

**HAND BOOK  
OF  
THE LUSHAI COUNTRY**

COMPILED  
(UNDER THE ORDER OF THE QUARTER MASTER  
GENERAL IN INDIA)

IN  
THE INTELIGENCE BRANCH

BY  
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Population in 1881 amounted to 2,000 souls.

### **Ruma**

*Ruma*, on the Sungoo River, is the head-quarters of the Sungoo subdivision.

### **Manikchari**

*Manikchari*, the residence of the mong Raja. It contains a school.

In 1881 the census reports show that 815 villages exist in the district.

### **Habitations**

*Habitations* - In villages the houses are built of logs and bamboos and thatched with the palmated leaf commonly used throughout the hills for that purpose. The houses are low-pitched, and the floor is raised from the ground some four feet.

The sites of hill villages are changed as soon as the spots fit for cultivation in the vicinity are exhausted. This occurs about every two years.

## **NATURAL HISTORY**

### **Domestic animals**

*Domestic animals* - The domesticated animals of the hill people are the "gyal" (tame buffalo), buffalo, goat, dog, cat, pig, and the common fowl. The gyal are rarely found with any tribe save those independent of our authority. The cow and buffalo are principally found in the Fenny district.

### **Wild Animals**

*Wild Animals* - Elephants exist in great numbers. In 1866-68 no less than 200 were captured by the *Kheddah* department and 96 in 1876. They are hunted by the Kukis, who poach within our frontier, and bring the ivory in for sale to Demagiri. Tigers are

found in considerable numbers, and the Assam rhinoceros is common. The leopard, the Malay black bear, the jungle cat, the wild buffalo, the barking deer, the sambur the lemur, the gibbon (hoolua) monkey, the fisher monkey, the small common monkey, the larger monkey, are all met with, as are also the hare, badger, moongoose, porcupine, flying fox, and several varieties of squirrels. Snakes are common and form a delicate native dish.

The boa-constructor is common and often grows to an enormous size.

Very little loss of life from wild breasts and snakes is known.

### **Birds**

*Birds* – The birds met with in the hill tracts are very numerous and include the *bhimraj* (mocking bird), parroquet, the peacock, two or three kinds of pheasants, quails, partridge, and a few duck and snipe.

### **Fish**

*Fish* – of river fish no less than 31 varieties are known, and of march and lake fish ten varieties.

### **Insects**

*Insects* – *tick* and *leeches* are the chief enemies to comfort. The former attach themselves firmly to the skin in every part of the body, and if pulled off, cause pain for some time afterwards. The lighted end of a small stick or match will quickly cause them to loose their hold; this is also effective will leeches.

### **Hints for removing leeches and ticks**

There is no known remedy to keep leeches off your person. After slight showers of rain they are particularly active, and dropping from leaves and boughs, insinuate themselves up the