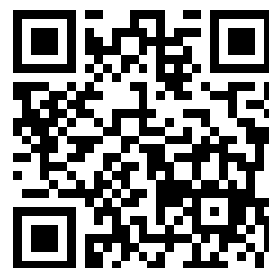

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Annual PROGRESS REPORT

OF

FOREST ADMINISTRATION

IN THE

LOWER PROVINCES OF BENGAL

FOR THE YEAR

1899-1900.

BY

A. E. WILD,
Conservator of Forests, Bengal.

Calcutta:

BENGAL SECRETARIAT PRESS.

1900.

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No. 266.

FROM A. E. WILD, Esq.,
Conservator of Forests, Bengal,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT (FORESTS).

Dated Darjeeling, the 26th November 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the Administration Report of the Bengal Forest Department for the year 1899-1900.

2. I regret time has not admitted of my shortening the report more than I have done, but I may mention that the report for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh for 1898-99 ran up to 73 pages.

3. The delay in submitting the report is partly due to the very late receipt of the report for the Darjeeling Division.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

A. E. WILD,

Conservator of Forests, Bengal.

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PROGRESS REPORT

09

FOREST ADMINISTRATION IN BENGAL

For the year 1899-1900.

CHAPTER I.—EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

1.—ALTERATION OF AREAS.

THE only alteration has been the exclusion of 141 square miles from the Protected Forests. The following is a summary of Changes during the year. the areas :—

CLASS OF FOREST.	Area at commencement of the year.	Added.	Excluded.	Area at close of the year.	PERCENTAGE—	
					Of total forest a.r.a.	Of the area of the provinces (156,571 square miles).
i	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.		
Reserved	5,881	...	...	5,881	43	376
Protected	2,116	...	141	2,375	27	235
Unclassed	4,033	...	...	4,033	30	258
Total	12,730	...	141	13,589	...	669

(a) Reserved Forests.

2. No actual changes have occurred in the area of the Reserved Forests.

Changes in Reserved Forests. Government passed orders in its letter No. 946T.R., dated 10th November 1899, transferring a portion of the Dumsong Forest in the Tista Division to the Cinchona Department for extension of cinchona cultivation, while several small areas, aggregating one acre, have been made over to the Department of Public Works and the Police Department in the Darjeeling Division for the erection of buildings in place of those washed away in the flood of September 1899, but the area is not to be excluded from the category of Reserved Forests. The recent land settlement of Killa Khurda shows the area of the Reserved Forests of the Puri Division to be 72,546 acres, or 1,833 acres in excess of the area shown in Form No. 46, but no alteration has been made pending enquiry into the reason of the difference.

(b) Protected Forests.

3. The large area of 90,199 acres, or 141 square miles, has been transferred

Changes in Protected Forests. to the jurisdiction of the Commissioner in the Sundarbans to be converted into cultivation. Beyond this, no alteration has taken place. The transfer of the Saoria tract of the Sonthal Parganas, mentioned in the previous year's report, did not take place during the year, but is expected to be accomplished shortly. As in the case of the Reserved Forests, the land settlement of Killa Khurda records a far greater area of Protected Forest in Puri than is entered in Form 46—238,177

acres, compared with 186,452; but as the reason for this large increase is not apparent, it is not as yet taken into account.

The changes probable in Palamau and Singhbhum, consequent on the completion of the land settlement, mentioned in the last report, have not yet taken place.

2.—FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

4. But little progress has apparently been made in bringing the forest settlement operations in the Chittagong Division to completion. This is again to be regretted; the blame is attributable, in some measure, to the Settlement Department, which, while undertaking to decide several pending matters, neglected to do so and mislaid the papers, but it is evident that the officers appointed Forest Settlement Officers are not adepts in the work. Since the close of the year the Conservator has personally visited Chittagong to see into this matter, and it is hoped the reservation will be an accomplished fact before the close of another year.

5. Orders were passed regarding the fuel and fodder reserves proposed in the Jalpaiguri district in Government No. 4325 For., dated the 7th December 1899, to the Board of Revenue. In continuation of the remarks made in 1896-97, the 843 blocks set aside for this purpose at the last settlement have dwindled down to 42, out of which 23 have been settled as jotes, 6 are to be let out for cultivation, and 1 is to be reserved for building sites, while 12 were recommended to be made Protected Forests, and placed in charge of the civil authorities. It is not known in this Department what further action has been taken in the matter.

3.—DEMARCATON.

6. The total length of boundaries has been increased by two miles owing to an error last year in the return for the Darjeeling Division, and now stands at 5,186 miles, excluding those boundaries of the Protected Forests which are still undefined.

Of this length, 1,771 miles are natural boundaries, there having been an addition during the year of three miles owing to the transfer of that length from the category of "natural" to that of "artificial" and *vice versa* in the Jalpaiguri and Singhbhum reserves. The total length of artificially-marked boundaries has increased from 3,300 miles to 3,344 miles, consequent on 42 out of the 116 miles still to be demarcated at the commencement of the year having been completed during the year and the small changes noticed above. Thus the balance remaining to be taken in hand at the close of the year is 71 miles. Repairs were undertaken over 2,985 miles, compared with 2,257 during 1898-99, while the total cost rose from Rs. 8,686 to Rs. 9,677; the average per mile being Rs. 3.24 against Rs. 3.84.

The Singhbhum Division, in which 41 miles of new boundaries were demarcated, and 1,251 miles of existing boundaries were repaired, is the only Division that requires special mention.

7. The very necessary work of inspection of boundaries has again been dealt with in too brief a manner in all divisions except Singhbhum; no mention at all of the subject having been made in the reports of the Tista, Sonthal Parganas, Direction, Angul, and Chittagong Divisions. In other divisions a certain amount of inspection has been done, chiefly by subordinates, but no division except Singhbhum gives much detail.

4.—SURVEYS.

8. The chief feature of the year has been the advent of the Imperial Forest Survey, a party from which, under the direction of Mr. W. H. Reynolds, Superintendent of Forest Surveys, Bengal Presidency, and under the charge of Mr. T. S. Marten, Extra Assistant Superintendent, commenced operations in the Singhbhum Division on the 5th December 1899. Surveys in other divisions were all of a petty nature, carried out by the local officers. In Darjeeling such surveys

comprised the completion of the Tista Valley Forests, which apparently were not fully finished in 1898-99 as reported, a re-survey of the boundary along the Bara Rangit and Tista Rivers occasioned through the abnormal floods of the 24th September 1899, and the survey of coupes, paths and roads, the whole costing Rs. 1,410, of which only Rs. 432 appear under AVIII(c), the balance being charged to B.—Establishment. The area of the Tista Valley Forests, viz., 12 square miles, has this year been shown in Form No. 49 together with the cost of this and the previous year.

In the Sonthal Parganas a traverse survey for land settlement purposes was commenced during the year by the Survey of India, which, when mapped, will show boundaries of Protected Forest.

In Angul $40\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the boundary of the Tikarpara range were surveyed at a cost of Rs. 48-12.

9. As mentioned above, the Imperial Forest Survey Party began work on the 5th December 1899, and by May 1900 the following work had been completed, as reported by the Superintendent :—

Triangulation	...	...	...	150 square miles.
Levelling	...	...	...	35 linear "
Detail survey on 4" scale	...	...	...	185 square "

For the area surveyed a record was prepared showing the distribution of forests, and 12 linear miles of check-surveys were carried out in addition to running instrumental contours at 250 feet vertical intervals. The drawing of fair maps as well as the computation and deduction of areas are in progress, but the cost of this part of the work cannot be given until the close of the survey year ending the 30th September next. A tracing from the plane-table sheet of the Saitba block has been received for Working Plan purposes, and one of the Leda block is under preparation. The total cost during the year has been Rs. 12,313.

Mr. Reynolds reports that the party suffered very severely from malarial fever, and that the surveyors worked under trying circumstances owing to there being a great scarcity of water in the forests.

In view of the early preparation of the Working Plan, it is satisfactory to learn that there will be two parties at work during the coming season.

CHAPTER II.—MANAGEMENT OF STATE FORESTS.

I.—REGULATION OF MANAGEMENT.

(a) WORKING-PLANS AND THEIR CONTROL.

10. Form No. 50 shows the progress of the year and the position of the Circle as regards this important branch of the administration. One hundred and eighty-three square miles—the whole of the forests of the Jalpaiguri Division, practically completed last year—have been added to the area for which working-plans have been sanctioned, while an additional area of 731 square miles—the whole of the reserved forests of the Singhbhum district—was taken in hand during the year, thus bringing the totals of these areas up to 4,479 square miles and 841 square miles, respectively, and reducing the areas for which working-plans have still to be taken in hand from 9,000 square miles to 8,269 square miles. The progress too would have been greater and would doubtless have included the area of 110 square miles—the whole of the reserved forests of the Puri Division—had it not been for the unfortunate and serious illness of Mr. Hatt which compelled him to leave the work when almost complete and to go on furlough. The above was the state of affairs at the close of the year, and before leaving the subject a few observations on the remarks made in the reviews of both the Government of India and the Local Government on the position at the close of the preceding year will not be out of place. First as to the area for which plans are required. This, in form No. 50, was shown

to be 9,000 square miles; but the form does not show the urgency for working-plans and arrives at the figure by deducting the area under sanctioned regulated management from the total area of the forests. If a reference be made to the annual Administration Report for 1892-93, paragraph 39, it will be observed that, for a large portion of this area, there is no immediate necessity for working-plans.

Then as regards the means at disposal for carrying out the work. The Government of India has now recognised that, so far back as the last reorganisation in 1891, the scale allotted was inadequate, while a new Division was formed in 1895 for which no extra appointment was given. This has now been remedied, but still no provision for working-plans has been made and the work that has to be done must still be done by Divisional Officers whose hands are already completely full, though at the same time no opportunity will be lost of securing the services of special officers for this work alone. The importance and necessity of the work has not been under-estimated and will not be overlooked. In the neighbouring provinces, it is true, much greater progress has been achieved, but the comparison below will show that Bengal has not had the opportunities those provinces have had:—

PROVINCE.	Total area in square miles.	No. of separate divisions.	STAFF.					Total.	Area for which working-plans prepared and sanctioned up to 30th June 1899.	Percentage of total area under sanctioned working-plans.
			Conservators.	Deputy Conservators.	Assistant Conservators.	Supernumeraries.	Provincial Service.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Bengal	13,730	13(a)	1	9	5	2	7	24	4,437	32
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.	4,078	16(b)	3	9	7	...	9	28	3,358	82
Central Provinces	19,115	19(c)	2	10	7	...	9	28	6,920	36

(a) Includes 1, (b) 3, and (c) 2 Direction divisions.

Touching the simplicity of the Bengal plans, while possibly there is no more complicated plan in the whole of India than that for the Darjeeling forests, there could be no more simple plan than that for the Sundarbans or even that for the Tista forests.

11. The progress made during the year in the compilation of the working-plans, of which a commencement has already been made, is as follows:—

The Singhbhum Working-plan.—This plan is in charge of Mr. Haines, Deputy Conservator of Forests, who on the return to the Circle of Mr. Chester in January 1900, was placed on special duty for that purpose. Shortly after, in March 1900, Mr. Chester was, however, obliged to take furlough, and since that time Mr. Haines has had to carry on the work in addition to the charge of the Division. The essential field work was delayed until the appearance of the first of the survey sheets, when, during May and June, four working circles were constituted in the Saitba forest and 16 coupes, with an aggregate area of 5,358 acres, were surveyed and laid off. Prior to this the time could only be occupied in the examination of blocks and in the carrying out of valuation surveys. The latter extended over 531 acres, of which as much as 172 acres had to be gone over twice owing to the unsatisfactory work of the temporary amins employed. Much of Part I of the plan has been written and a list of the trees, shrubs and economic plants drawn up. The cost during the year has been Rs. 365 spent on surveys.

The Puri Working-plan.—Under the circumstances explained above, this plan must now wait until Mr. Hatt's return. The information necessary for its completion was collected during the year.

12. In the Kurseong Division all the sal trees of over 5 feet in girth have been counted and recorded, while a detailed description of the forests, block by block, has been prepared. Pending the undertaking of regular operations these records are being utilized for the framing of the annual plan of operations.

In Angul the Divisional Officer has neglected to record the progress, but it is understood that type and stock maps are nearing completion.

13. The provisions of the existing working-plans have been worked up to as follows:—

The Darjeeling Forests.—The Tasiding and Nagri fellings have now been practically brought up to date, and it is anticipated that by the end of 1900-1901 all the working-circles, so far as the well-stocked areas are concerned, will be in agreement with the plan.

The Tista Valley Forests.—The general provisions of the plan have been carried out. The demand for both timber and firewood from these forests has considerably increased since the plan was framed; it is, however, unfortunately unequally distributed, and while blocks VI—X of the Rangit working-circle are worked to their full extent, blocks I to V fall below their capability as regards fuel, owing to their greater distance from the existing markets. Again, in the Tista working-circle the demand falls upon those portions only of the blocks within carrying distance of the adjacent tea-gardens, and probably in the near future, a revision of the boundaries of the blocks of this working-circle will be necessitated. At present blocks I to IV are worked below their capability as regards inferior species.

The Tista Forests.—The report of Mr. Grieve, the Divisional Officer, is very confused, but, according to Form No. 2, the work is a good deal in arrears, notwithstanding the introduction during the year of departmental operations.

The Jalpaiguri Forests.—The Divisional Officer, Mr. Farrington, makes proposals for the better laying out of coupes, but is silent as to the manner in which the prescriptions are being followed. From Form No. 2, it is, however, gathered that considerable areas prescribed have not been worked.

The Sundarbans Forests.—The prescriptions of the plan were strictly adhered to by the Divisional Officer and his subordinates. The control of the fellings in the interior of the forests—a question of some moment—is receiving attention from the Divisional Officer, Mr. Fordyce, who, however, considers himself helpless without further establishment.

14. Forms Nos. 2 and 3 for the above plans are submitted by Divisional Officers to the Conservator, who forwards abstracts of them to the Inspector-General of Forests for examination. The forms are, however, very irregularly received by the Conservator except in the case of the Sundarbans, and far more punctuality is called for in this respect.

15. The measurements taken during the year under report and in previous years are, as usual, given in Appendix A. It is satisfactory to be able to state that Divisional Officers have acted on the remarks made in last report and have carefully considered the figures now recorded. It is reported that the year-ring countings in the Darjeeling forests have been discontinued; no reason for this has been given and orders have issued to resume them. Three sample plots in the Tista Valley forests were laid out some two years ago, the statistics regarding which will be incorporated next year.

(b) ANNUAL PLANS OF OPERATIONS.

16. Annual plans of operations were duly prepared by all Divisional Officers and submitted for the approval of District Officers and the Conservator. These plans are framed for the forest year which is inconvenient as regards the provision of funds for the works proposed. In most instances the projects approved of were duly carried out, the chief deviations being the non-commencement of the Jalpaiguri head-quarters house and the non-completion of the Singhbhum divisional bungalow, the former owing to revision of the budget estimates, and the latter to the delay of the contractor entrusted with the work.

II.—WORKING OF THE YEAR.

(a) COMMUNICATIONS AND BUILDINGS.

17. Form No. 51 supplies the details of Communications and Buildings in the newly prescribed form. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 51,820 as compared with Rs. 54,969 during the year previous, and was thus Rs. 3,149 less.

18. On buildings the total cost was Rs. 28,156—against Rs. 34,579, or Rs. 6,423 less, the detail being:—

				Difference.	
		1899-1900.	1898-99.	+	-
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
New works	...	18,262	23,433	...	5,181
Repairs	...	9,904	11,146	...	1,242

The decrease is mainly accounted for owing to the non-reconstruction of the head-quarter house at Jalpaiguri, the funds provided having had to be expunged from the budget, and to the delay of the contractor in the re-erection of the head-quarter house at Chaibassa.

The chief new buildings were the Sonthal Parganas head-quarters house, which was completed, and three station-houses in the Sundarbans.

Roads and paths.

19. On roads a total sum of Rs. 22,253 was spent, against Rs. 19,107, or Rs. 3,146 more, thus:—

	1899-1900.	1898-99.	Difference.	
			+	-
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.
New works	14,895	10,205	4,690	...
Repairs	7,358	8,902	...	1,544

The total length of roads and paths constructed was 84 miles, being 27 miles in excess of the work of 1898-99, while repairs were carried out along 787 miles as against 842 miles.

It is to be regretted that the wire rope-way erected in the Tista Division proved disappointing. The curves could not be successfully managed, and the line will have to be re-erected on the usual plan of straight lengths. No advance in the construction of a mono-rail has been made, and it is not improbable that after all the light tramway will be found more suitable.

The unprecedented storm, which visited the Darjeeling district on the 24th and 25th September 1899, caused very serious damage to roads and paths within, as well as in connection with, the forests. The thorough repair of forest roads and paths alone will, it is estimated, cost Rs. 10,000. Of the three cart roads in the Darjeeling Division maintained by the Public Works Department, two were blocked for some months, that on the western side escaping practically altogether. Eventually these roads were put in order, but they again suffered severely from the heavy rain of the earlier part of the season of 1900, and both now have gaps effectually obstructing cart traffic.

The following statement shows the relative importance of the roads constructed during the year:—

DIVISION.	LENGTH OF ROAD AND PURPOSE FOR WHICH DESIGNED.		Relative importance.	REMARKS.
	To facilitate export.	For inspection.		
1	2	3	4	5
	Miles.	Miles.		
Darjeeling	5	...	Primary	...
Tista	1	35	Secondary	...
Kurseong	1	...	Primary	...
Jalpaiguri	...	1	Ditto	...
Buxa	2	8	Minor	...
Singhbhum	...	4	Do.	...
Angul	12	...	Considerable	...
Puri	11	6	Ditto	...
	3	...	Great.	...
	...	...	Do.	...
	...	...	Minor.	...
	...	...	Considerable	...
Total	35	49		Also serves for inspection.
	84			

Details by Divisions.

20. The following are the divisional details it is advisable to record:—

Darjeeling.—More bridle paths were laid out, but less repairs were done. Funds were not available to carry out anything like what has to be done to restore communications in this Division to their state previous to the storm of September 1899. The new diversion from the 3rd to the 6th mile of the Pashok Cart road mentioned last year was completed, but shortly afterwards was hopelessly blocked by the storm. The lessening of the traffic along this road, alluded to in last report, has, in a measure, been effected by the opening out of fuel depôts at Jorebungalow and Bataaidhara capable of holding 10,000 maunds each.

Tista.—A new rest-house at Pankasari was commenced and a few quarters for subordinates erected, but the ill-health of the Divisional Officer during the greater part of the working season considerably interfered with progress. As stated above it was not possible to bring the wire rope-way into working order owing to the curves. The line will be taken down and re-erected on a simpler method.

Kurseong.—The work was chiefly confined to repairs, only Rs. 543 being spent on new constructions.

Jalpaiguri.—Works were generally of a petty nature. New rangers' quarters were completed at Ramshahi hat and those at Apalohand and Dhubhora made good progress.

Buxa.—The inspection bungalow at Chilapatha was completed, the total cost being Rs. 527. New range head-quarters were built at Chilapatha and Rangamatti, costing Rs. 499 and Rs. 250 respectively, while 6 miles of new roads were constructed, upon which Rs. 1,188 were spent.

Southal Parganas.—The divisional head-quarters bungalow at Dumka was completed for Rs. 2,500, the total cost of the building being Rs. 8,918, including Rs. 1,418 compensation for land.

Singhbhum.—Considerable activity has been shown in this Division, the works under both roads and buildings as regards new constructions as well as repairs having exceeded those of the previous year. The principal new buildings were the divisional head-quarters bungalow (not complete) and rest-houses at Anjithhera (nearly complete), Samta (half finished), and Andaganda (begun). Eighteen miles of new roads were constructed compared with 14 in the preceding year, of which no less than 11 were aligned by the Divisional Officer himself. The chief roads now under construction are :—

- (1) *Kendbai-Banki.*—Connecting the Latua forest with the Goikera railway station.
- (2) *Samta Hendakuli-Ratamatia.*—Connecting the Samta, Tirilposi and Tholokabad blocks with the Jeraikhela railway station.
- (3) *Kolbonga-Ponga.*—Connecting the further side of the Ankua forest with the Manharpur railway station.

Communications and buildings are badly wanted in the Singhbhum forests, and great credit is due to Mr. Haines, the Divisional Officer, for the progress made during the year.

Angul.—The Raigoda rest-house was completed, the total cost being Rs. 1,328, of which Rs. 974 were spent during the year. Eleven miles of new roads were constructed, while all necessary repairs were carried out.

Puri.—The Bagura-Rajin road has now been finished as far as Sibida, 8½ miles, of which 3½ miles, costing Rs. 813, were completed during the year. A new room was also added to the Divisional office at a cost of Rs. 1,018.

Sundarbans.—The following revenue-station houses were reconstructed :—Khulna, Shella and Chandpie, costing, respectively, Rs. 1,236, Rs. 1,054 and Rs. 1000. Repairs to steamers, &c., cost Rs. 9,602, the expenditure on which is, however, shown under head A II.

Chittagong.—Petty works only were carried out, the total cost amounting to Rs. 1,548.

21. The expenditure of the year on other works amounted to Rs. 1,773 compared with Rs. 2,798 in 1898-99. Nothing was done worthy of note except the paving of three cattle sheds in the Darjeeling forests and the fencing of the Singhbhum head-quarters compound.

(b) PROTECTION OF FORESTS FROM INJURY.

(1) General Protection and Breaches of Forest Law.

22. Full details of forest offences are given in Form No. 52, from which the following table (ordered by the Government of India) showing the number and classification of the new cases of the year is abstracted :—

Number and classification of new cases of the year.

DIVISION.	CASES TAKEN INTO COURT.				CASES COMPOUNDED.				CASES UNDETECTED.				TOTAL CASES.				Grand total of cases.
	Injury to forests by fire.	Unauthorized felling or appropriation of wood and minor forest produce.	Grazing without permission or in tracts in which grazing is prohibited.	Other offences.	Injury to forests by fire.	Unauthorized felling or appropriation of wood and minor forest produce.	Grazing without permission or in tracts in which grazing is prohibited.	Other offences.	Injury to forests by fire.	Unauthorized felling or appropriation of wood and minor forest produce.	Grazing without permission or in tracts in which grazing is prohibited.	Other offences.	Injury to forests by fire.	Unauthorized felling or appropriation of wood and minor forest produce.	Grazing without permission or in tracts in which grazing is prohibited.	Other offences.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Darjeeling	1	2	1	1	...	196	219	28	...	...	...	...	1	198	220	27	446
Buxa	...	...	...	...	...	143	210	10	...	...	...	...	...	143	210	10	363
Jalpaiguri	...	...	...	...	...	38	18	7	...	...	...	...	...	38	18	7	63
Southal Parganas	3	4	1	3	...	35	46	29	1	...	...	...	4	39	47	52	122
Direction	...	...	...	...	...	2	20	2	12	...	6	...	13	3	27	3	46
Palamau	1	42	1	11	...	250	3	2	6	...	...	...	7	292	4	13	316
Singhbhum	...	...	...	...	...	29	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	6	9	44
Angul	9	7	7	...	...	3	7	...	3	...	...	...	12	10	14	...	36
Puri	28	41	2	17	...	108	7	4	70	...	...	...	98	149	9	21	277
Sundarbans	5	1	...	1	...	8	11	...	8	...	...	...	13	9	11	1	34
Chittagong	1	53	2	18	...	240	19	5	4	...	4	...	5	297	21	23	346
Total	...	...	...	...	...	151	...	129	...	7	...	...	...	178	...	164	332
Total for 1898-99	2	22	6	5	...	10	10	2	1	...	...	...	3	32	16	7	58
Total	50	200	21	84	1	1,213	576	216	105	11	6	...	156	1,424	603	800	2,483
Total for 1898-99	19	204	18	66	1	1,333	620	121	80	23	1	1	100	1,560	639	188	2,457

The total number of cases of the year of all kinds amounted to 2,483, being four less than in the previous year. There were, however, 56 'fire' cases more and 112 'others,' while those of 'unauthorized felling, &c.' and of 'grazing' were less by 136 and 36, respectively. The percentage of 'undetected cases' was 4.9.

In the Puri Division a large number of petty cases against the rules for the protected forests, chiefly for illicit *toila*, are dealt with direct by the Subdivisional Officer of Khurda, who, in the opinion of the Collector, should be vested with powers under section 67 of the Forest Act. These cases do not appear in the forest returns and the matter is under discussion.

23. The cases taken into Court numbered 355, against 307 in 1898-99, showing an increase of 48, of which 31 were on account of injury to the forests by fire, there being a total of 50 cases of this nature against only 19 in the previous year. Other offences also increased by 18. The following is the usual table of these cases:—

NATURE OF OFFENCE.	NUMBER.		INCREASE.	DECREASE.
	1898-99.	1899-1900.	In 1899-1900.	
	2	3	4	5
Injury to forests by fire	19	50	31	...
Unauthorized fellings, etc.	204	200	...	4
Grazing without permission	18	31	3	...
Other offences	66	84	18	...
Total ..	307	355	48	...

Of the total number of cases before the Courts, viz., 355 of the year and 39 brought forward from last year, 301 involving 747 persons were successfully carried through, 42 and 231 persons were acquitted, while 51 cases remained undecided. Thus the percentage of convictions was 88 compared with 90 and 89 for the two previous years. In Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, where the cases were few, convictions were obtained in every instance, while in Singhbhum, Puri, Sonthal Parganas and Sundarbans, in which divisions the number decided was 81, 68, 58 and 42, respectively, the convictions were 96, 84, 92 and 93 per cent. In Buxa three cases were prosecuted, of which two resulted in acquittals, while in Angul the convictions reached only 37 per cent.; these two divisions considerably reducing the average for the Circle. Among 'other offences', of which there were 84 (18 more than last year), one for impersonating a forest officer and another for prevention of seizure of property, both in the Sonthal Parganas Division, met with exemplary punishment. Fire cases will be specially alluded to under the next following sub-head.

24. Of the 2,105 cases dealt with direct by Divisional Officers under the powers given them under section 67 of the Indian Forest Act, 1,946 involving 3,962 persons were compounded for Rs. 12,176, giving an average of Rs. 6-4-1 per case and Rs. 3-1-2 per person, while 158 were pending payment of compensation at the close of the year. The figures for the previous year were 2,057 cases and 4,018 persons, Rs. 6-4-1 and Rs. 3-3-3 compensation respectively and 99 cases pending. Thus there have been 111 fewer cases of this nature and 56 persons less dealt with than in the preceding year. Generally speaking, the sentences have been adequate, and thus the Courts have materially assisted in the difficult work of protection, but in two or three instances there have been lamentable failures.

