

PROGRESS REPORT  
OF  
FOREST ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE  
PROVINCE OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM  
FOR THE YEAR

1905-1906.

CHAPTER I.

CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

1. *Alteration in area (Form No. 51).*

(i) *Reserved Forests.*

THE alterations in the area during the year resulted in an increase of 17,206 acres, or 26.88 square miles, raising the total area of reserved forests from 3,824,614 acres to 3,841,820 acres. The only important changes are as follows:—

An addition of 12,805 acres due to reservation in the Nowgong, Garo Hills, and Lakhimpur Divisions.

Rectification of the boundary of the Teesta forest in the Jalpaiguri Division to exclude 2,159 acres of the Baikuntpur estate (which had been hitherto wrongly included in the Apalchand reserve) and 450 acres of waste land.

The adoption of forest survey figures for the Kamrup and Garo Hills Divisions led to an increase of 7,010 acres.

(ii) *Protected Forests.*

2. No alterations. The 5 square miles in the Jalpaiguri Division remained under the management of the Deputy Commissioner.

(iii) *Unclassed Forests.*

3. The alterations in unclassified forests as shown in Form No. 51 are due partly to the leasing of land for cultivation or relinquishment of land so leased previously, and also to the settlement with the Rani of Bijni of 130,000 acres of the Bijni Duar. The net result is an increase from 14,563,118 acres to 14,799,766 acres.

2. *Forests under settlement (Form No. 52).*

4. Six areas aggregating 20 square miles in the Nowgong, Lakhimpur, and Garo Hills Divisions under settlement during 1904-1905 were finally reserved. No expenditure was charged to the Forest Department, as the settlement was done by local officers.

5. There remain 12 areas which have been under settlement since last year. Of these, the field-work on two proposed reserves—area 100 square miles—in the Cachar and Kamrup Divisions has been finished, and on expiry of the time within which further claims and appeals are allowed will be submitted for final notification. No progress has been made with the two proposed game reserves—area 129 square miles—in the Nowgong and Sibsagar Divisions, nor the remaining forests proposed for reservation in the Garo Hills, but it is hoped that the game reserves will be taken in hand by Forest Settlement Officer during 1906-1907. Five areas in Chittagong—area 456 square miles—still remain under settlement.

6. The only new area taken in hand during the year was the Norpuh forest, Chasi and Jaintia Hills—area 28 square miles—for which a preliminary notification was issued under section 5, Assam Forest Regulation, in December 1905. This still remained under settlement at the close of the year.

7. The Divisional Forest Officer, Lakhimpur, has sent in proposals for reservation of two areas suitable for the growth of *simul* (*Bombox malabaricum*). One area has been objected to by the Deputy Commissioner for political reasons owing to its being situated beyond the Inner Line, and the other awaits his inspection next cold weather. Considering the urgent necessity for reservation in order to provide for the continuity and expansion of the tea-box industry, and the fact that the Divisional Forest Officer reports there are no areas as suitable for reservation within the Inner Line, it is hoped that the objections raised to the first area will not prove insurmountable; this is now under consideration.

### 3. Demarcation (Form No. 53).

8. Rupees 10,721 were spent on demarcation. Of this, a sum of Rs. 3,320 was on account of newly demarcating exterior boundaries by erection of posts and mounds and cleared lines, and Rs. 7,401 on repairs to 1,628 miles of previously existing boundaries. Forest produce to the value of Rs. 3,114 was also given free in exchange for labour on the latter work. Eighteen miles remained to be demarcated at the close of the year.

Two miles of the Assam-Bhutan boundary in Goalpara was cleared during the year, but not shown as forest boundary, although the cost is included in the above figures.

The total length of boundary was increased by 69 miles owing to new reservation and rectification of boundaries.

9. Four hundred and seventy-three miles of artificial boundary (about 24 per cent. of the whole) were inspected by Divisional Forest Officers during the year. This very large decrease on lengths inspected in former years is due to the fact that no inspections were made in the Sibsagar Division, which was held as a double charge for the greater part of the year, and in the Garo Hills, where the Divisional Officer was concentrating his energies on sleeper work. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills no inspections were reported, and in the Chittagong Division only 49 miles out of a total length of 526 miles were inspected. This cannot be considered satisfactory, especially as regards the Chittagong Division.

### 4. Forest surveys (Form No. 54).

10. The Superintendent, Imperial Forest Surveys, reports that —

“A detachment of No. 2 party surveyed 19 miles of reserves in the Garo Hills and Nowgong on the 4-inch scale.”

“The Sita Pahar reserve in Chittagong was also traversed with a view to its detail survey during 1906-1907; the area of this reserve after traverse proved to be nearly three times the notified area.”

“The Chardnar, Balipara, and Nowduar reserves in Darrang were also surveyed on the 2" scale in connection with the topographical survey of the district.” No part of this expenditure is chargeable to the Forest Department.

