

ASSAM DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

Supplement to Volume VII.

SIBSAGAR.



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SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE.

CHAPTERS I, II, AND III.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS, HISTORY AND THE PEOPLE.

There is nothing important to add to the information contained under these heads in the corresponding chapters of the original Gazetteer.

CHAPTER IV.

AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS.

Since the publication of the Gazetteer in 1905 considerable progress has been made in the direction of opening up the district. In many places the proximity of the railway has led to the reclamation from jungle of land which would otherwise have been left untouched. Improvements in communications and immigration of Nepalese and other settlers have also assisted.

One of the most important moves towards the spread of cultivation in the district is the attempt to colonise the Nambor forest. A special officer has been on deputation for some time to advance this project. An area of about 100 square miles has been thrown open to cultivation for the purpose of this scheme, which, if successful, ought to add materially to the revenue of the district.

There are no accurate statistics dealing with these classes of people. The Nepalese mentioned in the Census Report are mostly herdsmen who keep buffaloes and sell milk. Some of them have come with their wives and children and move from place to place with their

herds of buffaloes. The number of these people is growing so rapidly that the matter has attracted the notice of Government and inquiries have been made as to the advisability of limiting pasturage to certain definite areas. The area of land taken up by them was 1,590 acres in 1912-13. Besides the Nepalese, there are settled in the district many time-expired garden coolies, Marwaris, Railway coolies, and Mymensingh cultivators with whom an area of 54,033 acres has been settled.

Introduction of new crops. The only new crop of any importance is jute. It is not cultivated on a large scale in this district, but there is a prospect of its improvement in the near future. The low prices offered by the Marwaris to the cultivators are not calculated to encourage its development in Assam; the longer carriage from this province to the Indian markets is also a drawback.

Spread of the tea industry. During the last decade there has been some progress in the cultivation of tea. An area of 4,108 acres covered by 16 leases has been settled under the rules of 1876. The industry is attracting the attention of the people of the country and several well-to-do Assamese now own tea estates or are forming syndicates for the purpose of opening new or extending old gardens. Three new gardens have been opened, while many gardens have extended new areas, and in some cases abandoned old and unprofitable blocks of tea.

Game reserves. There is a large game reserve named the Kaziranga reserve in the vicinity of Bokakhat in Namdoyang mauza. Last year a certain area was added to it and this year again it has been proposed that a further addition should be made.

Formation of new reserved forests. Since the publication of the original Gazetteer additional areas of 86 and 17 square miles have been declared reserved forests under the names of the Kaziranga and Kakodanga forests, respectively.