The following is the usual divisional detail:—

Division.	1898-99.	1899-1900.			AVERAGE—	
	Number of offences.	Number of offences.	Number of persons.	Total compensation received.	For each case.	For each person.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Darjeeling	587	441	623	Rs. 1,256	Rs. A. P. 2 13 7	3 0 3
Tista	389	341	453	924	2 11 4	3 2 2
Kurseong	54	57	58	411	7 3 4	4 10 9
Jalpaiguri	50	110	253	1,598	14 8 5	6 5 6
Buxa	55	25	56	405	16 3 2	7 3 9
Sonthal Parganas	228	229	882	1,932	8 7 0	3 3 0
Direction	51	35	123	169	4 13 3	1 9 0
Palaman	13	10	15	71	7 1 7	4 11 9
Singhbhum	133	120	402	216	1 12 10	0 8 7
Angul	10	19	39	104	5 7 7	3 10 8
Puri	126	267	514	1,127	4 6 2	3 3 1
Sundarbans	347	280	490	3,796	13 8 11	7 11 11
Chittagong	14	22	45	167	7 9 6	3 11 5
Total ...	2,057	1,946	3,962	12,176	6 4 1	3 1 2

The chief differences of the year occur in the Darjeeling, Sundarbans, Buxa, Jalpaiguri, Angul and Puri Divisions. In the first three there were considerably less cases, and in the rest more.

In the Sundarbans the compensation accepted is usually high, as the cases are mostly of a more serious nature than in other Divisions. Omitting this Division it ranges between Rs. 0-8-7 in the Singhbhum Division and Rs. 7-3-9 in the Buxa Division. The variation in the different Divisions is mainly due to the number of more serious cases compounded, two or three, among say a hundred, at once bringing up the average.

25. The cases in which no offenders were traced numbered 122, against 105 in 1898-99. Of these no less than 105 were fire cases, in which, from the nature of the offence, it is often very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to trace the culprits. Of the latter 70 occurred in the Singhbhum Division.

Undetected cases.

(2) *Protection from fire.*

26. Though the season was, on the whole, favourable for fires, *i.e.*, unfavourable to protection, mainly owing to the early setting in of the hot weather, the results of the year compare most favourably with preceding seasons. A far larger area was, however, burnt over than during the previous year, but it is satisfactory to be able to say that the extensive disasters, which chronicled the years 1897-98, 1895-96, 1893-94, 1891-92, were not even approached. Appendix D of last year's report will show this in a graphic manner if the year's results are added to it. The accustomed alternation of good and bad years, which has been the rule since 1890-91, has been broken, and if the season of 1900-01 reverts to it, the forests will have enjoyed three successive good years. Great credit is due to Mr. Haines and his assistant, Mr. Slane, for the zealous manner in which they personally engaged in the difficult operation of combatting with the numerous

fires in that hot-bed of fires—the Singhbhum district—and to the staff of the Jalpaiguri and Buxa Divisions through whose exertions the spread of fire was considerably checked.

The following are the usual statements showing the disasters and successes of the year:—

Abstract showing area (in acres) burnt and unburnt.

(Excluding unclassified forests.)

	Reserved forests.	Protected forests.	Total.	Percentage of area involved.	Percentage of entire area of reserved and protected forests.		
1	2	3	4	5	6		
Areas of which protection was attempted, but which were burnt (Form No. 53) ...	124,345	...	124,345	9.19	2.03		
Other areas burnt ...	148	75,447	75,595				
Ditto departmentally ...	23,548	...	23,548			2.33	0.56
Total areas burnt ...	148,041	75,447	223,488	...	3.66		
Areas successfully protected (Form No. 53) ...	1,238,395	...	1,238,395	90.81	20.08		
Other areas which escaped burning ...	2,387,465	1,773,762	4,161,227			87.68	68.04
Total areas unburnt ...	3,615,860	1,773,762	5,389,622			...	88.13
Areas concerning which information is wanting or doubtful ...	...	502,700	502,700	...	8.22	
Grand total area of reserved and protected forests (Form No. 46) ...	3,763,901	2,261,909*	6,115,810	...	100		

* Excludes the unknown areas of Ranchi and Manbhum.

Number of fires and areas burnt in each Division.

(Excluding unclassified forests.)

DIVISION.	NUMBER OF FIRES.		AREAS BURNT IN ACRES.					
	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.			1899-1900.		
			Specially protected (Form No. 53).	Other areas.	Total.	Specially protected (Form No. 53).	Other areas.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Darjeeling ...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Tista ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kurseong ...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	4
Jalpaiguri ...	3	6	110	24,110	24,220	383	23,778	23,171
Buxa ...	13	18	3,462	6,890	10,352	10,588	918	11,506
Monthal Parganas ...	3	8	...	4,629	4,629	...	2,581	2,581
Diraotian ...	2	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Palamau ...	12	15	6,420	7,470	13,890	8,730	3,168	11,898
Singhbhum ...	47	90	10,420	21,303	31,623	85,870	61,848(a)	147,718
Angul ...	16	13	1,769	...	1,768	18,270	...	18,270
Puri ...	41	27	1,558	10,000	11,558	488	8,050	8,539
Sundarbans ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chittagong ...	3	3	20	...	20	1	...	1
Total ...	143	182	23,768	74,293	98,060	124,345	80,143	223,488

(a) Includes 54,603 acres found burnt in the Protected Forests. The number of fires concerning this area are unknown.

Fires in specially protected areas ...	129	burning 124,345 acres,
" in other areas ...	53	" 75,595
Total ...	182	" 199,940
Areas burnt departmentally ...	...	23,548
		223,488

Two new areas—the Dhumpara reserved forest in the Buxa Division (area 7,526 acres) and the Sitapahar reserved forest in the Chittagong Division (area 7,020 acres)—have been brought under systematic protective measures during the year, while 1,322 acres of savannahs hitherto burnt departmentally in the Jalpaiguri Division have been included in the specially protected area. Thus the area attempted to be protected has been increased by 15,868 acres and reduced by 236 acres cultivated area thrown out in the Darjeeling Division and now stands at 1,352,740 acres, or 2,114 square miles, compared with 1,337,108 acres, or 2,089 squares miles in the previous year.

One hundred and eighty-two distinct fires occurred covering 199,940 acres, of which 129 extending over 124,345 acres happened in the areas under protective measures (the reserved forests). The failures were therefore 124,345 acres representing 9.19 per cent., against 23,756 acres, or 1.77 per cent., in 1898-99.

The hill forests practically escaped fires altogether, the disasters being confined to the plains forests.

Some praise is due to the officers of the Department for this gratifying issue of the year's operations; it cannot, as was the case last year, be attributed in the main to favourable rainfall, though welcome showers in the latter half of April rendered considerable assistance in that most notorious of all districts—Singhbhum.

No rainfall tables are this year appended to the report, but the above remarks are borne out by the records of the Meteorological Department.

Speaking of the specially protected areas, the Singhbhum district again heads the list with 80 fires spreading over 85,870 acres, followed by Angul with 13 fires covering 18,270 acres, and Buxa with 16 fires burning 10,588 acres. In Palamanu there were 7 fires consuming 8,730 acres; other Divisions were almost free from fires. In Singhbhum it is said that the fires in 1899-1900 were worse than in 1898-99 in consequence of the small area burnt in 1898-99, while in Buxa 8,023 acres of the area involved consisted of open sissu forest most difficult to protect.

The following shows the proportion of failures to area taken in hand :—

Singhbhum	...	...	...	18.92	per cent.
Angul	...	...	...	11.37	"
Palamanu	...	...	...	7.25	"
Buxa	...	...	...	6.35	"

The system of protection pursued has been the same as last year. The remarks of the Government of India in paragraph 4 of their review of the last report on this subject are not applicable to Singhbhum, seeing that cover overhead is unfortunately an impossibility in forests of so hot and dry a nature. The trees left on the lines drop their leaves through February and March, if not removed, and render repeated burnings necessary, while a heavy growth of grass can be got rid of in one cutting and burning.

The total expenditure incurred on protective measures and the arrest of fires amounted to Rs. 13,577 as against Rs. 12,781 in 1898-99, of which Rs. 154 were spent on new areas. The average cost per square mile of area attempted was thus Rs. 6.42 compared with Rs. 6.16. The expenses were higher in all Divisions except Angul, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, but chiefly so in Singhbhum and Buxa.

Causes of the fires.

27. The following statement gives the origin of the fires of the year under the prescribed headings :—

Of the 129 fires in the fire-traced areas, 15 extending over 4,556 acres were due to accident in burning the traces, 15 covering 12,854 acres came from without, while 87 burning 99,912 acres were set alight inside the reserve. Of the latter, again, 23 spreading over 39,065 acres arose out of carelessness on the part of villagers and others passing through the forests, and 62 damaging 60,786 acres are said to have been ignited intentionally, viz:—

31 burning 31,037 acres to obtain new grass.
21 " 19,452 " to turn out game.
10 " 10,297 " maliciously.

Thus again the chief disasters must be attributed to the desire of the neighbouring villagers to procure an early supply of new succulent grass and to their propensity for game, the former, however, being this year more prominent than the latter.

28. Form No. 52 shows there to have been 156 cases of injury to forests by fire against 100 during 1898-99, of which number 105 or 67 per cent. remained undetected, 1 was by mistake compounded, and 50 were taken before the Courts. Of the undetected cases, 70 belong to the Singhbhum Division and 12 to Buxa. The following table gives a full and comprehensive detail of the prosecutions, including two cases brought forward from last year:—

DIVISION.	DETAILS OF PROSECUTION FOR OFFENCES BY FIRE.						REMARKS.
	Serial number of fire.	Areas burnt (acres).	Character of offence (whether careless or intentional).	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Darjeeling ...	...	Nil	Careless ...	Convicted ...	Section 25(b), Indian Forest Act.	Five weeks' rigorous imprisonment.	Setting fire to cultivation near the reserve and allowing the fire to cross the boundary line, 0 21 acres burnt.
Jalpaiguri	2	50	Intentional, but not malicious.	Convicted ...	Section 25(b), Indian Forest Act.	One month's rigorous imprisonment.	Sentence upheld by the Deputy Commissioner on appeal.
	3	100	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	Fined Rs. 100 and to pay Rs. 25 as compensation for damage done.	
	6	20	Malicious ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	Three months' rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 20.	
Total ...	3	170	.....	.....	.....	.....
Sonthal Parganas	...	1	Careless ...	.....	.....	.....	Pending. A child cooking. Case since withdrawn and compounded.
Palamau	4	2,560	Careless ...	Convicted ...	Section 25(b), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Fine of Rs. 5.	Smoking out bees.
	5	640	Intentional ...	.....	.....	.....	Pending. Firing a gun.
	6	960	Ditto ...	.....	.....	.....	Pending.
	13	195	Careless ...	Acquitted ...	.....	Ten offenders ...	Kindling fire under mahua trees in protected forest.
	14	200	Ditto ...	Convicted ...	Section 32(d), Indian Forest Act.	Two offenders. Fine of Rs. 8 each.	Ditto.
	15	160	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	One offender. One month's rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs. 10.	Kindling fire in protected forest.
	...	Nil	Intentional ...	Ditto ...	Section 25 (b), and (c), Indian Forest Act.	Two offenders. One month's rigorous imprisonment each.	Smoking out bees.
	...	Nil	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Section 25(b), Indian Forest Act.	Two offenders. Six months' rigorous imprisonment each.	Setting fire to endanger the reserve.
...	Nil	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	One offender. Fine of Rs. 10.	Ditto.	
Total ...	9	4,715	.....	.....	.....	.....

DETAILS OF PROSECUTION FOR OFFENCES BY FIRE.							
DIVISION.	Serial number of fire.	Areas burnt (acres).	Character of offence (whether careless or intentional).	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Singhbhum ...	Case of 1898-99.	(1,280)	Careless	Convicted	Section 32(d), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Fine of Rs. 25.	Setting fire to cultivation which spread to the protected forest.
	Ditto	...	Ditto	Ditto	Section 25(b), Indian Forest Act.	Two offenders. Two months' rigorous imprisonment each.	Kindling fire for cooking.
	9	320	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pending.
	16	16	Intentional	Convicted	Section 25(b), Indian Forest Act.	.....	Offender found to be insane and sent to lunatic asylum.
	17	2,560	Doubtful	Acquitted	.....	.....	Four offenders. Acquitted of the charge under section 25 (c), but convicted under section 25 (g) of theft of bamboos. Fine of 8 annas each.
	23	1	Intentional	Convicted	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Two months' rigorous imprisonment.	Caught red-handed setting a light to the Forest, but the Court held that the fire was kindled for smoking and that there was no evidence of intention.
	25	130	Careless	Ditto	Rules under section 75, Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Two weeks' rigorous imprisonment.	Setting fire to cultivation and allowing it to cross the boundary line.
	51	5,440	Ditto	Ditto	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Six months' rigorous imprisonment.	Kindling fire for cooking.
	56	120	Ditto	Ditto	Section 25(b), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. One month's rigorous imprisonment.	Ditto for smoking.
	65	2,560	Ditto	Ditto	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Three months' rigorous imprisonment.	Ditto for cooking fruits.
	66 & 78	7,040	Intentional	Ditto	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. One week's rigorous imprisonment.	Believed to be malicious, but evidence of lighting a fire for cooking only obtainable.
	67	4,450	Careless	Ditto	Ditto	One offender. Three months' rigorous imprisonment.	Lighting a fire for roasting fruits and left it burning.
	68	1,600	Doubtful	Ditto	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	Two offenders. Two months' rigorous imprisonment each.	Convicted of carrying fire into the reserve; no proof of originating the fire.
	69	960	Careless	Ditto	Ditto	One offender. Three months' rigorous imprisonment.	Convicted of smoking.
	71	480	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	One offender. Four months' rigorous imprisonment.	Kindling fire for smoking.
	79	2,240	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	One offender. Fifteen days' rigorous imprisonment.	Kindling fire for cooking.
	80	80	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	One offender. Three months' rigorous imprisonment.	Setting fire to dry leaves under a mahua tree.
	82	2,560	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pending. Three men set fire to the forest to facilitate searching for lost cattle.
	84	1,280	Careless	Convicted	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Three months' rigorous imprisonment.	Kindling fire to roast birds he had shot.
	...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	One offender. Ten days' rigorous imprisonment.	Cooking fish and leaving fire burning.
	...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	One offender. Two months' rigorous imprisonment.	Cooking fish.
	...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Section 25(b), and (c), Indian Forest Act.	Ditto	Kindling fire for cooking.
	...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	Ditto	Ditto for smoking by rubbing sticks together.
	...	Nil	.....	.....	.....	.....	Pending. Kindling fire for cooking by two sabai-grass cutters. Since abandoned.
	...	Nil	Careless	Convicted	Section 32(d), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. One month's rigorous imprisonment.	Kindling fire in protected forest, endangering the reserve.
	...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
	...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
	...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto.
...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Kindling fire for cooking fruit.	
...	Nil	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto.	
Total	20	31,867	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

DIVISION.	DETAILS OF PROSECUTION FOR OFFENCES BY FIRE.						REMARKS.
	Serial number of fire.	Areas burnt (acres).	Character of offence (whether careless or intentional).	Whether acquitted or convicted.	Section of law under which convicted.	Amount of punishment.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Angul ...	2	400	Careless ...	Acquitted ...	.....	Two offenders ...	Setting fire to jungle and allowing it to cross the boundary line.
	4	10,240	Ditto. ...	.....	.....	.....	Pending. Shooting deer. The case has since the close of the year been disposed of and the offender acquitted.
	5	2,240	Intentional ...	Acquitted ...	.....	.....	Maliciously setting fire. Acquitted of the offence, but punished for theft of forest produce.
	7	12	Careless ...	Convicted ...	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. Two months' rigorous imprisonment.	Shooting deer.
	10	240	Intentional ...	Acquitted ...	.....	One offender ...	Prosecuted on suspicion.
Total ...	5	13,132	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puri ...	...	NIL	Careless ...	Convicted ...	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	One offender. One week's rigorous imprisonment.	Carrying fire through the reserve.
Chittagong ...	...	1	Intentional ...	Convicted ...	Section 25(c), Indian Forest Act.	Two offenders: one fine of Rs. 5, and the other 15 stripes.	Setting fire by graziers.
	...	...	Careless ...	Ditto. ...	Ditto ...	Three offenders. Fine of Rs. 2 each.	Burning 'jhum,' and allowing the fire to enter the reserve.
Total ...	2	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
GRAND TOTAL...	52	49,886	.....	.....	.....	.....

Of the 52 prosecutions, seven were undecided at the close of the year, five were acquitted, and 40, or 89 per cent., resulted in convictions. Rigorous imprisonment, ranging from one week to six months, was awarded in 32 of the latter, while seven met with fines of Rs. 2 to Rs. 100.

The Singhbhum Division is the only Division that sent up any large number of cases, and in regard to it the improvement upon last year's results is most gratifying. Out of 27 cases prosecuted, imprisonment was awarded in 24 and fine in one, there being only one acquittal, while one accused was declared insane and sent to the asylum. It is to be regretted such good results cannot be recorded in the case of Angul, where, out of four cases decided, punishment was given in one only.

It is satisfactory that the sentences awarded have been of a much more deterrent nature than was the case during the previous year, though there are still one or two instances where the punishment meted out was lamentably insufficient. For instance, in Palamau for carelessly using fire in the collection of honey which caused the burning of 2,560 acres, a paltry fine of Rs. 5 is considered sufficient, while, in Singhbhum, under similar circumstances 15 days' jail is held to be adequate for the burning of 2,240 acres.

Considering the difficulty in most fire cases of procuring any evidence at all whenever convictions are obtained, the punishment ought, in all cases, to be exemplary, and it is satisfactory to know that the attention of the Deputy Commissioner has been specially called by Government to the last case above mentioned.

It may, in concluding this important subject, be further mentioned that, in consequence of the many and severe fires in the early part of the season in the Saitba block of the Singhbhum Division which is burdened with concessions, Government has agreed to the Department closing to the enjoyment of these privileges, at once and at its discretion, such portions of the forest as may be burnt over. In addition proposals have also been made at the instance of the Government of India to alter the existing law and to make villagers jointly responsible for fires. These endeavours should bear good fruit.

(3) Regulation of Grazing and Protection from Cattle.

29. The following table shows the area in square miles closed and open to grazing compared with that of the previous year; the details are exhibited in Form No. 54 :—

Year.	RESERVED FORESTS.				PROTECTED FORESTS.			
	Total area.	Area closed to all animals.	Area closed to browsers only.	Area open to all animals.	Total area.	Area closed to all animals.	Area closed to browsers only.	Area open to all animals.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1899-1900 ...	Square miles. 5,881	5,443	21	417	3,675	1,942	11	1,722
1898-99 ...	5,881	5,468	20	393	3,516	2,083	11	1,722
Difference ...	...	- 25	+ 1	+ 24	- 141	- 141	...	...

UNCLASSIFIED FORESTS.				TOTAL.			
Total area.	Area closed to all animals.	Area closed to browsers only.	Area open to all animals.	Total area.	Area closed to all animals.	Area closed to browsers.	Area open to all animals.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4,033	4,033	13,589	7,365	32	6,172
4,033	4,033	13,730	7,551	31	6,148
...	- 141	- 166	+ 1	+ 24

The change in the total area is due to the exclusion of 141 square miles already mentioned in paragraph 3. The other changes occurred as follows :—

Darjeeling Division.—Of 10 square miles previously closed, 9 were thrown open to all animals and 1 was closed to browsers.

Kurseong Division.—15 square miles closed were opened.

In continuation of the remarks made in paragraph 34 of the last report Mr. Keventer is almost ready with his dairy farm at Senchal, the fence around the Darjeeling water supply catchment area has been erected, to the cost of which the Department contributed Rs. 1,700, three *bathans* have been paved and one *gowala* has been given $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land for a vegetable garden.

30. No arrangements have been possible in the matter of regulating grazing in the protected forests, and the matter has for the present been accepted by Government as impracticable.

31. The following table, abstracted from Forms Nos. 54 and 55 (excluding the unclassified forests), exhibits the area grazed over and the value of the grazing fees contrasted with the previous year :—

YEAR.	Square miles grazed over.	AT FULL RATES.		AT PRIVILEGED RATES.		BY RIGHT UNDER SETTLEMENT.		FREE DURING PLEASURE OF GOVERNMENT.		TOTAL.		
		Total cattle.	Fees received.	Total cattle.	FEES.		Total cattle.	Value of fees at full rates.	Total cattle.	Value of fees at full rates.	Cattle.	Value of fees at full rates.
					Received.	Value at full rates.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1899-1900 ...	417	5,643	15,308	39,905	(a) 1,869	14,888	...	...	512	969	46,060	31,170
1898-99 ...	393	5,799	15,725	39,565	(a) 1,563	14,754	...	...	491	933	45,865	31,417
Difference in 1899-1900	+ 24	- 156	- 417	+ 340	+ 106	+ 134	...	...	+ 21	+ 31	+ 205	- 247
1899-1900 ...	1,722	15,818	4,359	167,500	(b) ...	44,000	250,017	32,532	...	...	433,335	84,941
1898-99 ...	1,722	12,209	3,440	167,500	(b) ...	44,000	250,017	32,532	...	...	429,726	84,023
Difference in 1899-1900	...	+ 3,609	+ 919	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	+ 3,609	+ 919

a) This does not include fees realized under the commutation system and credited to "Bill," the apportionment of which is not practicable.

(b) Credited to "Bill" apportionment not practicable.

The total area grazed over extended to 2,139 square miles and was 24 square miles in excess of the area so utilized last year, while the number of cattle that resorted to this area amounted to 479,395, and the total value of fees at full rates to Rs. 1,16,111 compared with 475,581 and Rs. 1,15,439 in 1898-99. The increase was thus 3,814 head of cattle and Rs. 672 in fees. The figures over which the Department practically has alone control, are those dealing with full rates; for the reserved forests these were slightly in decline, and for the protected forests somewhat in excess of those of last year, the latter owing to better collections in the Puri Division. No returns have been received for the Angul protected forests which are under the management of the Deputy Commissioner.

32. Five hundred and ninety-seven cases of illicit grazing were detected, of which 21 were prosecuted and 576 compounded, compared with 18 and 620 in 1898-99.

The subjoined statement shows the cattle impounded:—

DIVISION.	NUMBER OF CATTLE IMPOUNDED.							
	Buffaloes.	Bullocks and cows.	Goats and sheep.	Other animals.	Total for 1899-1900.	Total for 1898-99.	Difference.	
							Increase.	Decrease.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
RESERVED FORESTS.								
Darjeeling ... ..	...	105	8	5	118	282	...	164
Jalpaiguri	984	871	...	5	1,860	3,255	...	1,395
Palamanu ... ..	...	30	...	...	30	66	...	36
Singhbhum	47	...	...	...	47	...	47	...
Puri	134	408	...	...	542	455	87	...
Chittagong ... ..	...	27	...	...	27	40	...	13
Total	1,165	1,441	8	10	2,624	4,098	...	1,474
PROTECTED FORESTS.								
Palamanu	54	3	...	...	57	...	57	...
Puri ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1,154	...	1,154
Total	54	3	...	...	57	1,154	...	1,097
GRAND TOTAL	1,219	1,444	8	10	2,681	5,252	...	2,571

Only half the number of cattle were sent to the pound, as were so treated last year. The chief differences occur in the Jalpaiguri Division in the reserved forests and in the Puri Division in the protected forests, but in neither instance has any explanation been given by the Divisional Officers concerned.

(c) IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST GROWTH.

(1) *Natural reproduction.*

33. Natural reproduction was treated of in considerable detail in the last report; it will therefore suffice this year to mention merely the most prominent particulars. In a province like Bengal, where its 13,589 square miles of forests are distributed over an area of 156,571 square miles, there must be considerable local peculiarities, and it is difficult to generalize and to bring a subject of such wide scope as natural reproduction into a few brief words. It may, however, be said that, on the whole, the year was a fairly normal one for seed, while seedlings of most species were observed. Though in Jalpaiguri damage to the sal foliage, caused by caterpillars said to belong to *Dasychira Thwaitesii*, is said to have prevented the production of seed, in Singhbhum the extreme dryness of the soil hindered the germination of such sal seeds as were produced, and in Buxa similar results were ascribed to a dense undergrowth. In the Sonthal Parganas,

it is said, some 80 per cent. of the sál seed crop is blown down before it is ripe and lost. In the Singhbhum Division the attempt to procure natural seedlings from the forests for the forest garden at Chaibassa discovered the fact that seedlings of several species, other than sál, die down in a hot season and shoot out again on the advent of the rains.

The sample areas selected and counted in 1897-98, to test the ability of sál seedlings to maintain themselves, show that 47 per cent. have died.

As instances of what a judicious preparation of the soil to receive the seed might effect, it may be remarked that, in the Singalila forests of the Darjeeling Division, the hoeing up of the ground around a *buk* and a *champ* tree resulted in a dense cover of young seedlings which have been fenced in in order to watch the progress of the experiment, while the new embankment on the railway that now runs through the Buxa forests is in places nearly covered with sál seedlings. Closely connected with this it is satisfactory to observe that the fresh landslips in the Takdah Range of the Darjeeling Division are being self-sown with *utis* (*Alnus nepalensis*), and that the areas devastated by the cyclone of 1897 in the Chittagong Division are being naturally reclothed. Teak reproduces itself from seed profusely at Dumka.

Bamboos.—The flowering of the following species has to be recorded :—

Arundinaria aristata (*Rato nigala*) in Singalila.
 „ *falconeri* (*Singhans* or *Maling*) in Singalila, Goompahar, and Senchal.
Bambusa arundinacea continued to seed in Angul.
 Undetermined species in Tista and in Tasiding.

Coppice.—Sál is said to be progressing favourably in Jalpaiguri and teak in Sitapahar.

(2) Artificial reproduction.

34. Form No. 56 gives the details of artificial reproduction. Three hundred and four acres have been added during the year, compared with 277 in 1898-99, bringing the total area now under plantations to 6,684 acres, as against 6,380 acres. The total cost amounted to Rs. 12,714 and compares as follows with that of the previous year :—

	1899-1900.	1898-99.	+	—
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
New plantations	2,443	2,459	...	16
Up-keep of previous plantations	8,385	3,646	4,739	...
Nurseries	1,886	2,263	...	377
Total	12,714	8,368	4,346	...

35. No addition has been made to regular plantations, the area of which remains at 2,872 acres. A very large sum, amounting to Rs. 4,040, which accounts for the striking difference under “up-keep” shown above, has, however, been spent on the exceptional work of cutting back and removing trees damaged by the cyclone of 1897 in the teak plantations of the Chittagong Division. The sale of the trees thus removed brought in a revenue of Rs. 5,100.

