

## Growth of planted trees in Assam.

We have already referred (Vol. XVII, p. 463,) to the Assam Report for 1890-91, the text of which has now come to hand. The only point of any interest we can find is the record of the measurements of trees in the Kulsí Plantations given in Appendix III.

The India-rubber (*Ficus elastica*) Plantation contains 88 acres in which are 2,417 living trees the largest of which date from 1873. Their average height is 53 feet and girth 4 feet. There are also some toon (*Cedrela* species, probably *microcarpa*) the dominant trees of which are 51 feet high with a girth of 16½ inches.

The Teak Plantations show the following measurements:—

<i>Age. yrs.</i>	<i>Average girth.</i>
19    ...	... 42½ inches.
18    ...	... 30½    "
17    ...	... 36½    "
16    ...	... 32       "
13    ...	... 28       "
12    ...	... 19½    "
10    ...	... 20½    "

In the Sissu Plantation 18 years old, the average height of dominant trees is 53 feet, and girth 23½ inches.

There is something unpractical about these measurements, which are on selected trees only, and consequently do not give true averages. We should like to see these Plantation measurements extended, so as to give the gradual yearly increase in amount of material.

We note that several species of bamboo are being planted and should be grateful if some Assam Officer would kindly describe the systems of planting, by seed, by offsets, &c., and the season at which planting is found to succeed best.

When I joined them, I found that the "Tusker" was not more than one hundred yards from us, as we could distinctly hear him destroying the young trees. I sent one of the trackers named Mian Achroo Singh, the son of my old Shikari, Mian Tiloka Singh, to find out in what sort of place the Elephant was and how close I could get to him. Achroo was accompanied by a Forest Guard named Fateh Singh, who was the leader in the jungle, all the time we were after the Elephant, and who behaved all through very pluckily. They went about 50 yards and saw the Rogue standing under a patch of Sal seedlings eating the bark of a Sal tree which he knocked down while they watched. Achroo remained watching and the Forest Guard came back to give the information. I followed up to the spot accompanied by my Munshee, Ganga Parshad, carrying my second rifle. When we joined Achroo Singh, I saw that the animal was not standing in a good position for a shot, so we waited there under a "*Maljhan*" creeper, full  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour before he moved on about 40 yards and stopped.

Achroo again followed, and before he had gone 20 yards from us he saw the beast, and silently beckoned to me to come up. I walked up to the spot very carefully and with my glasses distinctly saw the animal standing sideways about 35 yards from us. I left Achroo and Ganga there, and walked on carefully to a very small patch which was 25 yards from the *Tusker*, where I sat down and watched him with the glasses; Achroo and Ganga followed and sat down beside me with their rifles ready, as they were warned before hand. After 2 minutes, I brought up my rifle to my shoulder; aimed at him behind his ear and fired. The moment I pulled the trigger the brute threw back his ear, and the bullet passing through it, hit the exact spot at which I aimed and dropped him dead.

He was a fine animal 10 feet in height, 14 feet in girth, measured just behind his fore legs, and 25 $\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the tip of his trunk to the end of his tail; his foot prints were 20" x 17" and 5 feet in circumference, and his tusks were 27 inches out from his mouth.

The rifle with which I shot the *Rogue*, was a .500 bore magnum express by Alexander Henry of Edinburgh and London, burning 165 grains of powder, and carrying a hardened lead bullet with steel tip. The first day I was out, Mr. C. W. P., of Hardwar, was with me, and gave me the benefit of his great experience in tracking, but unfortunately he was laid up with a very bad attack of cold and could not leave camp the day the elephant was shot.

Camp Parduni, }  
16th March, 1892. }

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RAJAH.