Esq.,	1	1873	...	3	...	...	150	150	60	...	60	...	800	800	...	39	18	9	66
Messrs. F. C. Moran & Co.,	1	1870	...	1	...	500	...	500	104	25	129	4,020	12,800	8,780	...	24	13	8	45
J. M. Wood & C. Brownfield,	2	1871	...	1	...	...	60	60	57	20	77	8,670	13,600	4,930	...	11	13	...	24
Carry forward,	63	...	24	111	10,184	45,720	3,504	59,408	7,121	893	8,014	1,181,193	1,426,630	256,844	11,407	2761	2266	522	5559
																1058	537	183	1778