36. Three hundred and four acres have been planted out during the year at an expenditure of Rs. 2,443 compared with 227 acres costing Rs. 2,459 in 1898-99, thus the total area on which cultural operations have been carried out now stands at 3,812 acres as against 3,508 acres. The entire cost, including up-keep and nurseries, amounted to Rs. 8,646 compared with Rs. 7,736 during the previous year.

The chief work was the planting of the regeneration coupes of the Darjeeling forests.

The following are the divisional details :—

Darjeeling.—Two hundred and seventy acres were added against 245 acres in 1898, the total expenditure rising from Rs. 6,639 to Rs. 7,199. Of the latter, Rs. 1,906 were spent in the clearing of old lines, Rs. 2,049 in filling up vacancies, and Rs. 1,614 (including Rs. 138, the cost of collecting 34½ maunds of seeds) on nurseries. The coupe planting extended over 244 acres, while 26 acres were sown in the Tista Valley forests.

Kurseong.—Vacancies in the Paglajhora area were planted up with 6,886 tun, 2,258 champ, 70 saj and 80 kabashi at a cost of Rs. 54. The total expenditure, including the pay of two *malis*, was Rs. 437. The average girths of the principal trees in the Dhobijhora plantation were as follows:—

	First measure- ment, June 1894.	Measurement in May 1900.	Increase in six years.
Cypress	46	48.73	2.73
Cryptomeria	39	43.35	4.35
Biota	33	35.82	2.82

Jalpaiguri.—The usual sowings in conjunction with cultivation and the planting of bamboos comprised 7 acres, on which an expenditure of Rs. 302 was incurred. Last year's operations have turned out fairly successful; those of the season under report are still doubtful.

Palamau.—Seven acres were added at a cost of Rs. 209.

Puri.—Sixteen acres were planted in lines with 2,193 teak and 3,383 *Pterocarpus Marsupium* and *Dalbergia lanceolaria*, also 4 acres of blanks with 1,995 of the latter species. The work cost Rs. 105 and is expected to be successful. Rupees 111 were spent on clearing 4 miles of lines for forward work.

(3) *Early thinnings.*

37. The Poomong and Dooteria plantations in the Darjeeling Division were thinned at a cost of Rs. 379, also compartment *Va* of the Bamonpokri teak plantation. The usual clearing of the coupes in the blocks under regeneration preparatory to planting them up was undertaken over 320 acres, the expenditure amounting to Rs. 501.

(4) *Other operations for the improvement of the growing stock.*

38. The following statement exhibits the area over which the cutting of Creeper cutting. creepers was carried out:—

DIVISION.	Area in acres.	Cost.	Average cost per acre.
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Annas.
Darjeeling ...	6,431	611	1.52
Tista ...	2,120	166	1.25
Kurseong ...	8,130	618	1.21
Jalpaiguri ...	6,430	534	1.32
Palamau ...	3,560	47	0.21
Puri ...	1,724	161	1.49
Total ...	28,395	2,137	1.20
Total for 1898-99 ...	24,609	2,147	1.40

The area gone over amounted to 28,395 acres, or 3,786 acres in excess of that done last year, while the cost reached only Rs. 2,137, or Rs. 10 less. This aggregate result, both as regards area and average cost, is mainly owing to the operations in Palamau which hitherto have not taken place. Differences occurred in all divisions, but notably in Jalpaiguri and Puri.

(5) *Experiments.*

39. In addition to describing new experiments worthy of note made during the year under report, it is necessary in some cases to continue remarks previously made on former experiments. This section of the report is, therefore, longer than it otherwise would be if confined merely to the work of the year. With few exceptions the officers of the Department do not evince much zeal in this direction, and consequently experiments are not many, and what have been taken up have mostly been initiated by the Conservator.

40. The clearing of the ground under and around seed bearers in the Senechal regeneration coupe has been discontinued, as the subsequent felling in the coupe did away with all the advantages it was hoped would have resulted. Clearance of the ground under parent trees. The reason scarcely seems sound in view of the reported success of a similar experiment alluded to in paragraph 33.

PREVIOUS EXPERIMENTS.

Exotics.

41. *Kashmir Walnuts*.—Three-fourths of the 2,000 seedlings planted out at Rangirum are doing well.

Spanish chestnuts.—One hundred seedlings have been successfully put out from the Rangirum nursery into the forest around. One of the four plants at Kalimpong has died.

Quercus serrata.—This species promises to do well at Darjeeling and the 1,200 seedlings reported alive last year have been transplanted out into the poorly-stocked coupe of 1897-98. Others have also been tried in the Seem block of the Tista Valley forests.

Horse chestnuts.—Twenty are still alive.

English oak.—Are not thriving at Kalimpong.

Chinese oak.—Two hundred of the seedlings noticed last year have been put out near Rangirum and are doing well.

Camphor.—Five trees transplanted into the forest all died; five are still in the nursery; and one at Tista Bridge. It is clear bad work was the cause of death of the transplants.

Eriodendron anfractuosum.—At Lopchu they have all died, but are progressing favourably at Jalpaiguri. At Gorumara the hot weather killed all but two. This species produces the kapok of commerce.

Caesalpinia coriaria.—Divi-divi is not a success at Sukna—it is too wet. Twenty-nine plants that remained from last year's sowings are from three to six feet high, but appear sickly. In the Santhal Parganas the introduction is accomplished; 930 plants were transplanted during the year, of which over 50 per cent. lived.

EXPERIMENTS OF THE YEAR.

Phoenix rupicola.—Two and a half pounds of seed were sown at Sukna, resulting in 248 seedlings, or 10 per cent.; germination is still going on.

Ischaemum angustifolium.—A few seeds of Sabai or Bhabur grass from Singhbhum sown at Sukna did not germinate freely; only four plants remain, and they are not healthy. The place seems too wet. Six thousand and five hundred square feet were planted at Katikund during the rains at 18 inches apart, with a view to calculate the yield. The first year's growth was insignificant and not ascertained. At the close of the year the plants were about two feet high.

Ochlandra travancorica.—Out of nine ounces of seed of the Travancore bamboo sown at Kalimpong only a few plants came up.

Castanospermum australe.—Forty-five plants of the Moreton Bay chestnut were received from Ootacamund and planted out at Bamonpokri on the 31st July 1900.

Agave sisalana.—Old plants of sisal hemp at Katikund are doing well; 26 new suckers were transplanted.

Eucalyptus sp.—Six plants have been planted out at Koderma and are doing well.

Dendrocalamus strictus.—Has done fairly well in Tista; 40 per cent. succeeded at Dumka. At Chaibassa sowings of last year are now 2½ feet high where watered, but where left to themselves only 6 inches.

A forest garden has been established at Chaibassa.

42. *Ficus elastica*.—One hundred and twenty-four cuttings at Tashiding now average 30 feet high and are throwing out aerial roots. Sixty-four have been transplanted into Mangbur, 12 in the forest around the nursery, and 6 at Kalimpong. Seed sown in Chel and Gorubathan nurseries has germinated well. Nine seers of seed procured from Assam were sown in carefully prepared nurseries at Sukna, at Gulma and at the ninth mile on the Tista Valley road; the result was unsatisfactory; at Gulma the seed did not germinate at all, while at Sukna 66 and at the 9th mile only 10 seedlings came up. Fifteen pounds of seed sown in pots at Kaptai produced 700 seedlings, of which, however, only 187 seem to have survived. These have been pricked out into nursery beds and are doing extremely well. Fifty-seven cuttings have produced fine, healthy plants. One hundred and fifty seedlings produced in the Tista Valley from local seed and from seed from Assam have been planted out in Mangwa block. Fresh seed sown during the rains of 1899 germinated, but all the seedlings died in the cold weather.

Manihot Glaziovii (Ceara rubber).—At Buxa these did not germinate, while Tista has not reported the result of the seed sown last year.

Hevea brasiliensis (Para rubber).—The 3,150 seeds received last year were distributed as follows:—

Kurseong 1,000; Jalpaiguri 650; Buxa 1,500. In Kurseong (at Sukna) 651 produced plants, but only 273 survived and are strong and healthy, being 17 inches to 42 inches high. In Jalpaiguri and Buxa they were not a success. In all cases the seed did not arrive till the end of October and many had germinated during transit. A fresh consignment of 6,000 seeds was received during September 1900 and it is hoped this batch will be more successful.

Kickxia africana and *Castilloa elastica* (The new West African and Central American rubber trees).—Forty-five and 110 young plants were obtained from Ootacamund since the close of the year (31st July 1900) and have been planted out at Sukna.

43. The preparation of tannin extract from the bark of the *Cerriops candolleana* was continued, and four maunds of the extract sent to the Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India. Fifty maunds of the bark were forwarded to the Imperial Forest School at Dehra Dun.

A sample (277 maunds) of Gewa wood (*Excoecaria agallocha*) was given to the Bally Paper Mills to test its properties as a paper making material, but no report has yet been received.

Further specimens of *aconites* were forwarded to the Reporter on Economic Products, also tubers and bulbs of *Dioscoreas*, the latter at the request of the Director of Agriculture, Bengal.

(d) EXPLOITATION OF MAJOR FOREST PRODUCE.

(1) Clear or regeneration fellings.

44. Re-generation fellings are confined to the Darjeeling forests. The working-plan prescribes 317 acres to be treated under this method; the following was accomplished:—

Regeneration fellings.	Acres.
Arrear coupes	352.6
Coupes of the year	179
Advance coupes	18
Total	549.6

(2) Selection fellings.

45. The following is an abstract of the selection fellings undertaken so far as reported:—

Forest.	Area in acres.	Material removed.	Exploitation.
Darjeeling forests ...	1,429	32 trees=2,105 c. ft. solid ...	As per working-plan.
Singalila ...	?	{ 65 green trees ...	} Selection over 10,170 acres.
		{ 258 dead " ...	
Tista Valley ...	?	{ 115 sal trees=11,657 c. ft. solid	} As per working-plan.
		{ 24 other trees=1,554 c. ft. solid	
Tista division ...	?	135 sal trees ...	Ditto.
Kurseong division ...	?	{ 14,185 c. ft. timber	} Hollow and unsound trees.
		{ 612 branches	
Jalpaiguri ditto ...	?	{ 125,050 c. ft. fuel	} As per working-plan.
		{ 54,754 c. ft. timber	
Buxa ditto		.....	.....
Sonthal Parganas division	?	?	According to demand; over whole area, except closed portions.
Pa'amau division ...	?	5 sal trees=250 c. ft.	?
		<i>Trees.</i>	
Singbhum reserves ...	?	{ Green, 1,655=125,256 c. ft. ...	} Dead, half-dead, hollow and diseased trees.
		{ Dry, 3,027= 66,709 c. ft. ...	
		<i>Poles.</i>	
		{ Green, 50= 87 c. ft.	
		{ Dry, 5,252= 42,335 c. ft.	
Singbhum protected forests	?	<i>Trees.</i>	Dead trees.
		Dry, 2,197= 56,400 c. ft.	
		<i>Poles.</i>	
		Dry, 1,983= 18,776 c. ft.	
Angul Division ...	?	{ 211 green sal trees	?
		{ 5 " asan "	
		{ 4 others.	
Puri ..	?	4 trees.	?

3.—*Improvement fellings.*

46. The extent of the improvement fellings carried out, including the amelioration fellings in Darjeeling, was as under:—

Improvement fellings.		
Darjeeling forests	3,426 acres,	giving 320 trees with 18,935 cubic feet solid volume.
Tista Valley do.	1,555 acres,	giving 130,887 cubic feet stacked firewood.
Tista do.	No detail given.	
Kurseong do.	}	672 poles.
		237,050 cubic feet firewood stacked.
Buxa do.	439 trees.	
Puri do.	1,767 acres,	yielding 1,722 cubic feet logs and poles and 37,328 cubic feet fuel, also 389 cubic feet poles and 66,740 cubic feet fuel from last year's coupes.
Sundarbans do.	988,160 acres,	giving 9,942,509 cubic feet.

The Sundarbans and the Darjeeling forests are the chief areas worked under this system.

4.—*Coppice fellings.*

Coppice fellings.

47. No pure coppice fellings obtain. 'Stored coppice' was worked as follows:—

Jalpaiguri.—Four hundred and twenty-nine acres, of which 410 were sal forest; the outturn was 1,142,397 cubic feet, of which 1,068,413 cubic feet was fuel. There is a good deal of back way to be made up before the areas prescribed by the working-plan are fully worked.

Sonthal Parganas.—Three hundred acres of the 'old reserve.'

5.—*Unregulated fellings.*

48. Owing to the exploitation during the year of a portion of the material rendered available by the violent gale of the 6th April 1899 in the Tista Valley and by the cyclone of 1897 in Chittagong, the extent of the fellings of this category has been considerably increased, no less than 23,023 cubic feet having been extracted from Tista and 25,000 cubic feet from Chittagong on this account alone. The usual fellings in other divisions gave—

Darjeeling	...	49,403	cubic feet	
Jalpaiguri	...	558,018	"	
Palamau	...	2,617	"	
Singhbhum	...	39,393	"	(reserved forests).
Ditto	...	42,936	"	(protected forests).
Puri	...	33,965	"	
Sundarbans	...	9,871,099	"	(Satkhira Circle and protected forest).

In the Sonthal Parganas free removals by the villagers under concessions are classed under this system.

(e) EXTRACTION AND TRANSPORT OF MAJOR FOREST-PRODUCE BY LAND AND WATER.

49. No improvements in the matter of extraction and transport have to be chronicled. The wire rope-way, as already noticed, was not a success, and no new system has yet been brought into force whereby labour can be saved and difficulties overcome. In three divisions Government agency has been introduced; in the rest, removal by purchasers is still the method most in vogue. The railways mentioned in the last report have advanced, but, with the exception of the Cooch Behar extension which has reached Jainti and now transports its own stone, have not been utilized in carrying produce from the departmental forests.

A noticeable departure this year is the use of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway by Government as well as by private purchasers.

Transport by water is still the rule in the Sundarbans and Chittagong and will remain so, while the Mahanadi is used for produce from the Angul forests. Roads and paths have been extended, but land carriage was for some time impeded in the hills by landslips, the result of the heavy storm of the 24th-25th September 1899, and in places is still impossible except to coolies.

(f) EXPLOITATION OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE.

(1).—*Extraction of fodder.*

50. The removals of fodder amounted to 264,753 maunds, valued at Rs. 3,383, compared with 237,014 maunds and Rs. 3,205 in 1898-99. There has been a falling off in the Darjeeling Division, the chief division supplying fodder, the figures being 138,785 maunds realizing Rs. 1,658, against 145,363 maunds and Rs. 1,980. No explanation has been given.

(2) *Grazing.*

51. The details concerning grazing have already been given under paragraph 31, and there seems nothing further to add here. No change has been made in the method or system of exploitation, while the extent to which it is practised is only small and is shown in Forms Nos. 54 and 55.

(3) *Miscellaneous produce.*

52. A step in the right direction has been made by the introduction of departmental operations in the matter of the collection and disposal of minor products detailed below. In the Kurseong Division, instead of leasing out the collection of India-rubber as usual at a rate of Rs. 17 per maund, the trees available were tapped departmentally and a quantity of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ maunds crude rubber obtained, which was sold at Calcutta for the high price of Rs. 160 a maund. The total expenses were Rs. 71, or Rs. 26 per maund, thus the Department has this year made a net profit of Rs. 134 per maund. Only a few years ago it was satisfied with Rs. 10 per maund.

Some few myrabolams were collected by Government agency in almost every division by way of experiment, but in Singhbhum operations were carried on on an extensive scale, and 2,157 maunds were obtained at a total cost, including bags, of Rs. 969, or Rs. 0-7-2 per maund. Of these, 967 maunds were Bahera (*Terminalia belerica*), a kind almost unknown in Calcutta, and for which a market is being found in Europe. The rest, 1,190 maunds (*hurra*, *T. Chebula*) were despatched to Calcutta, the railway freight coming to Rs. 499, or say Rs. 0-6-9 per maund, and are now under sale. The net profit from this, the first year's transactions, may not be much, probably not over Rs. 1,000, but the way has been shown and experience has been gained which will serve the Department well in future years. Such a source of revenue was not thought of in former times, and whatever income there is will be clear gain, for hitherto the myrabolams have either rotted on the ground or have been stolen. The Conservator had no little trouble in starting these supplies, but once begun there need be no end, and the future will show the wisdom of the policy inaugurated.

Another successful and profitable introduction of the year has been the utilisation of the fruit of the *Strychnos Nux-vomica*, which is found abundantly in the Puri Division, and which hitherto has likewise been allowed to perish. At the instance of the Conservator a commencement was made in this direction also, and the results fully prove the commercial soundness of the undertaking. Altogether 64 maunds were collected and despatched to Calcutta at a total cost of Rs. 103-9-0. These were sold for Rs. 182-4-0, bringing in a net profit of Rs. 78-11-0, while up to the present we have been satisfied with petty sales to purchasers at a net profit of eight annas per cart-load. The lease of the right to cut *sabai* grass in the Singhbhum reserves, entered into by the Conservator in 1897 for three years, at a total rent of Rs. 30,000, came on for resettlement, and was very successfully concluded by him in April last for a further term of three years for a sum of Rs. 1,26,000. In 1894, when the Conservator first came to Bengal, this identical lease realised only Rs. 1,500 a year!

A further feature of the year was the introduction of direct agency in the disposal of bamboos from the Sonthal Parganas, which resulted in better returns, while the imposition of a royalty on *sabai* grass exported from the

Sonthal Parganas, mentioned in paragraph 63 of last report, which was first levied from the 20th October 1899, brought in a hitherto neglected income of Rs. 16,558.

The departmental cultivation of lac in the Palmau forests has so far not been a success, mainly, the Conservator believes, owing to want of zeal.

The royalty on mica is now being paid in, but it is impossible to exercise much departmental check on the data on which the same is calculated without a large increase of establishment. A revision of the mica-mining rules has been proposed since the close of the year.

Form No. 58 shows the quantities of miscellaneous produce removed, the value thereof, and the agency of exploitation.

CHAPTER III.—GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

SUMMARY OF PRODUCE REMOVED FROM THE FORESTS.

53. The following table, which is an abstract of forms Nos. 57 and 58, exhibits the outturn of the several classes of forests according to the agency of exploitation, and compares the same with the removals during the previous year:—

(a) Timber.

AGENCY OF EXPLOITATION.	Reserved forests.		Protected forests.		Unclassed forests.		Total.	
	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.
Government	80,964	186,799	26,957	88,538	47,582	21,290	155,753	246,525
Purchasers	4,882,829	5,669,564	629,697	639,078	479,477	480,232	5,991,003	6,846,774
Free grantees	88,330	11,143	2,051	1,624	790	461	41,801	13,258
Right-holders ... ..	.....	.....	231,749	230,665	.....	.....	231,749	230,665
Total	5,002,123	5,967,506	890,454	970,805	528,099	502,013	6,420,306	7,340,322
Difference in 1899-1900	+865,383		+80,719		-26,086		+920,016	

(b) Fuel.

	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.
Government	81,597	155,740	3,775	3,981	7,257	1,369	93,229	161,090
Purchasers	12,248,288	15,194,638	3,011,044	3,835,694	68,095	60,642	16,327,427	19,090,974
Free grantees	131,773	32,038	128	729	.....	.....	131,699	22,767
Right-holders	1,315,545	910,157	14,300,635	14,380,635	.....	.....	15,696,350	15,290,992
Total	14,777,203	16,282,573	17,395,780	18,221,239	75,952	62,011	32,248,935	34,565,823
Difference in 1899-1900	+1,505,370		+825,459		-13,941		+2,316,888	

(c) Bamboos.

	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Government	7,152	17,148	5,060	539,441	3,228	25,960	15,440	582,549
Purchasers	9,219,414	9,769,908	535,087	101,090	6,195,903	5,611,886	15,950,404	15,482,854
Free grantees	1,650	.....	1,300	2,300	2,000	1,500	4,950	3,500
Right-holders	774,000	966,400	4,000,000	4,000,000	.....	.....	4,774,000	4,966,400
Total	10,002,216	10,783,456	4,541,447	4,642,831	6,201,131	5,639,346	20,744,794	21,035,633
Difference in 1899-1900	+781,240		+101,384		-561,785		+290,839	

(d) Grazing and fodder grass and other minor produce.

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Government	105	2,682	2	1,701	.....	3	107	4,386
Purchasers	1,16,004	1,24,875	31,047	47,777	8,637*	8,657†	1,55,688	1,81,909
Free grantees	949	1,363	10	2	1	.....	960	1,365
Right-holders	9,837	12,312	1,23,424	1,23,874	.....	.....	1,33,261	1,35,686
Total	1,26,895	1,41,232	1,54,483	1,72,854	8,638	8,660	2,90,016	3,22,746
Difference in 1899-1900	+14,337		+18,371		+22		+32,730	

* Includes Rs. 982 collected from Hill Tippera.

† " " 2,108

(for two years).

The total outturn of timber and fuel amounted to 41,906,145 cubic feet as compared with 38,669,241 cubic feet in 1898-99, or 3,236,904 cubic feet more.

In *timber* the total yield was 7,340,322 cubic feet against 6,420,306, or 920,016 cubic feet more. The excess removals occurred in *Sundarbans, Singhbhum, Darjeeling, Tista, Buxa, Jalpaiguri, and Sonthal Parganas*, but mainly in the first two, where they amounted to 693,867 cubic feet and 99,206 cubic feet, respectively. *Angul, Kurseong, Chittagong, and Puri* showed slightly less removals. The better results were due in the *Sundarbans*, it is said, to the energy and interest shown in their work by the departmental officers, combined with the thriving and prosperous condition of the surrounding population, and in *Singhbhum* to better arrangements for disposal and a brisk demand.

In *fuel* the outturn was 34,565,823 cubic feet compared with 32,248,935 cubic feet, or 2,316,888 cubic feet more. Here again *Sundarbans* gives the largest increase, amounting to 2,266,018 cubic feet, followed by *Tista* with 310,770, *Jalpaiguri* with 222,807, and *Chittagong* with 104,249 cubic feet. *Kurseong, Darjeeling* and *Palamau* also secured somewhat better results, but *Singhbhum, Angul, Buxa, Puri* and *Sonthal Parganas* were behind last year's exploitations, the first two by as much as 510,862 and 109,695 cubic feet, respectively. The causes of these differences will be explained further on.

In *bamboos* the improved outturn of 290,839 was mainly due to larger removals from *Chittagong, Sonthal Parganas, and Darjeeling*; *Angul* and *Palamau* were considerably behindhand.

Minor produce, including grazing.—Here again there was a satisfactory rise of Rs. 32,730, the value of the year's outturn amounting to Rs. 3,22,746 against Rs. 2,90,016. Last year the increase was Rs. 15,410. The steady rise shown, Rs. 31,880 of which is on account of minor produce other than grazing and fodder grass, is most gratifying to the Conservator, who spent a considerable amount of his spare time in the improvement of this branch of the administration. During the year all divisions excepting *Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, and Palamau* succeeded better than in 1898-99. This was due to increased exertions of the several divisional officers, and to the royalty on sabai grass from the *Sonthal Parganas* and on mica from *Kodarma*.

Last year the gross yield and outturn was reported as eminently satisfactory; this year it is still better.

54. The following statement exhibits and compares removals from outside the forests credited to the Department:—

	1898-99.			1899-1900.			Difference in 1899-1900.	
	Timber.	Fuel.	Total.	Timber.	Fuel.	Total.	More.	Less.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	C. ft. solid.	C. ft. solid.	C. ft. solid.	C. ft. solid.	C. ft. solid.	C. ft. solid.	C. ft. solid.	C. ft. solid.
Sundarbans leased lands	42,795	2,183,027	2,225,822	37,468	1,775,466	1,812,934	...	422,888
Gandak drift	4,179	5,539	9,718	4,309	6,627	10,936	1,218	...
Total	46,974	2,188,566	2,235,540	41,777	1,782,093	1,823,870	...	...

The smaller removals from the lands (formerly protected forests) leased out for cultivation in the Sundarbans are accounted for by the earlier extensions being now in a great measure cleared of timber.

(1) DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS.

55. *Timber and fuel*, exploited directly by the Department, amounted to 407,715 cubic feet, while in the previous year only 248,982 cubic feet were thus removed. The increase in timber was 90,872 cubic feet and in fuel 67,861. Owing to the policy approved by the Local and Supreme Governments, of favouring the extraction of forest produce by private agency (*vide*

the review of the latter of the Report for 1892-93), this branch of the administration has not hitherto been specially pushed by the Conservator, but as the remarks made in paragraph 13 of the resolution of the Local Government on the last report imply a change of this policy on its part, endeavours to improve the supply by direct agency have been made and will be persevered in, although hitherto no opportunity has been lost. The more important departmental works undertaken during the year were:—

- (1) The supply of fuel to the Commissariat Department at Darjeeling.
- (2) The re-stocking of the Darjeeling Fuel Depôt with charcoal.
- (3) The formation of a fuel depôt at Batasidhara destined to supply the Commissariat Department and the station of Darjeeling (if necessary) with a view to discontinue traffic on the metalled roads of the Public Works Department during the rains.
- (4) The extraction of produce prescribed to be felled by the Tista Working Plan owing to the absence of demand and with a view to working up to the provisions of the plan.
- (5) The conversion of the unusual amount of windfalls in the Tista Division caused by the storm of the 6th April 1899.
- (6) The supply of sleepers from the Jalpaiguri forests to the Bengal-Duars Railway.
- (7) The same to the Cooch Behar extension of the Eastern Bengal State Railway from the Buxa forests.
- (8) The supply of sal poles to the general public from the Sonthal Parganas forests.
- (9) The utilization of the large amount of young teak trees blown down by the cyclone of 1897 in the Chittagong plantations.

The increased outturn of the year is due to the carrying out of the above operations which yielded:—

- (1) 39,168 maunds representing 68,544 cubic feet solid.
- (2) 4,441 bags equalling 31,087 cubic feet solid of firewood.
- (3) 25,306 cubic feet stacked, giving 17,299 cubic feet solid.
- (4) & (5) 37,667 cubic feet, comprising the preparation of 15,069 M. G. sleepers.
- (6) 1,718 cubic feet (694 M. G. sleepers).
- (7) 19,885 cubic feet (7,542 M. G. sleepers).
- (8) 35,028 cubic feet (chiefly sal poles).
- (9) 25,000 cubic feet (2,030 teak logs).

