

REPORT

OF THE

HONORARY COMMITTEE

FOR THE

Calcutta.

MANAGEMENT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

FOR THE YEAR 1904-05.

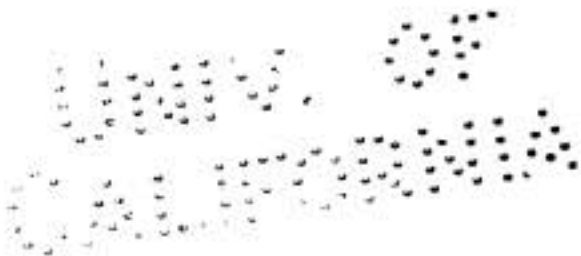


Calcutta:

THE BENGAL SECRETARIAT BOOK DEPOT.

—

1905.



REPORT
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HONORARY COMMITTEE
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MANAGEMENT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL
GARDEN

—
FOR THE YEAR 1904-05.
—

THE Honorary Committee have the honour to submit their report for the year ending 31st March 1905, the contents of which include :—

The Superintendent's Report upon the Menagerie.

Monthly returns of Visitors and list of Donors.

Abstract of Accounts of ordinary and extraordinary receipts and expenditure.

THE COMMITTEE

1. **Mr C. E. Buckland, C.I.E.,** resigned the office of President in April 1904, and was succeeded by **Major A. Alcock, C.I.E., F.R.S.** Mr Buckland had been connected with the Garden since its foundation in 1876, and had always taken great interest in its welfare.

THE GARDEN

2. The most noteworthy event of the year was the acquisition of a strip of land 960 feet in length and 120

feet in breadth along the western boundary, from the Kidderpur Orphanage Estate. For this the Committee are indebted to the Government of India.

ESTABLISHMENT

3. Rai Bahadur R. B. Sanyal, c.m.z.s., was in charge of the Garden and Menagerie throughout the year.

With a view to the training of an officer to succeed Mr Sanyal, who wishes to retire shortly, the Committee applied to Government for the loan of the services of Assistant Surgeon Pasupati Mitra, m.b.

Babu B. L. Dutt acted as Assistant Superintendent throughout the year, but shortly after the close of it he was retired on medical certificate, and his place as Assistant Superintendent, has not since been filled.

Gate-Clerk Mir Waris Ali was retired in January, and Babu Doyal Chandra Dass was appointed in his place.

Advantage has been taken of these retirements to effect some economy in the working of the office.

BUILDINGS

4. The arrangement, originated in 1899, under which the buildings were placed in charge of the Executive Engineer of the 1st Calcutta Division, was discontinued, as being insufficiently elastic, and the Committee have now resumed entire responsibility for the construction and maintenance of all garden works.

total for the year of 346,254 persons admitted, a daily average of 949, as exhibited in Appendix C. In addition, a large number of infants under 4 years of age and school children attended by their teachers were admitted free. On the days of the Fancy Fair about 8,000 people, including complimentary ticket-holders, entered the Garden.

E. HAROLD BROWN,
Honorary Secretary.

A. ALCOCK,
President.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the state of the menagerie of the Garden.

The following comparative tables show how the various collections of animals in the Garden stood during the last four years :—

YEAR.		Mammals.	Birds.	Reptiles.
1901-02	...	490	914	240
1902-03	...	504	810	246
1903-04	...	464	842	238
1904-05	...	450	855	266

ACQUISITIONS

The most noteworthy event of the past year was the acquisition of a nearly full-grown Indian Rhinoceros, from the forests of Nepal. It came as a gift from the Government of Nepaul, through His Excellency the

Viceroy (Lord Curzon). The task of conveying such a huge and excitable animal from Raxaul on the Nepal frontier, where it was delivered by the Government of Nepal, to Calcutta, was by no means easy, but owing to the facilities generously afforded by the Bengal and North-Western, and the East Indian Railway Companies, and to the willing help rendered by their employés, specially by Mr Pratt (District Traffic Superintendent, Bengal and Northern-Western Railway), it was accomplished without any difficulty. The Superintendent of the Garden, who personally supervised all the arrangements in connexion with the transport, was much indebted to Colonel Ravenshaw, British Resident in Nepal, for his courteous help.

The importation of a pair of Giraffes, purchased from Mr Hagenbeck of Hamburg, was another important event in the history of the Garden during the past year. It is greatly to be deplored, however, that in spite of all that could be done to secure their comfort and well-being, they died within a few months after arrival (*vide* Pathological Department).

A consignment consisting of the following animals was also received from Mr Hagenbeck at the same time with the Giraffes :—

1 Waterbuck.	2 Ring-tailed monkeys.
2 Llamas.	1 Anaconda.
1 Puma.	2 Boa constrictors.
2 Hairy-rumped Agouties.	3 Rhinoceros Iguanas.