

BENGAL DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.

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BAKARGANJ

BY

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CALCUTTA :

BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT.

1918.

of these are found in Barisāl and other headquarters. They are probably all imported.

Fruit trees. Of fruit trees 29 may be enumerated. It is impossible to say how many of them are really indigenous, but it would appear that most of them are imported and very few grow wild.

(1) Coconut (*cocos nucifera*); (2) betelnut (*areca catechu*); (3) date (of which the fruit does not ripen well, but the tree gives *lāri*); (4) *tāl* or common palm; (5) wild plum; (6) *coranja*; (7) papia; (8) mango; (9) *amra*; (10) bael; (11) pomegranate; (12) lichu; (13) *kāmraṅgā*; (14) *gāb* (the juice is not eaten but used for pitching boats); (15) tamarind; (16) custard apple; (17) fig (not eaten); (18) pomelo; (19) lemon (of which there are several varieties); (20) orange; (21) citron; (22) pineapple; (23) plantain; (24) nail; (25) *pāilā*; (26) *jāmrul*; (27) jack; (28) *latkā*; (29) *chālītā*. There are apparently only two fibres in the district, jute or mesta and hemp, neither of which grow wild but are cultivated. Reeds (*hoglā*) grow in the marshes and on the river banks, while *nal* grass grows chiefly in the marshes. Both are used in the preparation of mats. Thatching grass (*chhan*) grows chiefly on the river banks.

Drugs. The following is a list of drugs which are furnished by the district: (1) *bel*, anti-dysenteric; (2) *dhaturā*, narcotic and antispasmodic; (3) *supāri* (betel or areca nut), astringent; (4) *bāsak*, expectorant and styptic; (5) *kurchi*, anti-dysenteric; (6) *punarnabhā*, diuretic; (7) *gulanchā*, anti-periodic, tonic; (8) *lālchitā*, purgative, irritant (used for procuring abortion); (9) *nim*, tonic, anti-periodic; (10) *bhānti*, tonic, anthelmintic; (11) *lālā*, tonic, anti-periodic; (12) *haritaki*, laxative, aphrodisiac; (13) *bairā*, astringent; (14) *shatamuli*, alterative; (15) *am.aki*, astringent; (16) *bairkuli*, anti-periodic; (17) *shonāl*, laxative; (18) *brihati*, anti-periodic; (19) *bhumikus-mānda*, alterative; (20) *pārul*, anti-periodic; (21) *gaināri*, anti-periodic; (22) *brahmajaistha*, expectorant; (23) *dārimba*, anthelmintic; (24) *teoriā*, purgative; (25) *ākānda*, laxative; (26) *āpāng*, anti-periodic; (27) *pīthāni*, neurine tonic; (28) *dhaniā*, aromatic, carminative; (29) *chhālāni*, neurine tonic; (30) *bālā*, astringent; (31) *ghritakumāri*, laxative; (32) *muthā*, anthelmintic; (33) *tentul*, laxative; (34) *khētpānprā*, anti-periodic; (35) *dronaphul*, emetic; (36) *nishindā*, emetic, expectorant; (37) *saluphā*, neurine tonic; (38) *sathi*, anthelmintic; (39) *suāshambhu*, anti-periodic; (40) *gajapippali*, anti-periodic, anthelmintic; (41) *ālā*, carminative; (42) *joyān*, carminative, stomachic; (43) *palāsh*, anthelmintic.

The district was formerly full of the larger mammalia, and tigers at the time of the Permanent Settlement were so common in Gaurnadi that a special reward had to be offered for their destruction. In the marshes, which were then much more extensive than they are now, large herds of wild buffaloes used to roam. In later times tigers have retreated into the forest in the south of the district from which they are gradually being trapped and shot out. They seem to have entirely left the Sāhābāzpur island, although forty years ago they were very numerous. Rhinoceros was at one time found in the Sundarbans and perhaps along the banks of the Baleswar river, but it has certainly not been seen in the district for many years. The buffalo is still numerous in the Sundarbans, in the islands of the Meghnā archipelago and in the Bhāndāriā *bil*. It has disappeared from the other marshes. Deer (chital or spotted) are found in the Sundarbans and in the Sāhābāzpur island and swamp deer in the Bhāndāriā *bil*. Barking deer is also found in the Sundarbans. Leopards are found everywhere, even in Barisāl town. Amongst other animals which are found everywhere are the jackal, wild hog, porcupine, otter, mongoose, rat, mouse, civet cat, wild cat, flying fox, common bat and porpoise. Wild hog and otter are specially common in the Sāhābāzpur island. The fruit-eating tree-cat exists in the south of the district and the scarlet bat is also found.

The game birds of the district are not numerous. Snipe are only found in a few places, duck do not come so far south in any numbers, geese are common in Sāhābāzpur, where also plover, especially golden plover, are very numerous. In the Sundarbans jungle fowl are to be obtained. A complete list of the game and water-birds in the district is as follows:—

Game
birds.

- (1) bittern, chestnut (rare); (2) coot, bald; (3) coot, purple; (4) crane, large white (rare); (5) crane, kulin (rare); (6) curlew, black; (7) curlew, white; (8) curlew, grey; (9) dove, common; (10) ring-dove; (11) dove, bronze wing; (12) dove, rafsas; (13) duck—, pinheaded, pintail, white eye, golden eye, pochard-red head, pochard-red crest, gadwal, shoveller, spoonbill, brahmani or ruddy-sheldrake (*chakwa*), widgeon; (24) teal—, grey, bluewinged "*gargany*," whistling, lesser whistling; (28) goose—, barheaded, blackbarred, grey, cotton (cotton teal); (32) egret; (33) cattle egret; (34) paddy-bird, common (*bogla*); (35) paddy-bird,