In accordance with the orders of the Local Government conveyed in paragraph 5 of its resolution on the report for 1898-99 under *Working Plans* it is here stated:—

- (1) Sleepers were not hitherto given to the Cooch Behar line as trees were being supplied.
- (2) The Barun-Daltonganj line was not supplied, because that branch procured its sleepers elsewhere, and this Department had no forests capable of giving sleepers within a direct distance of 200 miles from Barun.
- (3) The Department readily disposed of the few sal timber-trees available under the provisions of the working plan for supply to the Bengal-Duars extension from the Jalpaiguri forests at remunerative rates.

Bamboos.—The introduction of the supply to the general public from the *Sonthal Parganas* and the larger number of drift bamboos in *Chittagong* accounted for 555,563 of the total increase in the outturn of 567,109. Of the increase *Sonthal Parganas* contributed 532,881 and *Chittagong* 22,682. Usual operations were less in *Palamau*.

Other minor produce showed an increase of Rs. 4,279 owing to the departmental collection of India-rubber and the seed of the *Phoenix rupicola* in Kurseong, myrabolams in Singhbhum, and *Strychnos Nux-vomica* in Puri.

(2) REMOVAL OF PRODUCE BY PURCHASERS.

(a) *Timber.*

56. The comparison above shows 858,771 cubic feet more to have been removed than in 1898-99, for which the Sundarbans and Singhbhum Divisions are mainly accountable, the excess in the former being 719,955 cubic feet, and in the latter 96,862 cubic feet. Darjeeling, Tista, and Jalpaiguri also show higher figures of 30,413, 12,612, and 12,189 cubic feet, while Kurseong, Sonthal Parganas, Buxa, and Puri are below those of the previous year—Kurseong by 11,738 cubic feet. These differences are said to be due in Sundarbans and in Singhbhum as stated under paragraph 53; in Darjeeling to the large demand for poles from the neighbouring tea concerns to rebuild coolie lines destroyed in September's storm; and in Tista to the great demand for tea-box planking and the large amount of drift brought down by September's floods. In Jalpaiguri no explanation has been given nor yet in Kurseong. The differences in the other divisions are only small.

(b) *Fuel.*

57. There has again been a large increase. Last year the removals exceeded those of the previous year by 2,107,412 cubic feet; this year they are 2,763,547 cubic feet above those of the preceding year. The chief increment being, as then, in the Sundarbans, where the general prosperity caused an excess of 2,260,624 cubic feet. In Tista, Jalpaiguri, Kurseong, Kodarma, and Singhbhum there were by no means small advances: 308,986; 222,807; 73,157; 39,104 and 10,862 cubic feet, mostly due to better markets, but Darjeeling and Buxa were respectively 63,783 and 53,892 cubic feet behind their previous figures, while Puri, Sonthal Parganas, and Chittagong also showed smaller removals, aggregating 35,247 cubic feet. In Tista 66,000 cubic feet of the increase was due to the enormous quantity of drift brought down by the unusually heavy floods of September 1899, while the demand for fuel for tea concerns on the eastern side is greatly increasing owing to the forests on their grants becoming exhausted; in Jalpaiguri no explanation has been given; in Kurseong the large amount of drift swelled the outturn; in Kodarma the requirements of mica-miners increased, and in Singhbhum more fuel was taken by the stations of Chaibassa and Chakardharpur. In Darjeeling the damage to transport roads was accountable for the falling off, and in Buxa the large order for firewood received last year from the Assam-Duars Tea Company was not repeated.

(c) *Bamboos.*

58. In the aggregate 467,520 bamboos less were exploited than in 1898-99. Most divisions improved, notably Chittagong and Darjeeling, where, respectively, 150,571 and 134,337 more were removed: in the former owing to larger exports from the reserved forests, and in the latter to a rise in the mat-making trade and a larger demand for rebuilding the houses destroyed by the storm of September 1899. The successes of these divisions were, however, marred by far greater deficiencies in Angul, Sonthal Parganas, and Palamau. In Angul they amounted to 383,755, in Sonthal Parganas to 334,437, and in Palamau to 143,840, in the first and last, owing to deficient rains preventing floating, and in Sonthal Parganas to the substitution of departmental works.

(d) *Minor Produce.*

59. Omitting bamboos the receipts increased by Rs. 25,621, of which Rs. 16,558 were owing to the imposition of a royalty of one anna per maund on 264,922 maunds of sabai grass exported from Sahibganj—the protected forests of the Sonthal Parganas—to Calcutta for the manufacture of paper. The income from grazing fees and fodder grass was respectively Rs. 938 and Rs. 178 higher, and the net aggregate of the remaining products, including the sabai grass noted above, Rs. 24,505;

better receipts from *golpatta* in the Sundarbans, from mica in Kodarma, and from stone-quarries in the Sonthal Parganas accounting for Rs. 4,725, Rs. 5,067, and Rs. 1,613, respectively. The receipts increased under all classes of produce of any moment except under *hantal* and cane, where they fell by Rs. 2,017 and Rs. 1,535, respectively. Thus the satisfactory improvement noticed last year has been more than maintained. No central depôt has yet been formed at Calcutta, the services of a native broker having been for the present employed instead—so far a cheaper arrangement.

The following statement compares the operations of the year with those of the previous year:—

DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCE.	Reserved forests.		Protected forests.		Unclassed forests.		Total.		Difference in 1899-1900.	
	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	More.	Less.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Grazing ...	20,877	20,496	3,440	4,359	...	...	24,317	25,255	938	...
Fodder grass ...	3,205	3,383	...	...	...	...	3,205	3,383	178	...
Babai grass ...	10,440	11,271	1,851	17,254	...	...	12,291	28,525	16,234	...
Golpata (<i>Nipa fructicans</i>)	57,517	61,917	1,735	2,060	...	...	59,252	63,977	4,725	...
Hantal (<i>Phœnix paludosa</i>)	51	243	8,387	6,176	...	...	8,438	6,421	...	2,017
Honey ...	2,661	2,951	4,520	4,711	...	...	7,181	7,642	461	...
Wax ...	1,025	1,046	1,565	1,645	...	...	2,590	2,690	100	...
Mica ...	8,740	13,489	2,000	2,318	...	...	10,740	15,807	5,067	...
Thatching grass	3,640	3,377	15	15	6,772	7,167	10,427	10,659	132	...
Myrabolams ...	...	...	58	...	...	...	58	...	...	58
Phoenix rupicola seed.	240	...	...	...	...	...	240	...	...	240
Kochila (<i>Strychnos Nux-tomi-ca</i>)	...	75	...	127	...	...	...	202	202	...
India-rubber ...	205	...	...	...	...	...	205	...	...	205
Lac ...	20	5	110	172	...	...	130	177	47	...
Cane ...	3,871	2,738	...	...	1,682	1,290	5,553	4,018	...	1,535
Shells (lime) ...	1,813	1,588	1,811	1,438	...	...	3,024	3,226	...	398
Miscellaneous ...	1,609	1,917	5,555	7,300	183	210	7,347	9,427	2,080	...
Total ...	1,16,004	1,24,875	31,047	47,777	8,637	8,667	1,55,688*	1,81,309†	30,164	4,543
DIFFERENCE IN 1899-1900.	+ 8,871		+ 16,730		+ 30		+ 25,621		...	

* Includes Rs. 982 estimated value of produce removed from Hill Tippera.
† " Rs. 2,108 ditto ditto ditto ditto.

(3.) FREE GRANTS OF FOREST-PRODUCE.

60. As will be seen from the statement in paragraph 53 above, there has been a satisfactory decline in the outturn under Removals by free-grantees. all classes:—

In timber, eliminating the abnormal quantities of 26,206 cubic feet used by the Angul Khedda party and 11,549 cubic feet given to the Political Officer, Sikkim, during the previous year, the free grants were in excess by 9,212 cubic feet. This amount includes 4,800 cubic feet, valued at Rs. 1,313, given to Mr. Keventer to construct his dairy buildings, 1,796 cubic feet to the Darjeeling District Road Cess Committee from the Darjeeling and Kurseong forests, 2,376 cubic feet in Buxa to induce the villagers to work for the Department, and 1,851 cubic feet for bridges in the Singhbhum district.

In fuel the gifts fell by 109,132 cubic feet entirely owing to no material being this year used by the Angul Kheddass, the stockade having been built in the Protected forests.

In minor produce they included 38,914 cubic feet of building stone given to Mr. Keventer, valued at Rs. 145.

(4.) PRODUCE REMOVED BY RIGHT-HOLDERS AND UNDER PRIVILEGES.

61. These are practically the same as last year except as regards fuel and bamboos, of which the removals were 405,388 cubic feet less and 192,400 in number more; the Removal by right-holders and under privileges. former owing to reduced estimates in the Singhbhum Division of 521,663 cubic feet and increased removals in Chittagong of 116,275, and the latter entirely to better supervision over the privilege-holders in the Chittagong Division. There was a decrease of Rs. 297 in grazing and an increase of Rs. 2,722 in other minor products, the latter in the Singhbhum Division consequent on more correct estimates.

CHAPTER IV.—FINANCIAL RESULTS.

62. The financial results of the year, as shown by Form No. 61, were—

				Rs.
Receipts	...	...	...	11,61,175
Charges	...	...	...	5,55,464
				<hr/>
		Surplus	...	6,05,711
				<hr/>

and compare with those of the preceding five years as follows:—

	Financial year.			Forest year.		
	Receipts.	Charges.	Surplus.	Receipts.	Charges.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894-95	7,95,873	3,98,601	3,97,072	8,25,669	4,09,552	4,16,117
1895-96	9,18,709	4,86,068	4,52,641	9,35,880	4,75,601	4,60,079
1896-97	13,70,849	6,90,042	6,80,807	13,45,982	6,96,378	6,49,604
1897-98	11,89,285	6,53,437	5,35,848	12,20,617	6,55,251	5,65,368
1898-99	9,72,313	4,86,319	4,85,994	10,07,254	4,86,694	5,20,560
1899-1900	11,38,912	5,45,205	5,93,707	11,61,175	5,55,464	6,05,711

The gross receipts and charges, as well as the surplus, are far in excess of the previous years', and, eliminating the exceptional years 1896—98, are *again* the highest on record since the formation of the Department.

The gross revenue was greater than that of the previous year by Rs. 1,53,921 and the surplus by Rs. 85,151; while the expenditure rose by Rs. 68,770. These better results are mostly due to improved removals, both by purchasers and by Government, of timber, firewood, minor products and bamboos, mainly from the Sundarbaus and the Sonthal Parganas, full explanation of which has already been given in Chapter III.

The proportion of surplus to gross revenue was 52·16 per cent., as compared with 51·68 per cent. in the previous year and 45·06 per cent. in 1897-98. The ratio of expenditure to gross revenue was 47·84 per cent. and the net revenue per square mile Rs. 44·9·2, against 48·38 per cent. and Rs. 38 in 1898-99.

The value, at half purchasers' rates—the rates fixed by Government—of the produce granted free or removed at reduced rates, is given in Appendix B; the loss sustained by Government amounted to Rs. 2,55,164.

The following table shows the surplus obtained since 1873-74 by decades:—

				Rs.
1873-74 to 1882-83	...	...	...	13,79,465
1883-84 to 1892-93	...	...	...	29,05,556
1893-94 to date (7 years)	...	...	...	35,91,411

These results have not been attained without a large amount of over-work, while the time of the Conservator has been spent entirely on the development of the Provincial Department to the exclusion of Imperial considerations in the furtherance of science. To thoroughly understand the importance of the year's results financially, it is necessary to note:—

				Rs.
Cash surplus	...	...	...	6,05,711
Value of increased stock in hand	...	...	...	53,151
Ditto ditto outstandings	...	...	...	3,645
Ditto free grants and reduced rates	...	...	...	2,55,164
				<hr/>
		Total	...	9,17,671
				<hr/>

Comparison of revenue from the different sources.

63. The revenue from the different sources was :—

SOURCES.	FOREST YEAR.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1899-1900.	1898-99.		
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Timber	5,40,029	4,71,574	74,455	.....
Fuel	3,18,767	2,74,626	44,141	.....
Bamboos	58,108	51,373	6,735	.....
Grazing and fodder	25,500	23,753	1,747	.....
Minor produce	1,51,810	1,25,802	26,008	.....
Other items	14,249	14,185	64	.....
Drift and confiscated produce ...	9,984	10,177	.....	193
Miscellaneous	36,728	35,764	964	.....
Total	11,61,175	10,07,254	1,53,921	.....

Every source except drift shows a considerable increase, the explanation of which will be understood from the remarks already given in Chapter III.

Comparison of expenditure.

64. The expenditure was :—

BUDGET HEADS.	FOREST YEAR.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1899-1900.	1898-99.		
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
<i>A.—Conservancy and Works.</i>				
I.—Timber, etc., by Government agency ...	41,961	14,773	27,188	.....
II.— Ditto by purchasers	58,091	56,346	1,745	.....
III.—Drift and waif wood, etc.	2,237	1,908	329	.....
VI.—Live and dead stock	20,313	13,835	6,478	.....
VII.—Communications and buildings	53,593	57,707	...	4,174
VIII.—Organization, etc.	56,445	35,529	20,916	.....
IX.—Miscellaneous	15,095	5,803	9,292	.....
Total A.—Conservancy and Works ...	2,47,735	1,85,961	61,774	.....
<i>B.—Establishments.</i>				
I.—Salaries	2,49,082	2,44,410	4,672	.....
II.—Travelling allowances	43,253	42,157	1,096	.....
III.—Contingencies	15,394	14,166	1,228	.....
Total B.—Establishments ...	3,07,729	3,00,733	6,996	.....
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURE ...	5,55,464	4,86,694	68,770	.....

An increase of revenue naturally causes an increase of expenditure under heads AI to VI. Thus only Rs. 35,740 were spent in excess of last year's

figures on the production of revenue, and on the works mentioned in paragraph 55, of which Rs. 10,973 under AVI were consequent on the part cost of the new steam-launch, the *Helen Grey*, for the Chittagong Division. Communications and buildings showed a smaller cost by Rs. 4,174 owing to all the works intended not being carried out, while upon organization, improvement, &c., of the forests, a sum of Rs. 20,916 more was spent, chiefly (Rs. 12,113) on surveys in the Singhbhum Division. On miscellaneous items, there was also a larger outlay of Rs. 9,292, mainly occasioned by the Department having to pay Rs. 8,294—costs in the Baikantpur or Jalpaiguri Division drift timber case which was finally decided upon appeal by Her Majesty's Privy Council on the 6th February 1897.

Under B—Establishments—the additional expenditure of Rs. 6,996 was mainly in salaries, while there was also naturally a small rise in the cost of allowances for travelling and contingencies.

65. The financial position of each division was:—

DIVISION.	Receipts.		Charges.		Surplus.		Deficit.		RESULTS OF THE YEAR 1899-1900, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1898-99.	
	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	In favour of the year.	Against the year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direction ...	3,519	10,442	44,466	30,969	...	...	40,947	29,527	...	11,420
Darjeeling ..	78,087	81,566	71,018	61,928	7,069	19,638	...	...	...	12,569
Tista ...	30,205	25,716	33,881	25,174	...	...	3,676	1,458	...	2,218
Kurseong ...	44,360	40,735	32,288	33,622	12,072	7,113	...	...	4,959	...
Jalpaiguri ...	55,780	54,558	34,378	24,131	22,402	30,427	...	...	...	8,025
Buxa ...	23,826	17,653	33,653	23,315	...	...	4,857	5,863	1,006	...
Sonthal Parganas	49,786	22,578	35,920	23,670	23,866	...	...	1,092	24,958	...
Hazaribagh ...	19,055	4,930	3,382	661	15,123	4,269	...	...	10,854	...
Palamau ...	2,374	3,302	12,480	12,657	...	...	10,106	9,295	...	811
Singhbhum ...	67,729	47,597	74,929	48,010	...	...	6,800	443	...	947
Angul ...	5,279	4,002	13,628	15,019	...	...	8,349	11,017	2,668	...
Puri ...	31,371	25,841	95,324	25,718	6,047	...	...	877	6,924	...
Sundarbans ...	6,34,644	5,69,313	95,401	1,00,217	5,39,243	4,63,096	...	...	76,147	...
Chittagong ...	1,09,160	1,01,192	55,036	45,903	54,124	55,589	...	...	...	1,465
Total ...	11,61,175	10,07,254	5,55,464	4,86,694	6,79,946	5,80,132	74,235	59,572	1,27,516	42,365
Net surplus ...	...	...	...	...	6,05,711	5,20,560	...	...	85,151	...

NOTE.—Last year Hazaribagh was included in Direction.

The statement is again disappointing and it is hoped that, during the current year, those Divisional Officers especially, who are in charge of divisions that have worked at a loss will, for the future, act up to the remarks in this connection made by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province and by the Government of India on the statement of the previous year. Sundarbans and Sonthal Parganas have done remarkably well and considerable improvement has been made in Puri, the figures for all three divisions being the highest on record. In the Sundarbans the gross receipts amounted to the unprecedented sum of Rs. 6,34,644, while the surplus was Rs. 76,147 above that of 1898-99—a record year. Great credit is due to the officers in charge for this result. The results in the Darjeeling division are not encouraging though they have been influenced to the extent of Rs. 11,241 in sales of timber and fuel owing to the interruptions caused by the storm of September 1899, while there is Rs. 2,109 worth of stock more on hand. In Singhbhum the deficit of Rs. 6,300 would have been a surplus of Rs. 5,813, had not so large a sum as Rs. 12,113 been spent on 'capital account,' viz., surveys; there was a satisfactory increase of Rs. 20,945 under sales of timber. Tista also would have been to the good by some Rs. 24,000 had not the breaks in the Tista Valley road prevented the disposal of the 15,069 sleepers prepared. The expenditure in Jalpaiguri included the unusual payment of Rs. 8,294 above mentioned, otherwise the surplus would have risen to Rs. 30,696. That Buxa did not convert its deficit into a surplus is entirely owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable workmen in a climate with such a bad reputation; this desired result is, however, confidently expected next year. Improvement will also be made in Angul. In Chittagong the position has been maintained, while the gross receipts are the highest for the past 15 years.

It is noteworthy that the figures for the new Sonthal Parganas Division under the management of Mr. French altogether dispel the fears of the Secretary of State, and more than justify the estimates made by the Conservator on the occasion of his application for an additional officer for this charge which was so long denied him.

The following is the order in which the divisions stand:—

	Position in		
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.
Direction	13*	13*	14*
Darjeeling	9*	4	7
Tista	10*	9*	9*
Kurseong	6	5	6
Jalpaiguri	4	3	4
Buxa	8*	10*	10*
Sonthal Parganas	7	8*	3
Hazaribagh (Direction)	...	...	6
Palamau	12*	11*	13*
Singhbhum	2	6*	11*
Angul	11*	12*	12*
Puri	6	7*	8
Sundarbans	1	1	1
Chittagong	3	2	2

Divisions marked * showed a deficit.

In conformity with the orders conveyed in Government letter No. 402, dated the 23rd January 1900, it is remarked that no individual officers have as yet shown much special aptitude for commercial undertakings; that the Department has a commercial as well as a scientific side is, however, the Conservator thinks, now recognised. Most officers have willingly assisted in opening out new markets for our products, and it is confidently hoped that a certain zeal in this direction has now been aroused, which will bear fruit in the future.

Value of live and dead stock (Forms Nos. 60A and 60B).

66. The difference in the value of timber and other produce and of live and dead stock at the close of the year was:—

	Timber, etc.	Live and dead stock.
	Rs.	Rs.
Value on 1st July 1899	16,870	3,52,547
„ 30th June 1900	42,297	3,80,271
Difference	+25,427	+27,724
Net difference in favour of the year	...	59,151

The increased value of timber, &c., on hand is mainly due to the inability to dispose of the sleepers prepared in the Tista Division, and to the stock of myrabolams and Phoenix rupicola seeds remaining unsold; that of dead stock is owing to the steam launch for the Chittagong Division and the new residences at Dumka and Chaibassa.

67. The outstandings on account of revenue at the close of the year were Rs. 18,520 as compared with Rs. 14,875 of the previous year. Of this sum Rs. 5,121 were due in Darjeeling from the Commissariat and Public Works Departments, Rs. 2,498 in Hazaribagh for arrears of rent of mica mines, and Rs. 8,100 in Puri, representing grazing fees uncollected.

The outstandings in the Darjeeling Division should have been recovered during the year.

68. The outstandings on account of contractors and disbursers at the close of the year were Rs. 10,506 as compared with Rs. 7,001 at its commencement. The large sum due in the Darjeeling Division should have been adjusted, at least to some extent.

Outstandings on account of contractors and disbursers (Form No. 64).

Net results of the year.

69. The value of the year's transactions is:—

	Rs.
Cash surplus	6,06,711
<i>Add—</i>	
Increased outstanding revenue (Form No. 63) ...	3,645
„ value of stock (Form Nos. 60A and 60B) ...	53,151
	6,62,507
<i>Deduct—</i>	
Revenue received for produce unsupplied ...	7,709
Total in favour of the year ...	6,54,798

CHAPTER V.—FOREST ADMINISTRATION.

70. The charge of the Circle was held by Mr. A. E. Wild, throughout the year.

The usual list of divisional charges is not given this year; it is trusted its omission will be approved.

The office of the Personal Assistant to the Conservator was filled by Mr. F. Trafford, Officiating Deputy Conservator, in addition to his charge of the Direction Division.

Mr. H. H. Haines, F.C.H., Deputy Conservator, was placed on special duty, in connection with the working-plan for the forests of the Singhbhum Division, from the 9th January till the 26th March 1900, when he resumed charge of that Division.

71. Officers were attached to the more important Divisions for general duty, viz., to the Darjeeling Division one, to Singhbhum three, and to Sundarbans (for a part of the year) two.

In addition the following officers were employed as below:—

- Mr. E. G. Chester, Deputy Conservator, continued to officiate as Conservator of the Assam Circle, up to the 28th December 1899.
- „ F. B. Manson, Deputy Conservator, retained his post as Officiating Conservator of the Tenasserim Circle, throughout the year. He was also on special duty for a time, in connection with the Paris Exhibition.
- „ C. G. D. Fordyce, Deputy Conservator, continued to officiate as Conservator of the Central Circle, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, up to the 19th October 1899.
- „ B. L. Heinig, Deputy Conservator, was in charge of the Andamans Forests.
- „ C. G. Rogers, F.C.H., Deputy Conservator, was on special duty under the Government of India, from 28th June to 5th October 1899, to complete his work on Forest Engineering.
- „ E. P. Stebbing, Officiating Deputy Conservator, was also on special duty under the Government of India, from 6th November 1899 to 31st January 1900, in connection with the Paris Exhibition.

72. The changes in the different charges were far too many. Out of thirteen divisions, only four remained undisturbed.

73. Five officers of the controlling staff and three Extra Assistant Conservators were absent on leave during portions of the year. In consequence the Department lost the services of one Imperial officer for the whole year and of a second for 6½ months, while a Provincial officer was away continuously for 9 months.

74. Since the close of the year, three new appointments have been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Secretary of State, viz., one Deputy Conservator, 1st and 3rd grades respectively, and one Assistant Conservator, 2nd grade.

75. Mr. R. Quinnell, Extra Assistant Conservator; who had been absent from duty since the 15th of June 1897, resigned the service from the 24th June 1900.

76. Officers passed departmental examinations as follows :—

- Examination of officers.
- Mr. T. H. Monteath, Assistant Conservator—Forest Law, Land Revenue and Procedure and Accounts.
 - „ E. R. Stevens, Assistant Conservator—Land Revenue, Procedure and Accounts and Hindustani, Lower and Higher Standards.
 - „ P. J. Draper, Forest Ranger—Hindustani by the Higher Standard.
 - Babu Guru Das Chatterjee, Extra Assistant Conservator—Land Revenue.
 - „ Lalit Mohun Sen, Forest Ranger—Forest Law and Procedure and Accounts (the latter with honours).
 - „ Ashutosh Chuckerbutty, Forest Ranger—Land Revenue and Procedure and Accounts.

77. Divisional officers were away from head-quarters on inspection duty for a period averaging 197 days. Usual tours were made, and there is no remissness in this respect to notice.

Tours of inspection.

The Conservator visited the Darjeeling, Kurseong, Jalpaiguri, Sonthal Parganas and Sundarbans Divisions, as well as the forests of the Hazaribagh district, and inspected the offices of those Divisions (except Sonthal Parganas), being absent from head-quarters for 167 days.

78. The non-receipt of orders on the proposed increase of the office establishment is keenly felt. On the whole, the clerks performed their duties satisfactorily. Commendatory remarks have been entered in the confidential reports of those to whom praise is due.

79. The subordinate forest establishment has, generally speaking, worked to the satisfaction of the divisional officers concerned, though in some cases there has been a want of zeal and energy; the usual annual record has been made in the case of each subordinate.

Efficiency of the subordinate forest staff.

The case of the Chittagong staff implicated in the frauds perpetrated by the Head Clerk, Soshi Kumar Sen, has been reconsidered by Government and the punishment reduced in some instances.

One Forester and 14 guards were dismissed, the former for theft of Government money from the S. S. "Swan" in the Sundarbans Division.

One Forest Ranger (Babu Harigopal De Biswas), 3 Foresters and 7 guards resigned.

Forester Ramjan Ali in Palamau was unsuccessfully prosecuted under sections 161 and 384 of the Indian Penal Code for accepting illegal gratification.

An office peon in Singhbhum was sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment for theft of Government money.

Moharrir Gokul Singh, Temporary establishment, in charge of the Darjeeling Fuel Depôt, was sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment for embezzlement, the sentence being, however, reduced to 18 months on appeal; his peon, charged with aiding and abetting, was sentenced to one year's imprisonment, but was acquitted on appeal. The moharrir has now taken his case to the High Court.

A villager, named Joseph, was prosecuted for personating a forest guard in Singhbhum and punished with four years' rigorous imprisonment for extortion under that guise.

80. The health of the establishment was not satisfactory, though there were fewer deaths than in the previous year.

Health of establishment.

Six guards—one in Tista, four in Kurseong, and one in Jalpaiguri—and one forester—Babu Kisory Mohan Dass, in Chittagong—died.

81. Probationer Rai Mohan Chuckerbutty, referred to in paragraph 91 of the last report, passed out of the Dehra-Dun Forest School with a Ranger's certificate, in April 1900, and one student, Narayan Chandra Banerjee, was sent to the school on a stipend. One Government student, Deputy Ranger Priya Nath Sirkar, also entered the school on 6th April 1900. Rules regarding the grant of stipends were passed by Government—*vide*, Notification dated 30th July 1900.

GENERAL REMARKS.

