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MADRAS DISTRICT GAZETTEERS

VIZAGAPATAM.

VOLUME I.

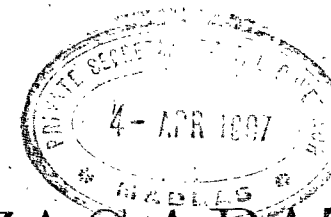
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MADRAS DISTRICT GAZETTEERS.



VIZAGAPATAM.



BY
W. FRANCIS,
INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

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PREFACE.

THIS book follows the plan prescribed by Government, and statistics have for the most part been given in a separate Appendix which is to be revised decennially, after each Census.

The original 'District Manual,' written by Mr. D. F. Carmichael, I.C.S., when Collector and Agent, was published so long ago as 1869. One of its chief features was the section devoted to the early history of the numerous zamindaris, and this has been freely utilized in Chapter XV of the present volume. Much interesting matter regarding the 'Agency tracts' of the district has also been extracted from the annual administration reports of the Agents to the Governor, the earlier of which give vivid accounts of the difficulties of the pioneers of law and order in that wild country.

Thanks to the many gentlemen, official and non-official, who have helped with this book have been tendered where possible in the body of the volume, but special obligations have been incurred to Mr. R. H. Campbell, the present Collector and Agent, who has been kind enough to read the whole of the proofs and make a large number of important corrections and improvements in them.

W. F.

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GAZETTEER

OF THE

VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

CHAPTER I.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—Position and boundaries—Taluk and chief towns—
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—Limestone—Steatite—Sapphirine—A meteorite. FLORA. FAUNA—
Domestic animals; cattle—Sheep—Goats—Game.

VIZAGAPATAM lies on the east coast of the Presidency and, except Ganjám, is the northernmost of all the Madras districts. Its head-quarters, after which it is named, is 487 miles by rail from Madras. It is the largest district in India and the most populous in the Province, having an area of no less than 17,222 square miles and containing, in 1901, 2,933,650 inhabitants. On the east (see the map in the pocket at the end of this volume) it is bounded by the Bay of Bengal and Ganjám; on the north by the Native State of Kálahandi in Bengal, which runs down into it like a wedge, and by the Raipur zamindari of the Central Provinces; on the west by the Native State of Bastar belonging to the same Provinces; and south by the Gódávári district of this Presidency. Here and there the boundaries follow for some distance the courses of various rivers, but usually, excepting the line of the coast, they are not defined by any well-marked natural features.

As the map shows, Vizagapatam consists of an open strip of land facing the shore, and of two large areas of hilly country rising north and west of this. These hills are for the most part

CHAP. I.
GENERAL
DESCRIPTION.
Position and
boundaries.

Taluk and
chief towns.

CHAP. I.
GENERAL
DESCRIPTION.

covered with jungle and inhabited by backward people to whom it is considered inexpedient to apply the whole of the ordinary law of the land. They are accordingly administered, under a special enactment passed in 1839 (see p. 196), by the Collector in his special capacity of 'Agent to the Governor' for these tracts, and are known as 'the Agency.' The ordinary courts of justice have no jurisdiction within them (the Agent being the chief civil and criminal tribunal) and the Agent is moreover endowed with unusual powers there, such as authority to deport on warrant, without formal trial, persons whose presence is harmful to the cause of law and order.

The district is arranged for administrative purposes into the

Vizagapatam division.
Vizagapatam.
* Srungavarapukōta.

Vizianagram division.
Vizianagram.
Bimlipatam.
Chipurupalle.
Gajapatinagaram.
* Pālkonda.

Narasapatam division.
* Golgonda.
Anakāpalle.
Sarvasiddhi.
* Viravilli.

Pārvatipur division.
* Pārvatipur.
* * Bissamkatak.
Bobbili.
* * Gunupur.
* * Rāyagada.
* Sālūr.

Koraput division.
* * Koraput.
* * Jeypore.
* * Pādwa.
* * Pottangi.
* * Malkanagiri.
* * Naurangpur.

five divisions and twenty-three taluks shown in the margin.

