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The  
**Empire Forestry Journal**

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## ANNUAL REPORTS.

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### ALBERTA : REPORT FOR 1936.

THE Director of Forestry's report mentions the fact that the year was particularly free from forest fires, owing to a well-distributed rainfall, but that an improvement in fire-fighting organization is still desirable. The usual statistics are given. The forest service has now taken over the administration of the Edmonton district formerly in charge of an agency. The forest nursery at the Oliver Institute has reached its maximum development, and if free distribution to the extent of 100,000 trees per annum is to be continued other arrangements will have to be made.

A. C. F.

### REPORT ON FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS FOR THE YEAR 1935-36.

THE total out-turn of timber from the Andamans was 38,000 tons, the same as in the previous year. This does not seem a large out-turn from 2200 sq. miles of forests, but some of the islands are inaccessible, and felling has been restricted because the most important species, for which alone there is any great demand, were being overcut. The policy now adopted is conservative and wise, and the islands will continue to furnish a reserve of good timber. Conversion has improved and there is better supervision and less wastage.

A good deal of useful economical work was done on natural regeneration, which has been greatly improved of recent years.

The fine old ship *Rosamond* has at last come to the end of her career. She has done good work for Government all her life, especially under the command of Mr. Bonington.

The Forest Department is debited with several large items, interest on capital, depreciation of assets, etc., totalling about £20,000, but in spite of this a satisfactory profit of about £4000 was recorded.

Timber for making matches was sold to Bombay, and the match factory has been re-opened at Port Blair, the capital of the islands.

Apparently caterpillars have two t's in the Andamans!

A. R.

### PROGRESS REPORT OF FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1935-36.

THIS report is signed by Mr. A. J. W. Milroy, Conservator of Forests, Assam, whose lamented death soon after the report was completed has filled all his friends with sorrow. Apart from being a very good forest officer, Mr. Milroy was a first-rate authority on elephants.

Mr. Milroy's chapter on wild life and elephant control in this beautiful and rather remote province are of especial interest. He believed that there were at least fifty pairs of rhinoceros in a sanctuary of 165 sq. miles on the south bank of the Brahmaputra. He has also an interesting note on the value of wild buffalo bulls for keeping up the fine qualities of the tame or half-wild herds.

The Forest Department had its share of returning prosperity and showed a profit on the year's working of £27,000. Timber accounted for most of this. Under "minor produce" considerable sums were realized from lac, canes and elephant catching.

The following interesting silvicultural note may be quoted :

"Perhaps the most astonishing development has been the discovery in Kamrup that the dreaded *Eupatorium* may constitute an excellent nurse for any young sal

that comes up beneath it, provided that rains-weeding can be applied sooner or later : the clearing of Eupatorium from a number of spots that had been regarded as hopeless from the regeneration point of view has revealed a wealth of strong and promising seedlings on the ground ”.

The two circles were both held during the year by the writer of the report.

A. R.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN THE PRESIDENCY OF BENGAL FOR THE YEAR 1935-36. X

FROM the Government Resolution accompanying this report the following interesting extract is taken :

“ A special feature of the report under review is the excellent results obtained by the exclusive use of Bengal timber in the Government House, Darjeeling, which had to be reconstructed during the year due to the damage done to it by the earthquake of 1934. Some of the important woods, used in the interior of the new building, are Panisaj (*Terminalia myriocarpa*), Pakkasaj (*Terminalia tomentosa*) and Sissoo (*Dalbergia sissoo*). Panisaj, which is light in colour and resembles light oak in appearance, gives a cheerful effect in the staircase hall, landing and all the doors of the building ; Sissoo, which is an excellent timber and very handsome, gives a warm tone in the breakfast and dining halls ; Pakkasaj, though a little hard to work, gives a delightfully rich appearance in His Excellency’s study. It is gratifying to note that all the timber used in the building has given most excellent results in spite of the very trying climatic conditions of Darjeeling ”.

For many years Bengal has taken a leading part in the development of scientific silviculture, and an example of the treatment of one of the very important dipterocarps may be quoted. Notching of *D. turbinatus* under high shade was carried out in a fuel coupe with very good results, but, curiously enough, *D. costatus* and *D. pilosus*, which are closely allied, did not give good results. The Conservator makes a good point in expressing doubt whether too much attention has not been paid to these species, while neglecting others like Hopea and Eugenia. It is hoped to find something to take the place of the exotic Cryptomeria in the hills.

Eighty-nine per cent of the receipts came from timber and 6 per cent from minor produce and the surplus for the year amounted to £17,000, more than in the previous year, or the average of the five years ending 1933-34.

Wild animals continue to take a heavy toll of human life in Bengal, but protection of the valuable and interesting fauna is well organized.

A. R.

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, INCLUDING SIND, FOR THE YEAR 1935-36. X

IT cannot be said that the Resolution of the Government of Bombay on this report is an illuminating document, nor does it show an adequate appreciation of the excellent work of the Forest Department. Praise is given to those responsible for the high proportion of survivals of “germinated and transplanted trees”!

This excellent report, so little appreciated apparently by the Provincial Government, is illustrated by a number of good photographs, and the result of the working of the year was a fine surplus of £210,000, £27,000 more than last year.

Bombay, alone among the provinces of India, keeps up its own Forest Engineering Branch, which undertook the designs of roads and causeways, bridges and buildings, as well as running three sawmills, each of which showed a profit on the year’s working.

A very striking photograph shows the appalling results of erosion in Khandesh.

An interesting paragraph describes the recent fall in the price of sandalwood :

“ There has been a steady decline in the prices of sandalwood since 1930-31. The average price realized from 1917-18 to 1929-30 in this presidency was Rs.1322 per ton, based on the total quantity sold. After that period the price has progressively fallen. Inquiry shows that, apart from the general trade depression, the main cause of the fall in prices is considered to be due to serious competition of inferior Australian sandalwood with Indian sandalwood in the world markets,