82. The District of Darjeeling was visited by a storm of unprecedented violence on the 24th September 1899, which culminated on the early morning of the 25th with a tremendous downpour causing enormous damage, chiefly in the form of landslips, and also serious loss of life. The storm has been separately reported on by a Committee which sat in Darjeeling under the orders of Government shortly after the occurrence, whose meetings were attended by the Conservator; it was the subject of special notice in all the newspapers at the time. It may be interesting to place on record in the annals of the Forest Department the abnormal rainfall as registered by the Conservator :—

Storms.

Date.	Time of day.	Gauge reading.	Amount of fall.
23rd	... 8 A.M.	111.39	...
24th	... { 10-45 A.M.	120.31	8.92
	... { 11-45 A.M.	121.04	0.73
	... { 8 P.M.	127.30	6.26
25th	... 8 A.M.	140.76	13.46
			29.37

The storm ceased about 5 A.M. on the 25th. Thus during the last nine hours there was a fall of 13.46 inches.

The damage done to the forests was considerable, but markedly less than in the unwooded areas; it was confined mainly to the forests around Darjeeling, and the chief disaster was a most formidable landslip in the Setikhola jhora, which has subsequently extended up to the top of the Senchal hill. In the Tista river and its tributaries, the Rungnu and the Bara Rangit, the excessive rain caused roaring torrents, which brought down large deposits of silt, often 20 to 40 feet deep, and destroyed or entirely washed away low-lying strips of forest on their immediate banks, while the beds of most streams were much scoured out and widened. Even so low down as the Jalpaiguri Division, a bed of silt was formed in the Apalchand Forest. It is estimated that 463 acres of forest in the Darjeeling Division, and some 450 out of 600 acres in the bed of the Balasun river in the Kurseong Division have been lost, but it is satisfactory to be able to state that the Setikhola and the Rungnu slips are the only ones likely to extend. These heavy floods brought down an unprecedented quantity of drift-wood, notably in the Tista and the several rivers in the Terai, the bulk of which lodged in that portion of the Tista over which the Rani of Bykantpur has the right of *jalkar*, though a very large amount stranded in the Terai, the revenue from which was a slight set off against the damage done. The damage to roads and paths was, of course, extensive in the three hill divisions of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Tista. Allusion has already been made to the former in paragraph 19, while in Kurseong and Tista the export of produce by the Tista Valley Road has been entirely prevented. Another storm, accompanied by a severe fall of hail and strong wind, occurred on the 9th April 1900, and extended into the Jalpaiguri district. Not much harm was done in the forests around Darjeeling, but as the storm swept down the Mangwa ridge into the Tista Valley, it uprooted or snapped off 352 trees of 4 to 5 feet in girth, of which 157 were sal.

83. *Khedda* operations on a small scale were undertaken by the Civil Department in the forests of the Jalpaiguri, Buxa and Angul Divisions. Some six or seven elephants were caught in the two former, but none in the latter.

84. Twenty-nine men were killed by tigers in the Sundarbans, whilst the number of tigers killed was 13, including three cubs, for which a total sum of Rs. 410 was paid in rewards. In the previous year 28 persons and 12 tigers were killed.

85. By Notification No. 843T.R., dated the 13th October 1899, the killing of rhinoceros in the reserved forests of the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts was made penal. As requested by Government, it is reported that no further measures for the preservation of this animal are at present called for.

86. Forest products were exhibited, as heretofore, at the *méla* held at Kalimpong; the Divisional Officer has offered a prize for the best collection of minor economic products made by subordinates or others at the next *méla*.

87. Specimens of forest products, photographs, &c., were collected in the early part of the year and despatched to the Paris Exhibition of 1900. Inspector-General of Forests for transmission to the Exhibition, the services of Mr. Stebbing, Officiating Deputy Conservator of Forests, being lent for the space of two and-a-half months for the purpose of assisting in the cataloguing and despatch. No award was given to Bengal specially, but the Indian Forest Department obtained the Grand Prix for collective exhibit in Class 54—Forest Products.

88. The Darjeeling Divisional Officer had, as usual, the charge of the Birch Hill Park, the Lebong Forest, and several small plots within the station of Darjeeling, while as a working member of the Darjeeling Improvement Committee his services were in great request to carry out works of improvement, &c. The business, however, seriously interfered with the efficient management of his Division, and was, in consequence, handed over on the 20th May to the Personal Assistant to the Conservator.

89. A steam-launch, the *Helen Grey*, of 17·3 tons, with a length of 55½ feet and a breadth of 10½ feet, drawing forward 2' 9" and aft 4' 8", was completed by the Royal Indian Marine Department at the Kidderpore Docks in November 1899 at a total cost of Rs. 16,179 for the use of the Chittagong Divisional Officer.

DARJEELING;
The 27th October 1900.

A. E. WILD,
Conservator of Forests, Bengal.

FORM No. 46.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Area of Reserved Forests, 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	RANGE.	Civil district.	NAME OF FOREST.	AREA ON 1ST JULY 1899.		ADDED DURING THE YEAR.	EXCLUDED OR TRANSFERRED TO OTHER HEADS.	AREA ON 30TH JUNE 1900.		No. and date of notification of addition or transfer, etc.	REMARKS.
				Acres.	Equivalent in square miles.			Acres.	Equivalent in square miles.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Darjeeling	Darjeeling.	.....	73,408	114	...	...	73,408	114	.....	409 acres made over to the charge of other Departments, of which one acre was transferred during the year.
Tista	135,316	212	135,316	212	.....		300 acres in charge of Civil Department.
Kurseong	Jalpaiguri	.....	70,081	109	...	...	70,081	109	.....	113 acres in charge of Civil Department.
Jalpaiguri	116,865	183	116,865	183	.....		44 acres leased to tea estates.
Buxa	Hazaribagh	.....	197,659	309	...	...	197,659	309	.....	850 acres leased for coal mining.
Direction	36,392	57	...	...	36,392	57	.....
Palamau	Singhbhum	.....	120,389	188	...	...	120,389	188	.....	Includes 160 acres made over to Babu Jsgomohan Singh (vide Government order No. 1090, dated 14th March 1898).
Singhbhum	468,842	733	...	...	468,842	733	.....
Angul	Angul ...	.....	160,644	251	...	...	160,644	251	.....	Land Settlement Report of 1897-98 recently issued shows 72,546 acres or a larger area of 1,833 acres. Reason for difference under enquiry.
Puri	Puri ...	.....	70,713	110	...	...	70,713	110	.....
Sundarbans	Khulna ...	.....	1,338,880	2,092	...	...	1,338,880	2,092	.....	Land Settlement Report of 1897-98 recently issued shows 72,546 acres or a larger area of 1,833 acres. Reason for difference under enquiry.
Chittagong	Chittagong Hill Tracts. Chittagong Collectorate. Noakhali ...	.....	974,622	1,523	...	...	974,622	1,523	.....
Total ...				3,763,901	5,881	...	...	3,763,901	5,881	.....
TOTAL FOR 1898-99 ...				3,763,378	5,880	523	...	3,763,901	5,881	.....

FORM No. 46A.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Area of Protected Forests, 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	RANGE.	Civil district.	NAME OF FOREST.	AREA ON 1ST JULY 1899.		ADDED DURING THE YEAR.	EXCLUDED OR TRANSFERRED TO OTHER HEADS.	AREA ON 30TH JUNE 1900.		No. and date of notification of addition or transfer, etc.	REMARKS.
				Acres.	Equivalent in square miles.			Acres.	Equivalent in square miles.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sonthal Parganas.	...	Sonthal Parganas.	.....	278,400	435	...	...	278,400	435	.....	Area estimated. Saoria tract, over 113 square miles, ordered to be transferred to the management of the Deputy Commissioner not yet made over.
Direction Palamau	Hazaribagh Palamau ...	.....	20,780	33	...	...	20,780	33	.....	Roughly estimated.
Singhbhum.	...	Ranchi ...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	Area of the blocks the department will probably only retain.
Angul	Manbhum ...	.....	9,788	15	...	...	...	...	.....	Area unknown.
Puri	Angul ...	.....	242,032	378	...	...	242,032	378	.....	Area estimated.
Sundarbans.	...	Puri ...	.....	186,452	291	...	...	186,452	291	.....	Under the management of the Deputy Commissioner.
Sundarbans.	...	24-Parganas	{ Diamond Harbour ... Baruipur ... Basirhat ... }	1,332,624	2,083	...	{ 60,132 14,970 15,097 }	1,242,425	1,942	3438 For., dated 20th September 1899. 3596 For., dated 3rd October 1899. 279 For. to 291 For., dated 16th January 1900. 1273 T.R., dated 5th July 1900. 2412 For., dated 16th July 1900.	Land Settlement Report of 1897-98 recently issued shows 238,177 acres, or a larger area of 51,725 acres. Reason for difference under enquiry. Retransferred to the jurisdiction of the Sundarbans Commissioner for leasing out.
Total ...				2,442,108	3,816	...	90,199	2,351,909	3,675	.....
TOTAL FOR 1898-99 ...				2,214,478	3,460	242,734	15,104	2,442,108	3,816	.....

FORM No. 46B.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Area of Unclassed Forests, 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	RANGE.	Civil district.	NAME OF FOREST.	AREA ON 1ST JULY 1899.		ADDED DURING THE YEAR.	EXCLUDED OR TRANSFERRED TO OTHER HEADS.	AREA ON 30TH JUNE 1900.		No. and date of notification of addition or transfer, &c.	REMARKS.
				Acres.	Equivalent in square miles.			Acres.	Equivalent in square miles.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Chittagong	...	Chittagong Hill Tracts.	.....	2,581,420	4,033	...	...	2,581,420	4,033		
			Total ...	2,581,420	4,033	...	...	2,581,420	4,033		
			TOTAL FOR 1899-00 ...	2,581,783	4,034	...	363	2,581,420	4,033		

FORM No. 47.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Statement showing the Progress made in, and the Expenditure incurred on, Forest Settlements during 1899-1900.

Name of Forest Division.	Name of Civil District or territory.	Area already settled at commencement of the year.	AREAS FINALLY SETTLED DURING THE YEAR.						AREAS UNDERGOING SETTLEMENT.						REMARKS.	
			No. and date of Government order according 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 areas finally settled during the year.	At commencement of the year.		Taken in hand during the year.		Expenditure incurred during the year on areas undergoing settlement.			
						In Forest ac-counts.	In other ac-counts.		Name of tract.	Area in square miles.	Name of tract.	Area in square miles.	In Forest ac-counts.	In other ac-counts.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
		Sq. m.				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.					Rs.	Rs.		
Darjeeling	...	114	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tista	...	212	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kurseong	...	169	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jalpaiguri	...	183	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buxa	...	202	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Direction...	...	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palaman ..	...	188	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Singbhum.	...	733	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Angul ...	...	251	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puri ...	...	110	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sundarbans	...	2,092	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chittagong	Chittagong Collector-ate.	1,523	1. Southern Sitakund. 88 2. Deong 4 3. Jaldi 75 4. Patia and South Bangunia. 90 5. Raojan 60 6. Chakuria Sundarbans. 30 7. Harbang and Chunati jungles. 39 8. Kingbang 12 9. Gorjania Khan. lakhali. 102 10. Teknaf 272 11. Nal Sundarbans. 70	88
	Total ...	5,851	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	842	...	...	...	...	...
	Total for 1898 99.	5,851	...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	842	...	...	...	...	...

Notification No. 419 For., dated 23rd January 1894, under section 4.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Record of Demarcation and Maintenance of Boundaries, 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	Length of boundaries artificially demarcated during the year.	Length of previously existing boundaries repaired.	Length of previously existing boundaries not repaired.	Total length of artificially marked boundaries at the close of the year.	Length of boundaries still to be demarcated at the close of the year.	Length of natural boundaries not requiring artificial marks.	Total length of boundaries at the close of the year.	EXPENDITURE ON DEMARCATION DURING THE YEAR.		REMARKS.
								On new work.	On repairs.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Rs.	Rs.	
RESERVED FORESTS.										
Darjeeling ... ..	...	109	47	156(a)	...	74	230	...	473	(a) Erroneously shown as 154 miles in last return.
Tista ... ..	...	169	7(b)	176	...	71	247	...	776	(b) Maintained by civil authorities.
Kurseong ... ..	...	109	...	109	...	132	241	...	442	
Jalpaiguri	1	93	15	109	...	106	215	9	827	
Buxa ... ..	...	106	...	106	...	140	255	...	1,012	
Direction ... ..	...	53	...	53	...	6	59	...	111	
Palsmau ... ..	...	153	6	159	...	81	240	...	47	
Singhbhum	2	705	...	707	1	120	828	23	1,812	4 miles transferred from column 6 to column 7 as not requiring demarcation.
Angul ... ..	...	272	4	276	...	16	292	...	969	
Puri ... ..	...	223	6	229	...	3	232	...	763	
Sundarbans ... ..	...	9	...	9	...	230	239	...	72	
Chittagong ... ..	...	142	37	179	...	472	651	...	1,906	
Total	3	2,143	122	2,268	1	1,460	3,729	31	9,660	
PROTECTED FOREST.										
Sonthal Parganas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Boundaries undefined. Ditto ditto.
Direction ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palamau ... ..	...	206	...	206	...	51	347	...	...
Singhbhum	39	546	175	760	70	...	830	...	17	
Angul ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto ditto.
Puri ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto ditto.
Sundarbans ... ..	...	...	20	20	...	260	280	...	...	Artificial boundaries are demarcated and maintained under the orders and supervision of the Commissioner in the Sundarbans by the lessees of the adjacent lots of waste lands in accordance with the terms of their leases.
Total	39	842	195	1,076	70	311	1,457	...	17	
GRAND TOTAL	42	2,985	317	3,344	71	1,771	5,186	31	9,677	
TOTAL FOR 1899-00	667	2,257	376	3,300	116	1,768	5,184	304	8,686	

A.B.—Boundaries include, besides the outer perimeter, the limits of enclosures of private or other lands within the forests, but not the limits of sub-divisions, such as blocks, compartments, coupes.

FOREST DEPART

Statement of Forest areas surveyed and under survey

DIVISION.	AREAS SURVEYED AND UNDER SURVEY DURING THE															
	SPECIAL SURVEYS—MAPS ON 4" SCALE OR OVER, BY SURVEY OF INDIA DEPARTMENT OR FOREST SURVEY BRANCH.								ORDINARY, INCLUDED IN DISTRICT SURVEYS.							
	With interior details.				Boundary surveys.				With interior details.				Boundary surveys.			
	With details of growing stock.		Without details of growing stock.		Total cost.	Previ-ous.	Of the year.	Total cost.	With details of growing stock.		Without details of growing stock.		Total cost.	Previ-ous.	Of the year.	Total cost.
	Previ-ous.	Of the year.	Previ-ous.	Of the year.					Previ-ous.	Of the year.	Previ-ous.	Of the year.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Sq. M	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Rs.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Rs.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Rs.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Rs.
	RESERVED															
Darjeeling
Tista
Kurseong
Jalpaiguri	183	...	(b)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buxa	309	...	57,663	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Direction
Palamau
Singhbhum	185	...	532*	...	3,233	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Angul	251†	...	...(e)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	110(f)	...	...(e)
Puri
Sundarbans	2,092	...	...(e)	...	...	...
Chittagong
Total Reserved	743	185	57,663	532	...	3,233	...	...	2,092	...	...	110	...	...
	PROTECTED															
Sonthal Parganas
Hazaribagh
Palamau
Singhbhum
Angul
Puri	291(f)	...	...(e)
Sundarbans	1,942 (j)	...	...(e)	...	...	...
Total Protected	1,942	...	...	291	...	...
	UNCLASSED															
Chittagong
GRAND TOTAL	743	185	57,663	532	...	3,233	...	...	4,034	...	...	401	...	...
TOTAL FOR 1898-99	743	...	57,663	532	...	3,233	...	...	4,175	...	...	401	...	...

* Linear
† Of this area 215

No. 49.

MENT, BENGAL.

during the year 1899-1900.

YEAR.													REMARKS.				
CHAIN AND COMPASS OR OTHER SURVEYS BY LOCAL OFFICERS.										COST.							
With interior details.					Boundary surveys.					Areas remaining to be taken under survey.	Total forest area at end of the year, as per Form No. 46.	Previ-ous.		Of the year.	Entire cost of all surveys to end of the year.		
4-inch or over.		Under 4-inch.		Total cost.	Previ-ous.	Of the year.	Total cost.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.							Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Previ-ous.	Of the year.	Previ-ous.	Of the year.										18						19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Rs.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Rs.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.					
FORESTS.																	
...	12(a)	1,877	114	114	...	1,877	1,877	(a) Surveyed mainly in 1898-99, but not shown; completed during 1899-1900.				
...	212	212	...	...	...	...
...	109	109	...	...	...	...
...	183	...	...	...	...
...	309	...	...	...	...
...	57	...	...	...	...
...	188	...	225	188	188	...	225	...	...		
...				
...	548(c)	733	3,233	12,313	15,546	(c) Under survey by the Imperial Forest Survey Branch. 185 square miles out of 733 in hand completed during year.				
...	251	...	...	...	...
...	110	110	...	...	...	...
...	2,092	...	...	...	...
...	1,518	...	968	1,523	1,523	968	...	968	(e) Cost unknown. 40 miles of boundary were surveyed during the year at a cost of Rs. 49.				
...	(f) Survey done by Survey of India Department in connection with the Settlement of the Khurda Government estate at no cost to the Forest Department.				
...	1,706	12	3,070	2,861	5,881	62,089	14,190	76,279	(g) Area uncertain.				
FORESTS.																	
...	435(g)	435	...	...	...	...
...	33	33	...	...	...	...
...	81(h)	...	...	81	81	...	...	...	...
...				
...	212(h)	...	...	515(i)	515	...	...	...	...
...	378	378	...	...	...	...
...	291	291	...	...	...	...
...	1,942	...	...	...	...
...	293	...	...	1,733	3,675	...	...	...	...
FORESTS.																	
...	4,033	4,033	...	...	...	...
...	1,999	12	8,070	8,027	13,589	62,089	14,190	76,279	(j) Last year's figures reduced by 141 owing to exclusions.				
...	1,999	...	1,193	8,812	13,730	62,089	...	62,089					

miles.
square miles on 2" scale.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Progress made in Working-Plans, 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	AREAS FOR WHICH WORKING-PLANS HAVE BEEN SANCTIONED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT.		AREAS FOR WHICH WORKING-PLANS ARE BEING COMPILED.		Areas for which Working-Plans have still to be taken in hand.	Total Forest area as in Form No. 46.	Entire cost, per square mile, of Working-Plans completed.	REMARKS.
	At commencement of the year.	During the year.	At commencement of the year.	Taken in hand during the year.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Sq. M.	Rs.	
RESERVED FORESTS.								
Darjeeling	60(a)	...	...	...	64	114	547(b)	(a) { Working-Plan for the forests near Darjeeling, 38 square miles. Working-Plan for the Tista Valley Forests, 18 square miles. (b) Undeterminable for Darjeeling Plan. Rs. 547 for Tista Valley Plan.
Tista	212(c)	...	...	...	...	212	...(d)	
Kurseong ... ..	...	...	...	...	109	109	...	(e) Working-Plan for the Forests of the Jalpaiguri Division. Sanctioned in Bengal Government No. 4380, dated 5th December 1899.
Jalpaiguri ... ..	...	183(e)	...	...	...	183	40	
Buxa ... ..	...	...	...	...	309	309	...	(f) Preliminary report sanctioned by the Inspector-General of Forests, Nos. 189W.P., and 16 W.P., dated 14th December 1899 and 18th February 1899, respectively.
Direction ... ..	...	...	...	...	57	57	...	
Palamau ... ..	...	...	...	...	188	188	...	
Singhbhum ... ..	...	...	...	731(f)	2(g)	733	...	
Angul ... ..	...	...	...	...	251	251	...	(g) Horhap Forest, Ranchi district.
Puri ... ..	...	...	110(h)	...	...	110	...	
Sundarbans	2,092	...	...	...	...	2,092	0'59	(h) Preliminary report sanctioned by the Inspector-General of Forests, No. 60 W.P., dated 2nd March 1899.
Chittagong ... ..	...	...	...	...	1,523	1,523	...	
Total for Reserved Forests	2,364	183	110	731	2,503	5,881	...	
PROTECTED FORESTS.								
Bonthal Parganas ... ..	...	...	...	...	435	435	...	(j) Includes 15 square miles in Manbhum district.
Direction ... ..	...	...	...	...	33	33	...	
Palamau ... ..	...	...	...	...	81	81	...	
Singhbhum ... ..	...	...	...	...	515(j)	515	...	
Angul ... ..	...	...	...	...	376	376	...	
Puri ... ..	...	...	...	...	391	391	...	
Sundarbans	1,942(k)	...	...	...	...	1,942	...	
Total for Protected Forests	1,942	...	...	...	1,783	3,675	...	
UNCLASSIFIED FORESTS.								
Chittagong ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,033	4,033	...	
GRAND TOTAL	4,296(k)	183	110	731	8,269	13,589	...	
TOTAL FOR 1899-99	4,425	12	183	110	9,000	13,730	...	

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Communications and Buildings during 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	NEW WORK UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR.					REPAIRS EXECUTED DURING THE YEAR.					REMARKS.		
	Buildings.		Roads and paths.			Buildings.		Roads and paths.					
	Description of building.	Expenditure incurred.	Road or path and object of the same.	Length of road or path.	Expenditure incurred.	Nature of repairs.	Nature of repairs.	Length repaired.	Expenditure incurred.	Total expenditure on repairs.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Darjeeling	Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ... Total	Rs. 89 61 150	Cart-roads ... Bridle paths	Miles. 5 35 40	Rs. 464 4,894 3,358	Rs. 5,698	Head-quarter houses ... Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments ... Others ...	40 868 118 128 1,154	Cart-roads ... Bridle paths	Miles. 3 83 86	Rs. 10 1,629 1,639	Rs. 2,693	Unapportioned expenditure :- Buildings: Temporary establishments ... 238 Roads: ditto ... 80 Difference in stock of explosives ... 109
Tista	Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ... Total	293 246 115 584	Others (a)	1 1	636 636	1,220	Head-quarter houses ... Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ...	324 271 326 9 930	Cart-roads ... Bridle paths ... Others	Miles. 11 84 4 90	Rs. 278 395 97 770	Rs. 1,700	(a) Wire-ropeway. Buildings: Temporary establishments ... 144
Kurseong	Head-quarter houses ... Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ... Total	10 53 232 36 331	Bridle paths	2 2	212 212	543	Head-quarter houses ... Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ...	162 414 103 279 960	Cart-roads ... Bridle paths ... Others	Miles. 12 131 143	Rs. 983 1,145 2 1,430	Rs. 2,396	
Jalpaiguri	Head-quarter houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Total	332 1,171 1,503	Cart-roads	3 3	215 215	1,718	Head-quarter houses ... Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ...	98 80 304 491	Cart-roads ... Bridle paths	Miles. 104 1 105	Rs. 869 6 865	Rs. 1,366	Buildings: Temporary establishments ... 112
Boxa	Head-quarter houses ... Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ... Total	423 441 789 27 1,680	Cart-roads ... Bridle paths	2 4	462 726	2,898	Head-quarter houses ... Rest-houses ... Houses for subordinate establishments, ... Others ...	285 477 169 328 1,259	Cart-roads ... Others	Miles. 10 53 63	Rs. 301 353 654	Rs. 1,913	Buildings: Temporary establishment ... 84

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Communications and Buildings during 1899-1900—concluded.

DIVISION.	NEW WORK UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR.						REPAIRS EXECUTED DURING THE YEAR.						REMARKS.
	Buildings.			Roads and paths.			Buildings.			Roads and paths.			
	Description of building.	Expenditure incurred.	Road or path and object of the same.	Length of road or path.	Expenditure incurred.	Total expenditure on new work.	Nature of repairs.	Expenditure incurred.	Nature of repairs.	Length repaired.	Expenditure incurred.	Total expenditure on repairs.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sonthal Far-ganas.	Head-quarter houses ...	Rs. 2,500		Miles.	Rs.	Rs.	Houses for subordinate establishments.	Rs. 23		Miles.	Rs.	Rs.	
	Total ...	2,500			2,500			23				23	
	Houses for subordinate establishments.	103						40	Cart-roads ...	35	200		Gandak drift, Rs. 20.
Palaman	Houses for subordinate establishments.	94				103		80					
	Total ...	103				103		120		35	200	320	
	Houses for subordinate establishments.	94						56	Cart-roads ...	37	308		
Singbhum	Head-quarter houses ...	3,383		12	5,043		Head-quarter houses ...	56		37	308	913	
	Rest-houses ...	1,017		6	703		Rest-houses ...	251					
	Houses for subordinate establishments.	706					Houses for subordinate establishments.	228					
Angul	Others ...	10		18	5,808		Others ...	5					
	Total ...	5,115			10,923			858		79	237	1,095	
	Rest-houses ...	974		11	665		Head-quarter houses ...	41		57	400		
Angul	Houses for subordinate establishments.	8					Rest-houses ...	84		2	13		
	Others ...	25					Houses for subordinate establishments.	35					
	Total ...	1,007		11	665	1,672	Others ...	153		69	413	796	

34 miles are 'Sagar' (native cart) roads.
Buildings: Temporary establishments ... Rs. 89

Buildings: Temporary establishments ... Rs. 100
Value of explosives for road works in hand. 75

Pari ...	Head-quarter houses ...			Cart-roads ...			Head-quarter houses ...			Cart-roads ...			Buildings : Temporary establishments ...		
	Head-quarter houses for subordinate establishments.	Others	Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1,018	50	1,068	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	66	...	66	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1,133	...	1,133	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sandarban ...	3,390	...	3,390	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	603	...	603	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	3,993	...	3,993	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chittagong ...	130	...	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	29	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	159	...	159	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	7,688	36	7,724	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	3,708	47	3,755	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	6,007	1	6,008	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	971	...	971	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	18,852	84	18,936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	28,433	87	28,520	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	28,433	...	28,433	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Abstract.

	Buildings.	Roads and bridges.	Total.
1	3	3	4
New works	Rs. 18,252	Rs. 14,895	Rs. 33,147
Repairs	Rs. 8,904	Rs. 7,353	Rs. 17,258
Total	Rs. 27,156	Rs. 22,248	Rs. 49,404
Add—Unapportioned expenditure	Rs. 1,157	Rs. 284	Rs. 1,441
Total as per Form No. 61	Rs. 28,313	Rs. 22,532	Rs. 50,845

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Register of Breaches of Forest Rules during 1899-1900.

