

ASSAM DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

Supplement to Volume VI.

NOWGONG.



SHILLONG .

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ment has also decided to set aside certain reserves for professional graziers, such as the Nepalese. This measure was very necessary in order to prevent the graziers from moving their *bathans* indiscriminately throughout the district and thus giving rise to constant friction with the villagers.

Cattle census.

A cattle census was taken in 1912-13; according to that census, there were 91,358 bullocks, 78,581 cows, 12,532 bulls, 15,100 male buffaloes, 15,270 cow-buffaloes, and 92,159 young stock in the district. These figures can, of course, only be regarded as approximately correct.

Cattle disease.

In 1912-14, 4,107 cattle are reported to have died in the district from various diseases. Foot and mouth disease was the cause of 1,096 deaths, cattle cholera of 1,175, anthrax of 315, hæmorrhagic septicæmia of 980, and rinderpest of 541 deaths.

Tea gardens.

There has been a remarkable expansion in the tea industry in this district during the last decade. In 1913 the total area under tea was 31,345 acres with an outturn of 6,560,000 lbs. of tea, as compared with an area of 12,673 acres, and an outturn of 4,330,000 lbs. in 1900. The number of working coolies is now about 109,000.

Forests.

In 1913, the area of the reserve forests in Nowgong amounted to 198 square miles, and the area under unclassified state forests was 3,638 square miles. There are 12 reserve forests in the district, of which two have been newly made, *viz.*, Shelabor in 1906, with an area of 13 square miles and Laokhowa with an area of 40 square miles. An area of 304 acres was added to the Rongkhang reserve in 1904, and one of 426.4 acres to the Doboka reserve in 1905. In 1912-13, the total income derived from the forests was Rs. 53,986, of which Rs. 620 was from reserved forests and Rs. 53,366 from unclassified state forests.

Game sanctuary.

In 1907, a gamesanctuary, with an area of 25,760 acres, was formed at Laokhowa with the object of preserving big game which was getting scarcer every

year. The reserve is entirely closed for shooting and hunting, etc. There are about a dozen rhincceros and also many other kinds of big game in the reserve.

The district administration of the reserved forests is controlled by a Deputy Conservator of Forests with a staff of one ranger, 4 deputy rangers, 5 foresters and 67 forest guards. Forest management.

CHAPTER VI.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

The following statistics of sub-tenancy were compiled in 1908-09 by the settlement party. The total settled area for which the returns were compiled was 289,218 acres, the total area sublet was found to be 4,720 acres, the area in respect of which the rent was paid in produce was 913 acres and the area for which cash rents were paid was 3,807 acres. The area sublet in 1908-09 was found to be less than half the area sublet in 1899-1900; this reduction in area may perhaps be attributed to the fact that in many cases the owners of land concealed from the settlement party the fact that they had sublet their lands, for fear the revenue would be enhanced, and also for fear of conferring any right on the subtenants, whose names were recorded by the settlement party in the *chitha*. Rent-subletting.

In 1913-14 the rates of wages prevailing in the district were as follows :— Wages.

| | | As. | Rs. | a. |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---------|----|
| Daily wages of a mason | ... | ... | 12 to 2 | 0 |
| Ditto carpenter | ... | ... | 12 to 2 | 0 |
| Ditto coolie | ... | ... | 8 to 0 | 10 |

There are no professional day labourers in the district, and the labour problem is becoming one of increasing importance. Formerly day labourers used to come from the district of Kamrup, but the opening of the Eastern Bengal Railway having provided them with work nearer home, they have ceased to come in such large