11. In Sylhet a local survey was made of 1,566 acres of the forest villages in the Langai reserve at a cost of Rs. 93. A boundary survey of the proposed game reserve in the Kamrup Division was carried out by the local Forest Officer at a cost of Rs. 8.

12. The total outlay on survey work was Rs. 6,834, as compared with Rs. 30,082 of the previous year.

13. The total expenditure on the constitution of State forests was Rs. 17,555.

## CHAPTER II.

### MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

#### 1. REGULATION OF MANAGEMENT.

(a) *Preparation and control of Regular Working Plans (Form No. 55).*

14. The following working plans were approved by the Inspector General of Forests and sanctioned by the Local Government during the year:—

(i) The working plan for the Nambor reserved forest—area 64 square miles—in the Sibsagar Division, which regulates the working of this forest by the method of selection fellings for 15 years.

(ii) The working plan for the reserved forests of the Buxa Division—area 327 square miles—mentioned in paragraph 16 of the Annual Progress Report of Forest Administration in Lower Bengal, 1904-1905. The method of treatment is one of selection fellings combined with improvement fellings with the object of assisting the reproduction and development of *sāl* and other species.

## FOREST DEPARTMENT, EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.—STATEMENT SHOWING THE PROGRESS

Name of forest division.	Name of civil district or territory.	Area already settled at commencement of year.	Areas finally settled during the year.					
			Number and date of Government order according to final sanction to the settlement.	Name of forest settled.	Area, in square miles.	Expenditure incurred during the year on areas finally settled.		Entire cost per square mile of area finally settled during the year.
						In forest accounts.	In other accounts.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cachar ...	Cachar and Lushai Hills.	806	...	...	...	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Sylhet ...	Sylhet ...	103	...	...	...	...	...	...
Goalpara ...	Goalpara	787	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kamrup ...	Kamrup	155	...	...	...	...	...	...
Darrang ...	Darrang	336	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nowgong	Nowgong	143	Notification No. 4526R., dated the 7th August 1905.	Second addition to the Doboka reserve.	1	...	...	...
			Notification No. 4714F., dated the 31st May 1906.	Chelabar reserve.	13	...	...	...
Sibsagar ...	Sibsagar and Naga Hills.	939	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	340	No. 4146R., dated the 12th July 1905.	Addition to the Dehingmukh reserve.	2	...	...	...
			No. 5435R., dated the 28th September 1905.	Addition to the Western Block, Upper Dehing reserve.	4	...	...	...
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	52	...	...	...	...	...	...
Garo Hills	Garo Hills	136	Notification No. 3919F., dated the 8th May 1906.	First and second additions to the Siju reserve.	(b)	...	...	...
Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	182	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buxa ...	Ditto ...	327	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chittagong	Chittagong	1,075	...	...	...	...	...	...
<b>Total</b> ...	...	<b>5,981</b>	...	...	<b>20</b>	...	...	...



No. 52.

## MADE IN, AND THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON, FOREST SETTLEMENTS DURING 1905-1906.

Areas undergoing settlement.						Remarks.
At commencement of the year.		Taken in hand during the year.		Expenditure incurred during the year on areas undergoing settlement.		
Name of tract.	Area, in square miles.	Name of tract.	Area, in square miles.	In forest accounts.	In other accounts.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Krungmin ...	10	.....	...	Rs.	Rs.	
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
North Kamrup	90 <sup>b</sup>	.....	...	...	...	<sup>b</sup> Estimated area after demarcation is said to be 100 square miles. Game reserve.
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
Laokhowa ...	40	.....	...	...	...	Game reserve.
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
Kaziranga ...	89 <sup>(a)</sup>	.....	...	...	...	<sup>(a)</sup> Partly in the Sibsagar and partly in the Nowgong Division. Game reserve.
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
...	...	Norpuh Block I	...	14	...	
...	...	" " II	...	14	...	
First addition to the Dhima reserve.	1 <sup>(c)</sup>	.....	...	...	...	<sup>(b)</sup> 97 acres. <sup>(c)</sup> 338.8 acres.
Second addition to the Dhima reserve.	17 <sup>(d)</sup>	.....	...	...	...	<sup>(d)</sup> 10,977 acres.
Third addition to the Chima-Bangsi reserve.	18 <sup>(e)</sup>	.....	...	...	...	<sup>(e)</sup> 11,355 acres.
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
...	...	.....	...	...	...	
Ringbhang ...	12	.....	...	...	...	
Garjania Khutakhali.	102	.....	...	...	...	
Teknaf ...	272 <sup>(f)</sup>	.....	...	...	...	<sup>(f)</sup> The area has subsequently been ascertained by means of the planimeter and is said to be 170 square miles.
Naf Sundarbans	70	.....	...	...	...	<sup>(g)</sup> 126 acres.
Ramgarh Sitakundu Noabad Farm lots Nos. 4, 9, and 10.	<sup>(g)</sup>	.....	...	...	...	
.....	721	.....	28	...	...	