FOREST DIVISION.	Cases pending from 1898-99.	NEW CASES OF THE YEAR.					Total new cases of the year.	Total cases.	DISPOSED OF DURING THE YEAR.						Cases pending at close of year.	REMARKS.
		Injury to forest by fire.	Unauthorized felling or appropriation of wood and minor forest produce.	Grazing without permission, or in tracts in which grazing is prohibited.	Other offences.	Total cases.			Convictions.		Acquittals.		Total.			
									Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Darjeeling	A B C	...	1	9	1	1	5	5	5	6	...	...	41	6	...	
		...	...	196	219	26	441	441	441	623	...	...	41	623	...	
Total		...	1	198	220	27	446	446	446	629	...	...	440	629	...	
Tista	A B C	43	...	143	210	10	363	406	341	433	(a)1	3	342	436	64	(a) This case was con- doned.
Total		43	...	143	210	10	363	406	341	433	1	3	342	436	64	
Kurseong	A B C	...	...	38	18	7	63	63	57	88	...	...	57	88	6	
Total		...	...	38	18	7	63	63	57	88	...	...	57	88	6	
Jalpaiguri	A B C	...	3	4	1	3	11	11	11	32	...	...	11	32	...	
		...	1	35	46	29	110	110	110	232	...	...	110	252	...	
Total		...	4	39	47	32	123	122	121	284	...	...	121	284	...	
Buxa	A B C	2	...	1	1	1	3	5	1	1	2	3	3	4	3	
		...	12	...	20	2	25	25	25	66	...	...	25	58	...	
Total		2	13	3	27	3	48	48	26	57	2	3	28	60	2	
Sonthal Parganas	A B C	10	1	42	1	11	55	65	53	106	5	41	58	147	7	Of the 11 cases shown as pending in 1898-99, one has been with- drawn, hence 10 cases only are carried for- ward.
		32	...	250	3	2	255	287	229	882	...	...	229	852	58	
Total		42	7	292	4	13	316	358	282	958	5	41	287	1,020	65	
Direction	A B C	...	...	7	...	2	9	9	7	13	2	2	9	15	...	
		...	...	29	6	...	35	35	35	123	...	...	35	123	...	
Total		...	...	36	6	2	44	44	42	136	2	2	44	138	...	
Palamau	A B C	1	9	7	7	...	23	24	17	31	2	13	19	44	5	
		...	3	...	7	...	10	10	10	15	...	...	10	15	...	
Total		1	12	10	14	...	36	37	27	46	2	13	29	59	5	
Singhbhum	A B C	3	28	41	2	17	88	91	78	220	3	19	81	239	16	
		7	...	108	7	4	119	126	120	402	...	...	120	402	6	
Total		10	28	149	9	21	277	287	198	622	3	19	201	641	16	
Angul	A B C	2	5	1	...	1	7	9	3	5	5	11	8	16	1	
		...	8	8	11	...	19	19	19	39	...	...	19	39	...	
Total		2	13	9	11	1	34	36	22	44	5	11	27	55	1	
Puri	A B C	9	1	53	2	18	74	83	57	173	11	44	68	217	15	Of the 10 cases shown as pending in 1898-99, one has been with- drawn: the opening balance has, therefore, been entered as 9.
		17	...	240	19	5	264	281	257	514	...	...	257	514	24	
Total		26	5	297	21	23	346	372	314	687	11	44	325	731	39	
Sundarbans	A B C	6	...	20	...	25	45	51	39	78	3	45	42	123	9	
		...	...	151	...	129	280	290	280	490	...	...	280	400	...	
Total		6	...	178	...	154	332	338	319	568	3	45	322	613	9	
Chittagong	A B C	6	2	22	6	5	35	41	30	82	9	53	39	135	2	
		...	1	10	10	2	22	22	22	45	...	...	22	45	...	
Total		6	3	32	16	7	58	64	52	127	9	53	61	180	2	
GRAND TOTAL	A B C	39	50	200	21	84	355	394	301	747	42	231	343	979	61	(a) Closing balance 1898-99 was 140; see above for explanation of difference.
		99	1	1,213	576	216	2,006	2,105	1,946	3,962	1	3	1,947	3,965	168	
Total		138(a)	156	1,424	603	300	2,483	2,621	2,247	4,709	43	234	2,290	4,943	209	
Total for 1898-99		118	100	1,560	639	188	2,487	2,605	2,330	4,751	29	126	2,359	4,577	140	

N.B.— A means cases taken into Court.
B means cases disposed of under section 67 of Indian Forest Act, 1878.
C means detected cases.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Area of Forest Tracts protected from fire during 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	FOREST TRACTS.	Year in which protection commenced.	Area protected during 1898-99.	Area attempted to be protected.	Failures.	Area actually protected.	Cost.	REMARKS.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
			Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Rs.	Percentage of Nature of protective measures adopted.		
Darjeeling ...	Tista Valley ... Singalila ...	1881-89	4,579	3,646	...	3,646	41	Rupees 27 spent on unprotected areas. (a) 0.21 acres burnt.	50.0	Fire-watchers.
		1885-86	2,935	3,632	...	3,632	41			
		1891-92	29,009	29,910	... (a)	29,910	30			
	Total ...	...	37,423	37,188	...	37,188	112		
Tista ...	Tista (part) ... Jaldaka (part) ... Chel ...	1879-80	5,287	5,287	...	5,287	37	Rupees 5 spent on unprotected areas.	59.3	Ditto and the burning of lines in the plains.
		1885-86	7,350	7,350	...	7,350	37			
		1881-82	37,021	37,021	...	37,021	73			
		1879-80	30,618	30,618	...	30,618	105			
Total ...	...	80,276	80,276	...	80,276	252			
Kurseong ...	Eastern ... Western ...	1876-77	22,363	22,363	...	22,363	312	Rupees 2 spent on unprotected areas.	65.3	Fire-watchers and fire-lines.
		1876-77	6,399	6,399	...	6,399	219			
		1878-79	8,420	8,420	...	8,420	222			
		1879-80	4,002	4,002	...	4,002	...			
		1882-83	2,476	2,476	...	2,476	...			
		1884-85	2,102	2,102	4	2,098	165			
Total ...	...	45,762	45,762	4	45,758	918			
Jalpaiguri ...	Apalchand ... Tonda ... Muraghat ...	1878-79	15,805	16,766	268	16,498	361	64.3	Ditto and the burning of 22,778 acres in addition.	
		1872-73	8,458	8,803	...	8,803	320			
		1879-80	3,339	3,739	100	3,639	83			
		1881-82	670	676	...	676	...			
Total ...	...	73,719	75,151	393	74,758	1,346			
Buxa ...	Buxa (part) ... Borojhar ... Haldibari ...	1876-77	81,792	81,792	...	81,792	1,194	S&I forest. Hill portion not specially protected. S&I forest. Sissu forest. * The sum of Rs. 803 includes cost of protection of 5,620 acres and 18,528 acres. S&I forest. Sissu ..	83.8	Ditto and 770 acres of savannah.
		1879-80	18,248	18,248	...	18,248	*803			
		1883-84	1,243	1,243	5	1,238	91			
		1888-89	3,418	3,750	1,920	1,830	130			
		1890-91	23,501	5,520	...	5,520	*			
		1895-96	21,111	2,583	...	18,528	...			
		1878-79	9,797	9,797	...	9,797	171			
		1882-83	8,958	8,958	...	8,958	218			
		1895-99	7,704	7,704	5,440	2,264	...			
		1899-1900	7,526	7,526	640	6,886	117			
Total ...	...	154,661	165,649	10,588	155,061	2,724			
Dhreeon ...	Koderma ...	1879-80	29,764	29,767	...	29,767	387	100	Fire-watchers and fire-lines.	
		1893-94	6,625	6,625	...	6,625	45			
Total ...	...	36,389	36,392	...	36,392	432			
Palamau ...	Northern ... Southern ...	1879-80	61,217	61,217	6,320	54,897	425	100	ditto.	
		1885-86	2,201	2,221	1,280	941	51			
		1879-80	50,551	56,951	1,130	55,821	280			
Total ...	...	113,969	120,389	8,730	111,659	756			
Singbhum...	Chaibassa ... Kolhan ... Poraht ... Koina ... Samta ... Horhap ...	1884-85	61,886	64,640	20,942	43,698	568	Rupee 1 spent on unprotected area. Includes Rs. 40 deducted from the expenditure of the year by the Comptroller-General (Forests) pertaining to the accounts of 1898-99.	100	ditto.
		1890-91	69,056	69,057	13,679	55,387	640			
		1891-92	132,074	132,257	13,418	118,839	1,122			
		1891-92	70,718	70,800	25,680	45,120	898			
		1891-92	125,430	130,530	11,620	119,310	1,000			
		1891-92	1,098	1,098	640	458	22			
Total ...	...	458,262	468,682	85,870	382,812	4,250			
Angul ...	Tikarpara ... Bagmunda ... Durgapur ...	1884-85	92,887	94,490	44	94,446	574	100	ditto.	
		1884-85	38,976	39,054	12,490	26,574	280			
		1884-85	27,019	27,100	5,746	21,354	357			
Total ...	...	158,882	160,644	18,270	142,374	1,211			
Puri ...	Northern ... Central ... Southern ...	1885-86	25,123	25,290	19	25,280	463	100	ditto.	
		1885-86	10,216	10,313	...	10,313	249			
		1885-86	33,816	35,101	470	34,631	627			
		Total	69,155	70,713	489	70,224			1,339
Chittagong ...	Ramgarh-Sita-kund ... Sitapahar ...	1898-99	84,854	84,874	1	84,873	200	9.4	Watchers only.	
		1899-1900	...	7,020	...	7,020	37			
		Total	84,854	91,894	1	91,893			237
GRAND TOTAL		...	1,313,352	1,352,740	124,345	1,228,395	13,577	Total		35.9
Total for 1898-99		...	911,222	1,337,108	23,756	1,313,352	12,781	A VIII/f. Form No. 61 = Rs. 13,572, viz., Rs. 13,577 + Rs. 35 spent on other areas - Rs. 40 deducted from the expenditure in Singbhum.		

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Area closed and open to Grazing during 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.					Total area.	REMARKS.	
	Closed to all animals.		Closed to browsers (camels, goats or sheep).		Open to all animals.			
	Whole year.	Part of year.	Whole year.	Part of year.	Whole year.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
RESERVED FORESTS.								
Darjeeling	29	...	21	...	64	114	Thirteen square miles open to Commissariat elephants and cantonment cattle. Grazing impossible owing to absence of pasture.	
Tista	83	...	...	...	129	212
Kurseong	83	...	...	...	26	109
Jalpaiguri	152	...	...	...	31	183
Buxa	309	...	...	...	...	309
Direction	57	...	...	...	...	57
Palamau	188	...	...	...	...	188
Singhbhum	704	...	...	...	29	733
Angul	251	...	...	...	...	251
Puri	110	...	...	...	...	110
Sundarbans	2,092	...	...	...	...	2,092
Chittagong	1,385	...	...	...	138	1,523
Total	5,443	...	21	...	417	5,881		
PROTECTED FORESTS.								
Sonthal Parganas	435	435	The pasturing of goats and sheep permitted only in areas set apart for that purpose. Sheep and goats can only be pastured within such areas as may be allotted by the Deputy Commissioner. The pasturing of goats and sheep prohibited if separate areas are available and can be allotted. Goats and sheep can only graze in localities set aside by the Collector. Grazing impossible owing to absence of pasture. Last year's area reduced by 141 square miles gazetted out.	
Direction ... ..	...	...	...	...	33	33
Palamau ... ..	...	...	...	...	81	81
Singhbhum ... ..	...	...	...	...	515	515
Angul ... ..	...	...	...	...	378	378
Puri ... ..	...	...	11	...	280	291
Sundarbans	1,942	...	...	...	...	1,942
Total	1,942	...	11	...	1,722	3,675		
UNCLASSIFIED FORESTS.								
Chittagong ... ..	...	...	...	...	4,033	4,033
GRAND TOTAL	7,385	...	22	...	6,172	13,589		
Total for 1898-99	7,459	92	31	...	6,148	13,730		

FORM No. 55.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Return of Grazing in the State Forests during 1899-1900.

GRAZING ON PAYMENT. NUMBER OF ANIMALS.

DIVISION.	AT FULL RATES.					AT PRIVILEGED RATES.					Fees received.		
	Buffaloes.	Cows and bullocks.	Goats and sheep.	Camels.	Other animals.	Fees received.	Buffaloes.	Cows and bullocks.	Goats and sheep.	Camels.	Other animals.	Actual.	Value at full rates.
												13	14
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
						Rs.						Rs.	Rs.
													RESERVED
Darjeeling ...	5	890	650	...	...	5,148	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tista ...	105	1,477	3	...	20	2,724	572	2,554	31	...	44	1,669	5,583
Kurseong ...	47	105	...	...	...	354	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Jalpaiguri ...	1,455	269	...	...	...	4,707	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Buxa ...	150	5	...	...	5	683	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palamau ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(b) 3,041	(b) 4,891	...	...	(a)	2,067
Singhbhum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	(b) 23,692	...	...	...	(a)	7,246
Chittagong ...	405	53	...	...	...	1,137	...	...	...	...	...	(a)	...
Total ...	2,167	2,798	658	...	25	15,908	372	34,567	4,922	...	44	1,669	14,893
													II. - PROTECTED
Southal Parganas	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hazaribagh (Direction).	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Palamau*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Singhbhum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Angul*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puri	1,618	10,685	3,511	...	...	4,358	(b) 8,500	(b) 146,000	(b) 12,500	...	(b) 500	(a)	44,000
Total ...	1,622	10,685	3,511	...	...	4,358	8,500	146,000	12,500	...	500	...	44,000
													III. - UNCLASSIFIED
Chittagong*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	3,789	13,483	4,164	...	25	19,667	8,872	180,567	17,422	...	544	(c) 1,669	58,893
Total, 1898-99 ...	3,848	10,331	3,817	...	23	19,165	8,798	178,494	19,286	...	547	1,563	58,754

* Information
 (a) Actual fees realized included in commutation fees
 (b) Estimated number grazed by privileged villagers
 (c) Excluding fees credited under Bill.

Abstract.

Grand total, column 28	...	...	...
Add-			
Outstanding at commencement of the year	...	...	...
Part of the fees paid to sarbarakars during 1898-99 re-adjusted during the year by credit to "RII" and debit to "AII"	...	...	...
			Total
Deduct-			
Amount not credited in the accounts, viz:-			
Outstanding under column 7 (Puri Division)	...	...	...
Difference between columns 13 and 14	...	...	...
Column 27	...	...	...
			Total
Add-			
Value of fodder grass	...	...	...
Total "RII" as per Form No. 61	...	...	...

No. 55.

MENT, BENGAL.

Forests during 1899-1900.

GRAZING FREE. NUMBER OF ANIMALS.													
BY RIGHT UNDER SETTLEMENT.						DURING PLEASURE OF GOVERNMENT, OR OTHERWISE THAN UNDER SETTLEMENT.						Total value of fees at full rates.	Grand total of value at full rates.
Buffaloes.	Cows and bullocks.	Goats and sheep.	Camels.	Other animals.	Value of fees at full rates.	Buffaloes.	Cows and bullocks.	Goats and sheep.	Camels.	Other animals.	Value of fees at full rates.		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
FORESTS.					Rs.						Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
...	...	...	...	...	...	67	328	110	...	7	969	969	5,143
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,281
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	854
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,787
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	683
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,037
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,385
...	...	...	...	...	...	67	328	110	...	7	969	969	31,170
FORESTS.													
46,585	139,755	46,585	...	...	32,027	...	...	...	...	...	...	32,027	32,028
2,356	12,280	2,460	...	...	4,555	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,555	4,555
...
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46,358
48,941	162,035	49,041	...	...	36,582	...	...	...	...	...	...	36,582	84,941
FORESTS.													
...
48,941	162,035	49,041	...	...	36,582	67	328	110	...	7	969	37,551	1,16,111
48,941	162,035	49,041	...	...	36,582	67	307	110	...	7	938	37,520	1,15,430

not available.
and credited under R.Ig.
on commutation fees. Revenue credited under R.Iig.

Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
...	...	1,16,111
...	7,221	
...	146	7,367
...	...	1,23,478
...	6,586	
87,224	94,775	1,01,361
37,551	...	22,117
...	...	3,383
...	...	25,500

FORM No. 56.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Area of Plantations, 1899-1900.

Division.	Kind of Plantation.	AREA IN ACRES.				RECEIPTS.	CHARGES.	REMARKS.
		On 1st July 1899.	Added during the year.	Excluded during the year.	Area on 30th June 1900.	of the year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8
						Rs.	Es.	
Darjeeling ...	Regular plantations ...	1,306	...	...	1,306	9	...	
Kurseong ...		564	...	...	564	76	...	
Jalpaiguri ...		3	...	...	3	...	...
Puri ...		336	...	...	336	...	28	
Chittagong ...		663	...	...	663	5,100	4,040	
	Total ...	2,872	...	...	2,872	5,185	4,068	
Darjeeling ...	Cultural operations ...	1,868	270	...	2,138	...	7,199	
Tista ...		...	...	...	...	...	39	
Kurseong ...		827	...	...	827	...	437	
Jalpaiguri ...		21	7	...	28	...	302	
Buxa ...		619	...	...	619	...	99	
Direction ...		...	...	...	...	...	69	
Palamau ...		16	7	...	23	...	209	
Singhbhum ...		...	...	...	...	...	76	
Angul ...		80	...	...	80	...	...
Puri ...		77	20	...	97	...	216	
Chittagong ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	3,508	304	...	3,812	...	8,646	
	GRAND TOTAL ...	6,380	304	...	6,684	5,185	12,714	
	Total for 1898-99 ...	6,103	277	...	6,380	48	8,368	

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Outturn of Minor Forest Produce during the year 1899-1900.

DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCE.	PRODUCE REMOVED OR UTILIZED.										REMARKS.	
	By Govern- ment agency.		By purchasers.		By free grants.		By right- holders.		Total.			
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		
I.—RESERVED FORESTS.												
Bamboos No.	17,148	146	9,769,908	30,007	966,400	2,416	10,753,456	32,569	The note at foot of Code form No. 58 was overlooked until too late to comply with. Col- umns 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 are actuals. Col- umn 4 actuals and estimates Columns 8 and 9 are esti- mates.	
Grazing Value.	...	...	...	20,806	...	969	...	9,305	...	31,170
Fodder grass Mds.	...	...	2,64,753	3,383	...	...	...	...	2,64,753	3,383
Sabai grass (<i>Ischaemum angusti- folium</i>) ... ..	...	...	79,337	11,271	...	...	...	...	79,337	11,271
Golpatta (<i>Nipa fructicans</i>)	49	1	39,62,675	61,917	...	...	...	...	39,62,724	61,918
Hantal (<i>Phanix paludosa</i>) ... ..	...	...	15,575	243	...	...	...	...	15,575	243
Honey	1	1	2,931	2,931	...	...	...	...	2,932	2,932
Wax ... ..	...	...	365	11,045	...	...	...	...	365	1,045
Mica ... ..	...	...	4,367	13,489	...	...	...	...	4,367	13,489
Thatching grass	513	32	1,20,426	3,377	4,675	73	56,108	1,753	1,81,722	5,235		
Myrabolams	202	331	...	...	...	...	...	...	202	331
Phoenix rupicola seed	12	1,440	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	1,440
Kochila (<i>Strychnos Nur-vomica</i>) ... ..	...	...	150	75	...	...	...	...	150	75
India rubber (<i>Ficus elastica</i>)	3	450	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	450
Lac	14	106	4	5	...	...	...	...	18	111
Cane	66	55	23,990	2,738	45	12	...	...	24,101	2,805
Shells (lime) ... ..	...	...	1,01,625	1,588	...	...	...	...	1,01,625	1,588
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	266	...	1,917	...	369	...	1,254	...	3,746	
Total ...	...	2,828	...	1,54,882	...	1,363	...	14,728	...	1,73,801	
II.—PROTECTED FORESTS.												
Bamboos No.	539,441	9,066	1,01,090	1,008	2,300	23	4,000,000	5,208	4,642,831	15,305		
Grazing Value.	...	...	...	4,359	...	...	...	80,582	...	84,941
Sabai grass (<i>Ischaemum angusti- folium</i>) Mds.	...	...	2,70,430	17,254	...	...	...	...	2,70,432	17,254
Golpatta (<i>Nipa fructicans</i>) ... ..	...	...	1,31,850	2,060	...	...	...	...	1,31,850	2,060
Hantal (<i>Phanix paludosa</i>) ... ..	...	...	3,95,400	6,178	...	...	...	...	3,95,400	6,178
Honey ... ..	...	...	4,711	4,711	...	...	...	...	4,711	4,711
Wax ... ..	...	...	548	1,645	...	...	...	...	548	1,645
Mica ... ..	...	...	1,767	2,318	...	...	...	...	1,767	2,318
Thatching grass ... ..	...	...	571	15	...	...	...	...	571	15
Myrabolams	1,985	1,519	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,985	1,519
Kochila (<i>Strychnos Nur-vomica</i>)	64	182	268	127	...	...	...	...	332	309
Lac ... ..	...	...	286	172	...	...	...	...	286	172
Shells (lime) ... ..	...	...	1,04,825	1,635	...	...	...	...	1,04,825	1,638
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	7,300	...	2	...	42,792	...	50,094
Total ...	...	10,767	...	48,785	...	25	...	1,28,582	...	1,88,159	
III.—UNCLASSIFIED FORESTS.												
Bamboos No.	25,960	21	5,611,886	21,357	1,500	5	5,639,346	21,383		
Thatching grass Mds.	6	2	1,07,211	7,167	...	...	...	...	1,07,217	7,169
Canes	2	1	14,693	1,280	...	...	...	...	14,695	1,281
Miscellaneous ... ..	...	...	...	210	...	...	...	...	...	210
Total ...	...	24	...	30,014	...	5	...	...	...	30,043
GRAND TOTAL ...	...	13,619	...	2,33,681	...	1,393	...	1,43,310	...	3,92,003	
GRAND TOTAL 1898-99 ...	...	201	...	2,08,472	...	988	...	1,40,404	...	3,50,155	

FORM No. 58—concluded.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Outturn of Minor Forest Produce during the year 1899-1900—concluded.

DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCE.	PRODUCE REMOVED OR UTILIZED.										REMARKS.
	By Government agency.		By purchasers.		By free grants.		By right-holders.		Total.		
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	
SUMMARY.											
Bamboos No.	582,540	9,233	15,482,884	52,372	3,800	28	4,906,400	7,624	21,035,633	69,257	
Grazing Value	...	...	...	25,255	...	969	...	89,887	...	1,16,111	
Fodder grass Mds.	...	...	2,64,753	3,383	...	...	...	...	2,64,753	3,383	
Sabai grass ... .. "	...	...	3,49,769	28,525	...	...	...	...	3,49,769	28,525	
Golpatta (<i>Nipa fructicans</i>) "	40	1	40,94,625	63,977	...	...	...	...	40,94,625	63,977	
Hantal (<i>Phoenix paludosa</i>) ... .. "	...	...	4,10,975	6,421	...	...	...	...	4,10,975	6,421	
Honey "	1	1	7,642	7,642	...	...	...	...	7,642	7,642	
Wax ... .. "	...	...	913	2,690	...	...	...	...	913	2,690	
Mica ... .. "	...	...	6,134	15,897	...	...	...	...	6,134	15,897	
Thatching grass "	519	34	2,28,208	10,559	4,675	73	66,108	1,753	2,89,510	12,419	
Myrabolams "	2,187	1,850	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,187	1,850	
Phoenix rupicola seed "	12	1,440	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	1,440	
Kochila "	64	182	418	202	...	...	...	...	482	384	
India-rubber "	3	450	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	450	
Lac "	14	106	290	177	...	...	...	...	304	283	
Cane "	68	56	88,683	4,018	45	12	...	...	39,796	4,686	
Shells (lime) ... .. "	...	...	2,06,450	3,226	...	...	...	...	2,06,450	3,226	
Miscellaneous "	...	206	...	9,427	...	311	...	44,046	...	54,050	
Total ... ..	...	13,619	...	2,33,681	...	1,393	...	1,43,310	...	3,92,003	
Total, 1898-99 ... ..	...	291	...	2,08,472	...	988	...	1,40,404	...	3,50,135	

Add—		Total of Form No. 58		Rs.
	Rs.	Rs.		3,92,003
Direction Division—Value of seeds of Phoenix rupicola not shown in the return	150			
Sundarbans Division—Value of minor produce from leased lands	255			
Kurseong Division—Estimated value of Udal fibre received by conversion	5			
Puri Division—Readjustment of fees paid to sarbarakars during 1898-99 by credit to "RII" and debit to "AII."	146	556		
Outstanding at commencement of the year—				
Hazaribagh Division	3,989			
Puri "	7,221			
Chittagong "	1,127			
Estimated value of produce remaining unsold at commencement of the year—				
Palamau Division	5			
Chittagong "	2			
	7	12,344		12,900
Total				4,04,903

Deduct—		Brought forward		Rs.
	Rs.	Rs.		4,04,903
Difference between the actual grazing fees and the full value thereof			3,919	
Total value of free grants			1,393	
Value of produce used departmentally—				
Darjeeling Division	5			
Tista "	6			
Kurseong "	87			
Hazaribagh "	16			
Palamau "	14			
Singhbhum "	3			
Angul "	50			
	181		5,493	
Value of estimated removals from Hill Tippera credited to the Maharajah			5,454	
Estimated value of produce transferred from Kurseong to Direction Division			95	
Value of produce written off—				
Kurseong Division	164			
Palamau "	24			
Sundarbans "	1			
Outstanding written off—			189	
Hazaribagh Division	1,494		1,683	
Portion of removal by right-holders not credited in the accounts, viz., Rs. 1,43,310 less receipts under "IIg." Rs. 14,249			1,29,061	
Outstanding at close of the year—				
Jalpaiguri Division	50			
Sonthal Parganas Division	25			
Hazaribagh Division	2,498			
Chittagong "	952			
Puri "	6,586			
	10,111			
Estimated value of produce remaining unsold—				
Kurseong Division	1,434			
Palamau "	12			
Hazaribagh "	38			
Singhbhum "	1,825			
Angul "	2			
Chittagong "	1			
	3,312		13,423	
Difference between the value of bamboos at close of 1898-99 and that actually realized during 1899-1900			1	
Total receipts under Ic, Ie, Iie, IId, IIf, IIg, and Part III (Rs. 22)				1,55,214
				2,40,689

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Account of Timber and other produce cut or collected by Government Agency and brought to depôts, sold locally, or otherwise disposed of during the year.

NAME OF DIVISION.	Balance at commencement of the year in forests and sale depôts.	Received during the year.	Total.	Disposed of during the year.	Balance in hand at close of the year in forests and sale depôts.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

TIMBER—(Cubic feet).

Direction	1,815	4,309	5,524	4,554	970	
Darjeeling	1,281	70,992	72,273	71,000	1,273	
Tista	78	74,036	74,114	51,800	22,314	
Kurseong ... ..	...	4,199	4,199	4,128	64	
Jalpaiguri	1,510	6,942	8,452	5,972	2,480	
Buxa ... ..	...	31,813	31,813	30,666	1,146	
Banthal Parganas ... ..	...	35,028	35,028	35,008	20	
Hazaribagh ... ..	...	500	500	500	...	
Palamanu ... ..	...	1,148	1,148	1,133	15	
Singhbhum	500	3,447	3,947	3,909	948	
Angul	45	180	225	153	72	
Puri ... ..	...	...	7	7	...	
Sundarbans	1,862	10,010	11,872	10,365	1,507	
Chittagong	6,279	46,508	52,787	51,373	1,414	
Total Timber ...	12,770	288,906	301,676	260,339	32,337	

FUEL—(Cubic feet solid).

Direction	102	6,627	6,729	6,561	168	
Darjeeling	74,787	153,163	227,950	133,244	88,706	
Tista ... ..	...	2,160	2,160	2,160	...	
Kurseong ... ..	...	175	175	175	...	
Banthal Parganas ... ..	...	3,959	3,959	3,959	...	
Palamanu	2	17	19	3	...	
Singhbhum	43	6,365	6,408	6,393	15	
Sundarbans	786	1,369	2,155	2,155	...	
Chittagong ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Total Fuel ...	76,790	173,838	249,558	160,669	88,889	

BAMBOOS—(Number).

Tista ... ..	...	700	700	700	...	
Kurseong ... ..	...	950	950	950	...	
Banthal Parganas ... ..	...	537,941	537,941	537,941	...	
Hazaribagh ... ..	...	2,250	2,250	1,550	700	
Palamanu ... ..	...	3,843	3,843	3,843	...	
Singhbhum ... ..	...	1,105	1,105	1,105	...	
Angul ... ..	...	9,800	9,800	9,800	...	
Chittagong	678	25,960	26,638	26,538	300	
Total Bamboos ..	678	582,549	582,427	582,427	1,000	

MINOR FOREST PRODUCE—(Value).

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Darjeeling	5	5	5	...	
Kurseong	2,154	2,154	720	1,434	
Jalpaiguri	50	50	50	...	
Hazaribagh	31	31	...	31	
Palamanu	5	107	112	100	12	
Singhbhum	1,825	1,825	...	1,825	
Angul	32	32	30	2	
Puri	182	182	182	...	
Sundarbans	2	2	2	...	
Chittagong	3	3	3	...	
Total Minor Produce ...	5	4,391	4,396	1,092	3,304	

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Abstract showing the value of Timber and other produce at Sale Depôts for the year 1899-1900.

DESCRIPTION OF TIMBER AND OTHER PRODUCE.	ON HAND AT COMMENCEMENT OF THE YEAR.			ON HAND AT CLOSE OF THE YEAR.			DIFFERENCE IN VALUE.		REMARKS.
	No.	Cubic feet.	Value.	No.	Cubic feet.	Value.	In favour of the year.	Against the year.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TIMBER.									
Logs	189	7,404	496	200	2,380	772	...	...
Sleepers	5	18	3	16,632	24,734	19,417	...	...
Scantlings	2,384	2,63	2,190	3,048	2,740	2,374	...	...
Poles	116	827	63	46	131	8	...	...
Posts	10	14	3	47	183	21	...	...
Boats	9	745	90	9	1,030	90	...	...
Shingles	2,000	21	18	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	746	1,379	824	469	1,130	1,138	...	...
Total Timber ...	5,499	12,770	3,687	20,351	32,337	23,730	20,033	...	
FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL.									
Firewood Mds.	18,491	27,112	5,591	14,303	25,154	5,234	...	...
Charcoal Bags	6,944	48,008	7,615	9,105	61,735	9,961	...	...
Total Fuel ...	22,435	75,720	13,176	23,407	86,889	15,268	2,089	...	
Bamboos	878	...	2	1,000	...	8	6	...	
MINOR PRODUCE.									
Lac Mds.	1	...	5	2	...	12	...	...
Myrabolams ... ..	...	...	...	1,168	...	1,850	...	...
Seeds ... ..	...	...	...	14	...	1,196	...	...
Fibres ... ..	...	...	...	27	...	246	...	...
Elephant tusks No.	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Minor Produce ...	...	...	5	...	...	3,804	3,299	...	
GRAND TOTAL VALUE ...	...	...	16,870	...	...	42,297	25,427	...	

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Abstract showing the value of live and dead stock for the year 1899-1900.

DESCRIPTION OF LIVE AND DEAD STOCK.	On hand at commencement of the year.		On hand at close of the year.		Difference in value.		REMARKS.
	Number.	Value.	Number.	Value.	In favour of the year.	Against the year.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Live stock.							
Elephants	9	15,500	9	14,820	...	...
Total live stock ...	9	15,500	9	14,820	...	680	
Dead stock.							
Buildings	827	1,46,520	865	1,65,681	19,155	...	
Stores (mathematical)	666	4,988	721	5,341	373	...	
Do. (ordnance)	64	840	64	795	...	45	
Furniture	2,328	14,112	2,457	14,629	516	...	
Tents	54	4,845	56	4,831	...	14	
Boats	75	18,314	75	18,391	37	...	
Steamers	3	95,172	4	1,1,048	6,476	...	
Steam-outlets	3	14,533	3	13,807	...	726	
Barge	1	5,525	1	5,250	...	275	
Miscellaneous	5,213	32,172	6,154	36,079	2,907	...	
Total dead stock ...	9,234	3,37,047	10,380	3,65,451	28,404	...	
GRAND TOTAL ...	9,943	3,52,547	10,389	3,80,371	27,724	...	
Grand total for 1899-00 ...	8,840	3,39,262	9,343	3,52,847	13,235	...	

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Summary of Revenue of the different Divisions during 1899-1900.

BUDGET HEADS.	Direction.	Darjeeling Division.	Tista Division.	Kurseong Division.	Jalpaiguri Division.	Buxa Division.	Sonthal Parganas Division.	Hazaribagh Division.	Palamanu Division.	Singhbhum Division.	Angul Division.	Puri Division.	Sunderbans Division.	Chittagong Division.	TOTAL.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	13	14	15	16
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
REVENUE.															
I.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency—															
(a) Timber	...	35	...	...	...	...	8,964	...	...	23	1	...	673	5,307	37,854
(b) Firwood and charcoal.	...	21,931	...	...	...	...	94	...	...	...	...	...	460	1	26,566
(c) Bamboos	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,043	...	18	...	...	...	...	1	9,083
(d) Sandal-wood	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	71	...	...	...	...	...	...
(e) Grass and other minor produce.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	183	...	...	...
Total I	180	24,908	80	440	...	13,886	17,421	...	89	23	2	183	1,123	5,299	64,337
II.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers—															
(a) Timber	...	20,664	11,769	33,975	27,410	11,701	5,170	394	79	43,169	3,496	975	3,13,998	35,530	5,18,175
(b) Firwood and charcoal.	...	21,311	7,667	4,323	21,256	540	609	671	7	2,135	6	8,370	2,24,185	481	2,92,211
(c) Bamboos	...	525	1,054	1,039	33	51	1,006	866	1,943	180	1,044	1,637	...	20,513	49,085
(d) Grass and fodder	...	6,801	4,463	1,433	4,767	744	1	9	...	10	...	6,139	...	1,127	26,500
(e) Other minor produce.	...	379	274	189	509	183	22,703	16,863	69	11,549	248	1,615	84,799	11,555	1,50,965
(f) Forest-stamps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(g) Other items	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(h) Commutation fees	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total II	...	49,477	26,367	40,989	94,004	13,219	29,289	18,883	2,098	67,317	4,804	29,053	6,34,917	91,609	10,60,136
III.—Drift and waif wood and confiscated forest produce.	1,331	673	2,391	1,603	1,291	793	...	...	1	...	...	35	...	1,877	9,964
Total III	1,331	673	2,391	1,603	1,291	793	...	...	1	...	...	35	...	1,877	9,964
IV.—Revenue from forests not managed by Government—															
(a) Duty on foreign timber and other forest produce.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Revenue from shared and private forests.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total IV	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
V.—Miscellaneous—															
(a) Fines and forfeitures	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Returns	...	7	...	65	21	9	3	...	...	...	...	1,770	...	...	1,635
(c) Other sources	...	2,036	1,064	1,323	1,791	930	2,975	178	186	465	463	1,388	9,602	7,737	23,359
Total V	...	2,043	1,071	1,329	1,817	939	2,978	178	186	460	473	2,101	9,604	10,175	36,728
GRAND TOTAL REVENUE	3,519	78,097	30,305	44,360	56,750	26,566	49,786	19,055	3,374	67,739	5,379	31,371	6,34,644	1,09,160	11,61,175

F. G. JACOB,
Asst. Comptroller-General (Forests).

FORM No. 61.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Summary of Expenditure of the different Divisions during 1899-1900.

Form No. 61.
FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.
Summary of Expenditure of the different Divisions during 1899-1900.

BUDGET HEADS.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	Total.
		Direction.	Darjeeling Division.	Tista Division.	Kurseong Division.	Jalpaiguri Division.	Buxa Division.	Sonthal Parganas Division.	Hazaribagh Division.	Palamau Division.	Singbhum Division.	Angul Division.	Sundarbans Division.	Chittagong Division.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—CONSERVANCY AND WORKS.															
I.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency—															
(a) Timber		113	9,452	819	623	5,089	1,538	4	...	...	...	...	5	55	17,178
(b) Firewood and charcoal		...	18,982	...	...	...	3,620	...	...	...	...	...	32	...	19,798
(c) Bamboos		10	...	...	...	2	3,632
(d) Sandal-wood		13	...	...	...	...	...	1,359
(e) Grass and other minor produce	
Total AI		174	18,982	429	647	5,089	5,168	12	12	183	973	...	37	57	41,961
II.—Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers or purchasers.		122	1,146	227	371	375	479	326	326	126	744	216	48,583	3,629	58,091
Total AII		122	1,146	227	371	375	479	326	326	126	744	216	48,583	3,629	58,091
III.—Drift and waif wood and confiscated Forest produce.		937	10	165	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	637	2,237
Total AIII		937	10	165	...	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	637	2,237
IV.—Revenue from forests not managed by Government—	
(a) Duty on foreign timber and other forest produce.	
(b) Revenue from shared and private forests.	
Total AIV	
V.—Rent of leased forests and payments to shareholders in forests managed by Government.	
Total AV	
VI.—Live stock, stores, tools and plant—	
(a) Purchase of cattle		401	1,201	1,668	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,433
(b) Feed and keep of cattle		143	224	868	295	...	...	94	...	...	...	...	15,880
(c) Purchase of stores, tools and plant.	
Total AVI		662	666	244	1,515	2,426	354	...	...	94	1,389	197	370	11,583	20,313
VII.—Communications and buildings—	
(a) Roads and bridges		...	7,086	1,476	1,080	1,842	2,623	200	223	328	6,045	1,153	...	433	22,517
(b) Buildings		...	1,542	1,658	2,106	3,023	1,420	223	223	639	6,068	1,420	4,583	1,115	20,303
(c) Other works		...	287	66	65	194	160	6	6	68	96	121	198	175	1,773
Total AVII		20	8,915	3,130	3,251	5,039	2,683	429	429	1,075	12,203	2,394	5,081	1,723	58,563

	473	776	443	836	1,019	111	477	1,851	969	783	72	1,906	9,706
VIII.—Organisation, improvement and extension of forests—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Demarcation	432	8	4	241	62	5	...	12,313	49	30	...	...	12,903
(b) Cost of settlements; compensation for land and rights.	7,199	30	437	302	99	68	...	1,697	...	85	23	...	2,110
(c) Surveys	1,389	257	920	1,346	2,724	433	...	76	...	244	...	4,040	15,714
(d) Working-plans	1,389	257	920	1,346	2,724	433	...	4,311	1,211	1,339	...	237	13,072
(e) Sowing and planting	8,371	166	619	665	40	...	...	2	...	528	...	...	5,438
(f) Protection from fire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(g) Other works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total AVIII	11,809	1,246	2,422	3,380	3,337	616	1,489	20,080	2,229	2,082	100	6,183	56,445
IX.—Miscellaneous—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Law charges	32	...	...	8,354	...	...	2	...	10	157	144	...	8,642
(b) Other "	605	360	407	480	146	105	70	364	376	168	2,105	143	6,463
Total AIX	637	350	407	8,774	146	105	72	354	386	325	2,249	143	15,095
TOTAL A.—CONSERVANCY AND WORKS	2,431	1,947	7,417	18,367	17,051	1,579	3,049	35,713	5,722	9,712	56,420	23,905	2,47,735
B.—ESTABLISHMENTS.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
I.—Salaries—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Conservators	17,972	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,972
(b) Superior officers	6,954	10,727	9,753	5,525	7,730	...	3,600	18,238	2,400	4,301	10,790	6,191	1,02,022
(c) Subordinate forest and depot establishments.	...	7,533	7,413	5,458	5,065	1,716	4,089	10,567	2,865	7,085	19,961	13,980	94,953
(d) Office establishments	7,777	1,739	1,132	907	893	...	528	2,130	721	1,048	3,365	1,874	24,262
(e) Deputation and special allowances.	2,929	548	...	...	...	...	...	266	573	32	675	...	8,528
(f) Exchange compensation allowance.	1,480	691	588	331	469	...	...	843	...	301	374	150	6,045
Total BI	36,222	20,638	18,912	12,251	14,157	1,716	8,214	32,044	6,559	13,367	35,065	22,195	2,49,052
II.—Travelling allowances—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Conservators	2,378	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,378
(b) Superior officers	296	1,849	2,633	1,125	1,413	...	532	3,028	591	535	1,371	3,291	22,932
(c) Subordinate forest and depot establishments.	...	1,651	2,575	1,352	631	451	339	2,090	399	1,140	380	2,741	16,360
(d) Office establishments	653	54	242	30	43	...	14	52	35	86	67	249	1,663
Total BII	3,827	6,571	5,450	2,507	2,087	451	905	5,170	1,025	1,711	1,828	6,281	43,253
III.—Contingencies—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Stationery	54	14	5	4	4	...	9	11	14	4	4	2	145
(b) Carriage of tents and records	681	411	101	177	140	41	85	183	66	65	13	80	2,241
(c) Reuts, rates, and taxes	537	...	50	153	3	2	42	95	...	...	481	52	1,719
(d) Pay of police guards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(e) Official postage	623	137	176	221	167	45	79	333	82	243	587	537	3,660
(f) Sundries	1,320	392	178	668	74	97	97	498	160	223	1,003	1,054	7,629
Total BIII	2,483	1,433	569	1,233	388	183	312	1,102	323	634	2,088	2,655	15,354
TOTAL B.—ESTABLISHMENTS	4,032	28,963	24,871	15,981	16,632	2,353	9,431	38,316	7,906	15,612	38,981	31,131	3,07,729
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPENDITURE	44,466	71,018	32,288	34,378	33,683	3,932	12,450	74,029	13,628	25,324	95,401	65,036	5,85,464
(SURPLUS OR DEFICIT)	-40,947	+7,069	+12,072	+22,402	-4,857	+15,123	-10,106	-6,300	-8,940	+6,047	+5,380,243	+54,124	+6,05,711

P. G. JACOB,
Asst. Comptroller-General (Forests).

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Dr.

Account Current for the year 1899-1900.

Cr.

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Cash balance		963 10 11	I.—Refunds and Drawbacks		14,494 5 2
VIII.—Assessed taxes—			Expenditure as per Annual Summary		
Income-tax—Deductions from salaries		3,675 9 2	Form No. 61		5,55,463 13 9
Revenue as per Annual Summary, form No. 61		11,61,174 15 9	Forest Deposits		16 8 0
XII.—Interest			Forest Advances		2,96,733 5 11
Forest Deposits			Suspense Account		3,576 1 8
Forest Advances		2,93,223 1 10	Savings Bank Deposits—		
Suspense Account		3,356 11 9	Bank Account—		
Service Funds—			Forest Officers' Provident Fund		
Uncovenanted Service Family Pension Fund, Bengal			Cash Remittances—Local—Forest Remittances.		
Savings Bank Deposits—			Remittances to Treasuries	11,19,204 9 11	
Bank Account—			Unpaid cheques written back	100 0 0	
Forest Officers' Provident Fund			Inter-divisional Transfers	6,385 14 0	
Special Account—					11,25,690 7 11
General Family Pension Fund			Account current with Foreign States—		
Cash Remittances—Local—Forest Remittances.			Berar Suspense Account		
Forest cheques drawn	5,45,082 8 0		Her Majesty's Colonial Government, Ceylon		
Revenue Remittances written back	1,918 15 4		Exchange Account with other Governments—		
Inter-divisional Transfers	6,381 10 0	5,53,383 1 4	Account between India and Bengal.		
Account current with Foreign States—			I.—Forest Remittances from Bengal to India	14,096 4 1	
Berar Suspense Account			III.—Items adjustable by India	1,039 8 8	15,135 12 9
Her Majesty's Colonial Government, Ceylon			Account between Central Provinces and Bengal—		
Exchange Account with other Governments—			I.—Forest Remittances from Bengal to Central Provinces		29 14 11
Account between India and Bengal.			—Items adjustable by—		
II.—Forest Remittances to Bengal from India	22,966 10 2		Account between Burma and Bengal—		
III.—Items adjustable by India	2,239 8 0		I.—Forest Remittances from Bengal to Burma		1,586 8 11
IV.—Items adjustable by Bengal	1,176 7 5	26,362 9 7	—Items adjustable by—		
Account between Bengal and North-Western Provinces and Oudh.			Account between Assam and Bengal—		
I.—Forest Remittances to Bengal from North-Western Provinces and Oudh	1,202 8 9		I.—Forest Remittances from Bengal to Assam		4,467 10 1
—Items adjustable by—		1,202 8 9	Account between Bengal and North-Western Provinces and Oudh—		
Inter-Departmental Transfers—			II.—Forest Remittances from Bengal to North-Western Provinces and Oudh		5,579 6 1
Public Works Department, Ordinary Branches	11 0 0		Account between Bengal and Punjab—		
Public Works Department, Railway Branch			II.—Forest Remittances from Bengal to Punjab		76 12 0
Military Department, Bengal Command			Inter-Departmental Transfers—		
Marine Department	22,988 6 0		Public Works Department, Ordinary Branches	8,256 14 10	
Civil Departments	1,583 3 11	23,692 9 11	Public Works Department, Railway Branch	14,923 5 0	
GRAND TOTAL		20,87,054 15 0	Military Department, Bengal Command	18,101 6 11	
			Marine Department	337 7 0	
			Civil Departments	1,674 2 4	43,993 4 1
			Cash balance		210 15 9
			GRAND TOTAL		20,87,054 15 0

P. G. JACOB,

Assistant Comptroller-General (Forests).

FORM No. 63.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Revenue received and outstandings on account of revenue during 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	PARTICULARS.	Outstandings at commencement of year.	Value of sales and other revenue during year.	TOTAL.	Amount realized during year.	Balance due to the Department at end of year.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Direction	Timber and other produce	...	3,519 11 5	3,519 11 5	3,519 7 5	0 4 0	
Darjeeling	Ditto ditto	13 4 0	83,194 7 0	83,207 11 0	78,086 9 4	5,121 1 8	
Tista	Ditto ditto	...	30,205 0 1	30,205 0 1	30,204 15 1	0 1 0	
Kurseong	Ditto ditto	...	45,473 5 11	45,473 5 11	44,359 7 11	1,113 14 0	
Jalpaiguri	Ditto ditto	...	56,829 13 5	56,829 13 5	56,780 5 5	49 8 0	
Buxa	Ditto ditto	97 0 0	28,850 7 8	28,947 7 8	28,826 7 8	121 0 0	
Sonthal Parganas	Ditto ditto	...	49,810 14 3	49,810 14 3	49,785 14 3	25 0 0	
Hazaribagh	Ditto ditto	3,988 10 9	19,058 3 0	23,046 13 9	20,548 12 0*	2,498 1 9	* Includes Rs. 1,493-14-5 written off.
Palamau	Ditto ditto	...	2,374 0 0	2,374 0 0	2,374 0 0	...	
Singhbhum	Ditto ditto	392 11 3	67,875 3 8	68,267 14 11	67,728 8 10	539 6 1	
Angul	Ditto ditto	...	5,278 11 2	5,278 11 2	5,278 11 2	...	
Puri	Ditto ditto	9,256 8 9	30,214 6 0	39,470 14 9	31,371 2 8	8,099 12 1	
Sundarbans	Ditto ditto	...	6,34,644 6 11	6,34,644 6 11	6,34,644 6 11	...	
Chittagong	Ditto ditto	1,127 2 9	1,08,985 2 6	1,10,112 5 3	1,09,160 1 6	952 3 9	
	Total	14,875 5 6	11,66,313 13 0	11,81,189 2 6	11,62,668 14 2†	18,520 4 4	† Form No. 61 ... Rs. A. P. 11,61,174 15 9 Add * ... 1,493 14 5 Total, column 6 ... 11,62,668 14 2

FORM No. 64.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Outstandings and Liabilities on account of Contractors and Disbursers for 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	DEPARTMENT DEBTOR.			DEPARTMENT CREDITOR.			BALANCE DUE.		REMARKS.
	At commencement of year.	Recoveries in cash and value of supplies and work done during the year.	At close of year.	At commencement of year.	Payments made during year.	At close of year.	To Department (outstandings).	By Department (liabilities).	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
Direction	...	2,296 9 5	2,296 9 5	93 13 6	2,298 0 0	2,391 13 6	95 4 1	...	
Darjeeling	...	51,500 15 7	51,500 15 7	468 9 7	56,951 10 2	57,418 3 9	5,917 4 2	...	
Tista	...	15,077 1 7	15,077 1 7	736 0 0	15,813 7 10	16,402 7 10	1,325 6 3	...	
Kurseong	...	18,776 7 8	18,776 7 8	258 2 9	18,623 7 6	18,881 10 3	105 2 7	...	
Jalpaiguri	...	18,584 6 3	18,584 6 3	180 14 4	18,495 11 10	18,676 10 2	92 3 11	...	
Buxa	...	25,495 9 3	25,495 9 3	566 3 4	25,293 12 4	25,859 15 8	364 6 5	...	
Sonthal Parganas	...	11,756 8 4	11,756 8 4	117 2 0	11,730 7 11	11,847 9 11	91 1 7	...	
Hazaribagh	...	3,722 15 11	3,722 15 11	6 12 7	3,717 1 6	3,723 14 1	0 14 2	...	
Palamau	...	8,022 2 4	8,022 2 4	86 8 3	8,009 7 7	8,095 15 10	73 13 6	...	
Singhbhum	...	40,416 9 5	40,416 9 5	2,410 8 11	39,222 14 11	41,633 7 10	1,216 14 5	...	
Angul	...	9,334 2 9	9,334 2 9	458 14 5	9,243 3 11	9,702 2 4	367 15 7	...	
Puri	...	13,947 0 10	13,947 0 10	138 6 6	14,111 5 0	14,249 11 6	302 10 8	...	
Sundarbans	...	52,348 10 2	52,348 10 2	955 0 3	51,542 10 7	52,497 10 10	140 0 8	...	
Chittagong	...	21,943 14 4	21,949 7 11	526 1 1	21,827 0 10	22,353 1 11	403 10 0	...	
Total	5 9 7	2,93,223 1 10	2,93,228 11 5	7,601 1 6	2,96,733 5 11	3,03,734 7 5	10,505 12 0	...	

P. G. JACOB,

Asst. Comptroller-General (Forests).

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Financial results of the year 1899-1900.

DIVISION.	TIMBER AND OTHER PRODUCE REMOVED FROM THE FORESTS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCY.		OTHER REVENUE.		FORMATION, PROTECTION, AND IMPROVE- MENT OF FORESTS.	TOTAL.		REMARKS.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Darjeeling	25,966	20,430	57,121	19,260	31,326	78,067	71,018	
Tista	80	9,455	30,135	9,405	15,021	30,205	32,681	
Kurseong	440	429	43,930	14,398	17,461	44,360	32,288	
Jalpaiguri	—322	647	87,102	19,967	13,764	56,780	34,378	
Buxa	13,885	5,069	14,941	12,619	15,995	38,826	33,683	
Sonthal Parganas	17,421	11,942	32,365	7,193	6,785	46,786	28,929	
Direction	1,481	1,111	2,038	1,701	41,664	3,519	44,462	
Hasaribagh ... ..	...	12	19,056	1,967	2,053	19,055	3,932	
Falamau	89	193	2,285	5,498	6,789	2,374	13,480	
Singhbhum	23	973	67,707	26,875	46,181	67,789	74,029	
Angul	2	...	5,277	4,781	8,847	5,379	13,628	
Puri	182	775	31,189	8,163	16,387	31,371	25,324	
Sundarbans	1,123	37	6,33,521	87,015	7,749	6,34,644	96,401	
Chittagoug	7,176	8,061	1,01,984	26,679	22,306	1,09,160	56,036	
Total	67,645	60,124	10,93,630	2,45,020	2,50,320	11,61,175	5,55,46	

APPENDIX.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Abstract record of the growth of certain species of trees.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Plot No. I.	Plot No. II, 1893-94.	Plot No. III, 1893-94.	Plot No. IV, 1893-94.	Plot No. V, 1894-95.	Plot No. Va, 1896-97.	Plot No. VI, 1895-96.	Plot No. VII, 1894-95.	Plot No. VIII, 1895-96.	Plot No. IX, 1894-95.	Plot No. X, 1894-95.	Plot No. XI, 1894-95.	Joymangal, 1893-94.	Haripur, 1894-95.	Tanna, 1894-95.	
	SUNDEBARNS FOREST DIVISION.															
	PURI FOREST DIVISION.															
	PLOTS AND YEAR OF FIRST OBSERVATION.															
	Sundri.															
	Passur.															
	Amur.															
	Keora.															
	Goran.															
	Genkwa.															
	Sal.															
	Acres and number of trees measured.															
	305	345	220	130	49	40	51	120	50	100	100	100	0 23-49	0 23-43	0 23-49	
	Area not given.															
	Average annual increase in girth per tree in inches.															
1893-94	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1894-95	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1895-96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1896-97	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1897-98	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1898-99	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1899-1900	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1893-94	44	31	37	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1894-95	29	21	18	16	64	...	...	21	...	29	28	...	75	52	74	...
1895-96	63	24	28	30	(a)	...	45	08	19	151	23	33	30	25	15	...
1896-97	18	09	15	15	...	84	84	07	03	162	16	46	19	36	21	...
1897-98	305	345	220	130	...	43	46	72	47	96	90	100	49	33	49	...
1898-99	13	12	18	11	...	35	66	12	13	100	31	24	23	12	58	...
1899-1900	304	343	219	129	...	47	46	68	47	84	55	65	49	33 + 17	40	...
	13	11	18	11	...	23	72	07	16	137	05	05	30	45	23	...
	302	342	219	129	...	47	46	68	45	88	38	62	48	49	50	...
	22	15	14	34	...	40	63	12	15	154	17	77	21	43	70	...

(a) Trees cut down in 1895-96 and plot abandoned.

APPENDIX B.

Paragraph 62.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Statement showing the estimated value of forest produce (as per Forms Nos. 57 and 58) given or removed free under exercise of rights, local privileges and grants, and the loss in revenue incurred by allowing grazing and removal of produce at reduced rates during 1899-1900.

Agency by which produce was removed.	TIMBER.		FUEL.		BAMBOOS.		MINOR PRODUCE.		GRAZING.		Total full value.	Total amount actually realized.	Total loss to Government.	REMARKS.			
	Quantity.	Full value.	Quantity.	Full value.	Number.	Full value.	Amount actually realized.	Full value.	Amount actually realized.	Full value.					Amount actually realized.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Right-holders	C. ft.	Rs.	Rs.	C. ft.	Rs.	Rs.	RESERVED FORESTS.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Privileged villagers on commutation fees.	...	...	...	910,157	7,462	(a)	965,400	4,473	(a)	3,007	...	7,248	(a)	22,190	(a) 3,965	18,225	
At reduced rates	...	...	...	22,038	348	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,588	1,609	5,588	1,609	3,910	
Free grantees	11,143	2,185	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	384	...	969	...	3,806	...	3,806	
Total	11,143	2,185	...	932,195	7,810	...	965,400	4,473	...	3,401	...	13,805	...	31,674	5,634	26,040	
Right-holders	70,665	1,578	...	2,380,535	47,053	...	...	...	...	125	...	36,582	...	85,338	...	85,338	
Privileged villagers on commutation fees.	160,000	5,000	(b)	12,000,000	56,250	(b)	4,000,000	5,208	(b)	42,667	...	44,000	(b)	1,53,125	(b) 14,550	1,38,575	
At reduced rates	60,005	9,740	4,870	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,740	4,870	4,870	
Free grantees	1,624	200	...	729	16	...	2,300	23	...	3	...	...	...	301	...	301	
Total	292,294	16,578	...	14,381,564	1,03,319	...	4,062,300	5,231	...	42,714	...	80,582	...	2,43,504	10,420	2,33,084	
Right-holders	...	...	...	...	...	...	UNCLASSIFIED FORESTS.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Privileged villagers on commutation fees.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
At reduced rates	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Free grantees	491	35	...	...	...	...	1,500	5	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	40	
Total	491	35	...	...	...	...	1,500	5	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	40	
GRAND TOTAL	303,628	18,798	...	15,313,759	1,11,129	...	4,970,200	9,709	...	46,166	...	94,387	...	2,80,218	25,054	2,55,164	
Total, 1898-99	335,405	21,144	...	15,828,279	1,14,390	...	4,778,950	7,171	...	48,039	...	96,274	...	2,82,078	23,656	2,58,423	

(a) Credited as follows :-
 IIb Rs. 113
 IIg Rs. 3,832
 Total Rs. 3,945

(b) Credited as follows :-
 IIb Rs. 4,133
 IIg Rs. 10,397
 Total Rs. 14,530

ERRATUM.

PLEASE make the following corrections in this Government Resolution No. 128 For., dated the 5th January 1901, on the Progress Report of the Forest Administration for 1899-1900:—

- (1) For the figures "92" and "62" in line 1 of paragraph 8, substitute "65" and "33," respectively.
- (2) For "101,365" and "40,545" in lines 2 and 3 of the same paragraph, substitute "60,959" and "35,338," respectively.
- (3) In column 4 of the tabular statement in paragraph 10, against the entry "purchaser" under head "Protected," for "4,435,672" read "4,535,672."
- (4) In line 6 of the sub-paragraph immediately following the tabular statement in paragraph 10, for "2,316,888," read "2,266,018."

The 22nd July 1901.

F. A. SLACKE,
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

FORESTS.

CALCUTTA, THE 5TH JANUARY 1901.

RESOLUTION No. 128For.

READ—

The Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1899-1900.

Read again—

The Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1898-99 and Government Resolution thereon.

Mr. A. E. Wild, who was in charge of the Bengal Forest Circle throughout the year, submitted his Report on the 10th November 1900, more than a month late.

The following statement shows the area of each class of forest in the circle:—

CLASS OF FOREST.	Area at commencement of the year.	Added.	Excluded.	Area at close of the year.	PERCENTAGE—	
					Of total forest area.	Of the area of the provinces (166,571 square miles).
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sq. miles.	...	Sq. miles.	Sq. miles.		
Reserved ...	6,881	...	...	6,881	43	3.76
Protected ...	3,816	...	141	3,675	27	2.35
Unclassed ...	4,033	...	...	4,033	30	2.58
Total ...	13,730	...	141	13,589	...	8.69

2. No actual changes in the area of reserved forests were made during the year. The recent land revenue resettlement of the Khurda Government Estate shows an excess of 1,833 acres, and of 51,725 acres in the area of the reserved and protected forests, respectively, of the Puri Division, but the reasons for this not having been given, no actual alteration has yet been made in the figures. In the Sundarbans 141 square miles of protected forests were transferred to be converted into cultivation. The transfer of the Saoria tract of the Sonthal Parganas under the Deputy Commissioner will shortly be effected.

3. *Settlement.*—The Lieutenant-Governor notices with regret, since the reasons given for the delay are not satisfactory, that the settlement of the area in the Chittagong Forest Division has not yet been completed. The work was started as far back as 1897-98, and he trusts that it will be ready for notification within the current year.

The recent proposals of the Board of Revenue that certain blocks should be set aside as fuel and fodder reserves in the Jalpaiguri district as protected forests, and placed under the control of the civil authorities, are under consideration of Government. According to the approved programme of operations spread over a period of ten years, the Imperial Forest Survey Branch began work in December in the Singbhum Division. In future reports the Conservator should state what was the programme for the year and, in case it was not worked up to, what were the reasons for the deficiency. It is reported that the progress made so far was not very encouraging, as there are to be two parties at work during the coming season, more check and supervision are required.

The total length of boundaries as yet defined stands at 5,186 miles. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that during the ensuing year forest officials will bear in mind the importance of carefully inspecting forest boundaries, a duty which appears to have been overlooked in many divisions.

4. *Working-plans.*—Of the total forest area in Bengal, viz., 13,589 square miles, working-plans for 5,320 square miles have been either completed or are being compiled, and 8,269 square miles still remain to be dealt with. The latter area includes 4,033 square miles of unclassified forest of Chittagong. Owing to the unfortunate illness of Mr. Hatt, who had nearly finished the working-plans for the Puri Division (110 square miles), and of the tardy progress made by the Forest Survey Party in Singhbhum, which delayed Mr. Haines, who had in hand the working-plan (731 square miles) of that Division, no plans were completed during the year. Here also the Lieutenant-Governor would request that in future years details be given showing what was the programme for the year and to what extent it was worked up to with reasons for any shortcomings. The table showing the comparative strength of the staff, area and percentage under working-plans for the three provinces of Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Central Provinces, submitted by the Conservator, is interesting; but the figures for the areas under working-plans in the Central Provinces do not tally with those given last year. Speaking generally, the comparison as to strength of establishment is not very disadvantageous to Bengal, and the Lieutenant-Governor is compelled to repeat that Bengal has hitherto failed to realise the great value of working-plans. It is so far satisfactory, however, to see that the importance and necessity of the work are now fully understood, for there is no part of the Forest Officer's duties of greater importance than the preparation of working-plans for the forests in their charge. Without them a new Forest Officer is helpless in his charge; and Government has no check on the proper working of any forest.

But it does not appear that the Conservator's arrangements for carrying out these operations are as yet properly organized, since they seem to rest on the chance of securing the services of special officers for this work alone. The matter will be dealt with when orders are passed on the report which has lately been called for giving, in the order of urgency, the Forest Divisions, for which working-plans or revision of existing working-plans are required during the next five years. The Conservator has now had a material addition made to his superior staff, and the work must be taken energetically in hand.

5. *Buildings and Communications.*—The following statement shows the expenditure on roads and buildings in 1898-99 and 1899-1900 and the budget estimates for the latter year:—

DESCRIPTION OF WORK.	BUILDINGS.			ROADS AND BRIDGES.			TOTAL.		
	Actuals of 1898-99.	Budget estimates of 1899-1900.	Actuals of 1899-1900.	Actuals of 1898-99.	Budget estimates of 1899-1900.	Actuals of 1899-1900.	Actuals of 1898-99.	Budget estimates of 1899-1900.	Actuals of 1899-1900.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
New construction ...	23,433	28,480	18,252	10,205	24,120	14,895	33,638	52,600	33,147
Repairs ...	11,116	12,511	9,994	8,902	10,360	7,358	20,048	22,900	17,262
Unapportioned ...	1,160	1,080	1,147	123	320	264	1,283	1,400	1,411
Total ...	35,709	42,100	29,393	19,230	34,800	22,517	54,969	76,900	51,820

The budget estimates were not worked up to, partly owing to several works not having been taken up and partly to the diversion of the allotment to other purposes.

The chief new buildings constructed during the year were the Sonthal Parganas head-quarters house and three revenue station-houses in the Sundarbans.

Eighty-four miles of new roads and paths were made during the year as against 57 in the previous year, and repairs were carried out along 787 miles of road, the corresponding figures for 1898-99 being 842. Of the new roads, 35 miles were for facilitating export and 49 miles were for inspection purposes. The experiment of erecting a wire rope-way in the Tista Division was a failure owing to the curves encountered, and the line will have to be re-erected on the usual plan of straight lengths.

6. *Breaches of Forest Law.*—Three hundred and fifty-five cases were taken into Court during the year under report as against 307 in 1898-99. This increase occurred mainly under "fire cases" in the Singhbhum Division and under "other offences."

Of the cases disposed of, 88 per cent. ended in conviction as against 90 in the previous year. Prosecutions were instituted in 50 cases for offences with regard to fire, of which 38, involving 45 persons, ended in conviction, and 5, involving 18 persons, resulted in acquittal. The remainder were pending at the end of the year. Of the total cases of this kind, 28 occurred in Singhbhum, 9 in Palamau, 5 in Angul, 3 in Jalpaiguri, 2 in Chittagong, 1 in Darjeeling, 1 in Puri, and 1 in the Sonthal Parganas.

The sentences awarded in fire cases have been generally of a much more deterrent nature than was the case during the previous year, and the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with Mr. Wild that, "considering the difficulty in most fire cases of procuring any evidence at all, whenever convictions are obtained, the punishment ought in all cases to be exemplary." The Lieutenant-Governor looks to the Conservator to bring promptly to the notice of Government any case in which, in his opinion, the punishment awarded has been inadequate. The Government of India, as noted in last year's Resolution, asked if amendments were not required in the Indian Forest Act for the better protection of forests from fires and the punishment of incendiarism; proposals have accordingly been submitted by the Conservator to alter the existing law and to make villagers jointly responsible for fires.

The number of cases compounded by Forest Officers amounted to 1,946, involving 3,962 persons as against 2,057 cases, involving 4,018 persons in the previous year. The amount received as compensation was Rs. 12,176, Rs. 791 less than the amount in the previous year. In the Sundarbans, the compensation accepted is usually high, as the cases are mostly of a more serious nature than in other Divisions, for the offenders carry off the wood in boat-loads, whereas elsewhere the thefts are chiefly confined to the quantity that can be carried on a man's head. Omitting this Division, the compensation received for each person involved varied between 8 annas 7 pies in Singhbhum and Rs. 7-3-9 in Buxa. The total number of offences decreased from 2,487 to 2,483, and of these, the Darjeeling Division contributed 446 cases, while the Tista, Sonthal Parganas, Puri, and the Sundarbans Divisions contributed over 300 cases each.

7. *Forest fires.*—Protective measures against fire were taken for 2,114 square miles, of which 194 square miles, or 9 per cent. of the entire protected area, were burnt, as against 2 per cent. in 1898-99 and 27 in 1897-98. This increase was, to some extent, to be expected owing to the early setting in of the hot weather.

Although a far larger area was burnt than during the previous year, yet, looking at past results, the general result of the year under report was fairly satisfactory, and the Conservator points out that the accustomed alternation of good and bad years, which has been the rule since 1890-91, has been broken. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Conservator that some praise is due to the officers of the Department for this improvement.

Singhbhum again heads the record, having had 134 square miles burnt, and the fires there in 1899-1900 were worse than in 1898-99. In consequence of the many and severe fires in the early part of the season in the Saitba block of this Division, the burnt areas in that block were closed to grazing for three years as a punishment for malicious and careless firing.

8. It would appear that for the Circle 92 fires as against 62 in the previous year were intentionally fired, damage being done to 101,365 acres as against 40,545 in 1898-99. Prosecutions were instituted in 14 of these cases, of which 10 ended in conviction, 2 resulted in acquittal, and 2 were pending at the close of the year.

9. *Grazing.*—Four hundred and seventeen square miles of reserved forests were open to all animals, as against 393 square miles in the previous year, the increase of 24 square miles being due to areas previously closed in the Darjeeling and Kurseong Divisions being thrown open during the year under report. As in the previous year, 1,722 square miles of protected forests remained open during 1899-1900. The average area per head of cattle grazed in the reserved forests was 5.7 acres as compared with 5.5 acres in the year before. In the protected forests, excluding Angul, which is under the management

of the Deputy Commissioner, and for which no returns have been furnished, the acreage per head (2·5) was practically unchanged, though the revenue increased by Rs. 919 to Rs. 84,941 owing to better collections in the Puri Division. With regard to grazing, no change has been made in the method or system.

10. *Yield and outturn of forest produce.*—The following statement gives details of the forest outturn of the year:—

Class of forest and agency by which produce was removed.	Timber.	Fuel.	Total wood.	Bamboos.	Minor produce.
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Reserved.</i>					
	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	C. ft.	Rs.
Government ...	186,799	155,740	342,539	17,148	2,682
Purchasers ...	5,689,564	15,194,638	20,884,202	9,769,908	1,24,875
Free-grantees ...	11,143	22,038	33,181	...	1,363
Right-holders ...	.....	910,157	910,157	966,400	12,312
Total ...	5,867,606	16,282,573	22,150,079	10,753,456	1,41,232
<i>Protected.</i>					
Government ...	38,536	3,981	42,517	539,441	1,701
Purchasers ...	699,978	3,835,694	4,435,672	101,090	47,777
Free-grantees ...	1,624	729	2,353	2,300	2
Right-holders ...	230,665	14,380,835	14,611,500	4,000,000	1,33,374
Total ...	970,803	18,221,239	19,192,042	4,642,831	1,72,154
<i>Unclassed.</i>					
Government ...	21,290	1,369	22,659	25,960	3
Purchasers ...	480,232	60,642	540,874	5,811,886	8,657*
Free-grantees ...	491	.....	491	1,500	...
Right-holders ...	.....	...	.....	.....	.....
Total ...	502,013	62,011	564,024	5,839,346	8,660
Grand total in 1899-1900	7,340,322	34,565,823	41,906,145	21,035,633	3,22,746
Ditto in 1898-99 ...	6,420,306	32,248,935	38,669,241	20,744,794	2,90,016
Difference in 1899-1900 ...	+ 920,016	+ 2,316,888	+ 3,236,904	+ 290,839	+ 32,730

* Includes Rs. 2,108 collected from Hill Tippera (for two years).

The gross outturn under all heads was much greater than in the previous year, and considering that the gross yield of the year 1898-99 itself had been considerably larger than in 1897-98, this result is very satisfactory. The Sundarbans Division gave the largest increase, the timber and fuel there exceeding those of the previous year by 693,867 cubic feet and 2,316,888 cubic feet, respectively, and the Departmental Officers are reported to have shown much energy in exploiting the produce of this Division and taking advantage of a brisk demand.

Singhbhum also showed a considerable improvement in its yield of timber, but fell off considerably in its fuel outturn, as also did Angul.

11. *Financial Results.*—The following statement shows the financial results during each of the last six official years:—

Financial year.	Receipts.	Charges.	Net revenue.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894-95 ...	7,95,673	3,98,601	3,97,072
1895-96 ...	9,18,709	4,66,058	4,52,641
1896-97 ...	13,70,849	6,90,042	6,80,807
1897-98 ...	11,89,285	6,53,437	5,35,848
1898-99 ...	9,72,313	4,86,319	4,85,994
1899-1900 ...	11,38,912	5,45,205	5,93,707

For the purposes of comparison the Conservator eliminates the years 1896—98 as exceptional owing to the extensive sleeper operations in Singhbhum, but this the Lieutenant-Governor cannot agree to, since in his opinion there must yearly be a large demand for sleepers on the part of the railway companies, which it is the duty of the Forest Department to meet or to explain to the satisfaction of Government their inability so to do.

12. The following table shows the result of the last two financial years, division by division :—

DIVISION.	RECEIPTS.		CHARGES.		SURPLUS.		DEFICIT.	
	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1898-99.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direction	3,573	13,506	43,879	39,650	...	...	40,306	26,154
Darjeeling	79,093	79,969	70,571	69,617	8,522	10,322	...	...
Tista	28,704	22,828	31,066	23,675	...	...	2,362	847
Kurseong	42,958	39,021	31,275	33,796	11,683	5,225	...	...
Jalpaiguri	55,722	49,127	34,301	23,459	21,421	25,668	...	...
Buxa	26,782	18,441	30,515	23,752	...	...	3,733	7,311
Sonthal Parganas	43,262	22,760	30,415	17,364	12,847	5,396	...	...
Hazaribagh	19,195	...	3,730	...	15,465	...	...	...
Palamau	2,775	3,429	12,828	11,890	...	...	10,053	8,461
Singhbhum	62,660	40,745	67,949	45,842	...	...	5,289	5,097
Angul	4,922	3,912	13,694	15,286	...	...	8,772	11,374
Puri	32,246	25,084	26,550	26,093	5,606	...	...	1,009
Sundarbans	6,30,639	5,57,120	96,679	1,10,480	5,33,960	4,46,640	...	...
Chittagong	1,06,381	98,371	51,753	45,375	54,628	52,996	...	...
Total	11,38,912	9,72,313	5,45,205	4,86,319	6,64,222	5,46,247	70,515	60,253
Net surplus ... ..	...	...	...	...	5,93,707	4,85,994	...	...

The Lieutenant-Governor regrets to find that no improvement was made in the Tista, Buxa, Palamau, Singhbhum, and Angul Divisions, which again worked at a loss during the year under report. It is explained that in Singhbhum there would have been a small surplus, but for the expenditure of Rs. 12,113 on surveys, and that the deficit in Tista was due to the inability to dispose of the sleepers prepared there, in consequence of the breaks in the Tista Valley road. In the Buxa Division operations, it is said, are retarded owing to the climate, which prevents the Department from securing reliable workmen, but the Conservator thinks that there will be a profit in the coming year. Improvement in Angul is also promised though for what reason is not stated. In reviewing the report of the previous year, the Government of India expressed the opinion that no forest division in Bengal, except the Direction Division, should show a deficit, and they agreed with the Lieutenant-Governor in considering that more energy was required on the part of Divisional Forest Officers in seeking and developing markets for the many products of the Bengal forests.

The Conservator reports that a certain zeal in the direction of opening out new markets has now been aroused among the officers of the Department, but that none have shown any special aptitude for commercial undertakings. His Honour desires that the Conservator will impress upon all officers that unless they eagerly seek every chance of exploiting the forest produce and bringing the products to the knowledge of purchasers, instead of waiting for purchasers to approach them, they have failed in one of the essential duties of a forest officer.

The answers given by the Conservator with reference to the questions asked concerning the supply of sleepers to the Cooch Bihar, Barun-Daltonganj and Bengal-Duars Railways do not show that it was impossible for the Department to furnish the necessary timber.

The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to notice the successful and profitable introduction of Departmental operations in the matter of the collection and disposal of certain minor products, viz., India-rubber in the Kurseong Division, myrabolams in the Singhbhum Division, and the fruit of the *strychnos nux vomica* in the Puri Division; and he is obliged to Mr. Wild for the trouble he has taken in the improvement of this branch of the administration. That the departmental

cultivation of lac in the Palamau forests has, owing to want of zeal, been so far a failure, is most regrettable, and the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that the Conservator will see that this want of energy on the part of local officers is promptly remedied: there would appear to be no reason why this cultivation should not be as successful as others, and it is trusted that next year's report will show better results. It is satisfactory also to note that the right to cut *sabai* grass in the Singhbhum reserves, which had been leased for three years in 1897 at a total rent of Rs. 30,000, was resettled in April 1900, for a further term of three years for a sum of Rs. 1,26,000.

The state of the mica industry in Hazaribagh continues to be disappointing, and the Conservator thinks that it is impossible to exercise much departmental check of the data on which the royalty on mica is calculated without a large increase of establishment. A revision of the mica mining rules is now under the consideration of Government.

13. *Miscellaneous*.—Since the close of the year three new appointments have been sanctioned by Her Majesty's Secretary of State, viz., one Deputy Conservator, first grade, another of the third grade, and one Assistant Conservator, second grade.

Considerable damage was done to the forests around Darjeeling by the unusually heavy storm and rainfall of the 24th and 25th September 1899. There was a formidable landslip on the Setikhola Jhora, and the torrents in the Tista river and its tributaries, the Rangit and the Bara Rangit, brought down large deposits of silt and washed away low-lying strips of forest on their immediate banks, and a bed of silt was formed in the Apalchand forest in Jalpaiguri. It is estimated that 463 acres of forest in the Darjeeling Division, and some 450 out of 600 acres in the bed of the Balasun river have been lost. The damage to roads and paths was extensive in the three hill Divisions of Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Tista.

The present report is full and in view of the remarks passed last year by the Government of India, it should if possible have been curtailed. This subject, however, is now under consideration, and the Lieutenant-Governor is awaiting the opinion of the Conservator on the suggestion made by the Government of India in their Circular No. 7F., dated the 18th September 1900, for the shortening of the Report.

14. In thanking Mr. Wild for his administration generally and for the large increase he and his officers have obtained in the departmental surplus, the Lieutenant-Governor desires that two points may be very closely kept in view during the ensuing year: the vital importance of pushing on the preparation of working-plans and the keen exploitation of forest products.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

F A. SLACKE,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 178FOR.

COPY forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, Bengal, for information and guidance.

Nos. 179-184FOR.

COPY forwarded to the Commissioner of the Chittagong
Rajshahi
Presidency
Bhawalpur
Chota Nagpur
Orissa Division for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

L. E. B. COBDEN-RAMSAY,

Offg. Under-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 9th January 1901.

T. A - Reg. No 5075C-603-10.1.1901.

No. 680-F., dated Simla, the 18th June 1901.

File No. 45 of
1901.

From—J. B. FULLER, Esq., I.C.S., C.I.E., Offg. Secretary to the Government of
India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture,

Serial No. 2.

To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of the Forest Administration Report of the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1899-1900, together with a copy of the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution thereon.

2. The working of the year was marked by a satisfactory increase in the net revenue. It is observed, however, that certain divisions were still worked at a loss, and the Government of India trust that the remarks made in paragraph 12 of the Resolution will lead to greater attention on the part of Forest officers to the commercial side of their duties. The Governor General in Council is in cordial agreement with His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as to the need of actively exploiting the forests up to the limit of their possible annual yield and, in particular, of securing if possible a regular demand for railway sleepers, and I am to express a hope that care will be taken to avoid the loss of sleeper contracts by the demand by the Forest Department of too high a price for its timber. The Government of India, in Circular No. 8-F., dated the 21st May 1895, have already conceded to Railway interests a share in the increased value of timber which results from the construction of a railway; and, generally, it may be accepted that where a contract renders it possible to sell produce which is otherwise unsaleable, the Department should be satisfied if it obtains a good profit on the outlay incurred in extraction and supply.

3. The Government of India are gratified to observe that the preparation of working-plans continues to receive special attention, and they consider that there should be no difficulty now in the prosecution of this important branch of Forest Administration, if proper advantage is taken of the recent additions to the Imperial Forest Service in Bengal, and if charges of minor control which do not require a large amount of technical knowledge are entrusted to members of the Provincial Service holding other than transferred appointments. With reference to existing working-plans, the unpunctuality which is stated to generally occur in the receipt of the control returns by the Conservator is not creditable to the officers responsible for their submission, and it is understood that the control forms of the Darjeeling and Tista valley working-circles for the year 1898-99 have not even yet reached the Inspector-General of Forests, although their submission by the Conservator to that officer was due on the 1st November 1899. The object of these returns is in a great measure lost if they are not punctually submitted, and I am to ask that punctual submission may be insisted upon.

4. Good progress was made in the erection of rest-houses and quarters for the establishment, and in the construction of roads to facilitate the export of produce from the forests. It is to be regretted that the wire rope-way in the Tista Division should have failed through faulty construction and that it should have been necessary to spend money in re-erecting it.

5. There was a considerable increase both in the number of forest fires and in the area burnt, chiefly in the Singhbhum Division, but the results of fire-protective measures were on the whole decidedly more satisfactory than in recent dry years. Of the area attempted, 91 per cent. was protected at a cost of 2.1 pies per acre. Of the 156 cases of fire in which offences had been committed, 105 remained undetected; but it is satisfactory to note that convictions were obtained in 40 (or 89 per cent.) out of the 45 cases decided by the Courts during the year, and that the punishments were generally adequate. It is hoped that the closure to grazing of areas burnt in the Singhbhum forests will have the desired effect of impressing on the people the need of co-operating with Government in Forest protection.

6. The gross outturn of the forests shows a large increase under all the main heads as compared with that of the previous year; in the case of timber and fuel the increase amounts to nearly $3\frac{1}{4}$ millions cubic feet, and to this the

Sundarbans division as usual was the chief contributor. The financial results of the year show a surplus of Rs. 6,05,711, or 52·2 per cent. of the gross receipts.

7. The Government of India observe with pleasure that the Conservator and his staff earned the Lieutenant-Governor's commendation.

No. 681-F.

COPY forwarded to the Inspector General of Forests, for information, with reference to paragraph 3.

By order,

R. E. V. ARBUTHNOT,

Under-Secretary to the Government of India.

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