Those of the latter which are marked with one asterisk are partly in the Agency above referred to, while those with two asterisks are included wholly within that area. Only three of the taluks (Golgonda, Pālkonda and Sarvasiddhi) are ryotwari land, the others (which make up nine-tenths of the whole district) being zamindari. The head-quarters of the various taluks are at the places after which each is named except in the cases of Golgonda, Sarvasiddhi and Viravilli, the chief stations in which are Narasapatam, Yellamanchilī and Chōdavaram respectively. The chief towns in the district are the municipalities of Vizagapatam (with its European suburb

of Waltair), Vizianagram, Anakāpalle and Bimlipatam, and the unions of Bobbili, Pārvatipur, Sālūr, Pālkonda and Narasapatam. Excepting these, there is no town of as many as 10,000 inhabitants. Some account of them, and also of other places of interest in the district, will be found in Chapter XV below.

Etymology
of name.

The name Vizagapatam is properly Vaisākhapattanam, 'the town of Vaisākha' or Kārtikeya, the Hindu Mars. Tradition has it that some centuries ago a king of the Āndhra dynasty

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.

encamped on the site of the present town on his way to Benares, and, being pleased with the place, built a shrine to Vaisākha, his favourite deity, just south of Lawson's Bay there. Encroachments of the sea are supposed to have long since swept away this building, but it is said to have given its name to the town and its traditional site is still supposed to be an auspicious spot for religious bathings. The name is popularly shortened to 'Vizag', and the form 'Vizac' was in use from almost the earliest days of the English occupation of the district in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Similar abbreviations for Gajapatinagaram and Srungavarapukōta are badly needed.

Vizagapatam and the four other northernmost districts of the Presidency are known as 'the Northern Circars.' This name dates from the time of the Musalman occupation (see p. 30), when the five 'Sarkārs' (divisions of territory) in the north (the chief town of which was Masulipatam) were Guntūr, Kondapalli, Ellore, Rajahmundry and Chicacole. The Chicacole Circar included the present Ganjām and Vizagapatam districts.

Vizagapatam consists, broadly speaking, of the two great natural divisions already mentioned; namely, the strip of land along the coast and the hills which flank it on the north and west. The hills, however, as will be seen immediately, comprise several widely differing areas.

The strip of land along the coast drains eastward to the Bay of Bengal by the series of rivers referred to below. In the north of it, the Pālkonda taluk consists for the most part of rather monotonous wet land

CHAP. I.
GENERAL
DESCRIPTION.

of the same grain is grown under the numerous tanks fed by torrents from the hills; so that in the cultivation season the country has an air of exceeding prosperity. The higher, red land there is occupied by dry fields, each usually separated from its neighbour by rows of palmyra palms; and these same palms stand in groups in every hollow and, though on the west their supremacy is challenged by the date, they are the prevailing tree in this part of the district.

Along the shore lies a series of salt or sandy swamps; but the coast line itself is broken, in refreshing contrast to the monotonous dead levels further south, by a number of bold headlands and beacons which act as groins to protect the land against the constant encroachments of the waves and currents. The best known of these are the Pólavaram rock, the Dolphin's Nose at Vizagapatam, Rishikonda ('the Sugar-loaf hill') just north of Lawson's Bay at Waltair, and the big Narasimha hill at Bimlipatam.

HILLS.

The only hills in this open plain are the low red and black ones already referred to. These, as has been said, are generally scattered but sometimes stand in rows; and the latter run from north-east to south-west parallel to the coast. In the Anakápalie and Sarvasiddhi taluks are two prominent parallel lines of this kind, and between Sarvasiddhi and Golgonda is quite a considerable and continuous range. West of Vizagapatam and Bimlipatam stands a great confused group of the same kind of hills, the best known of which is called after the Simháchalam temple (see p. 323) near its summit.

North and west of the open plain rise the hills of the Agency already mentioned. They are a section of the great line of the Eastern Gháts.

In the
Párvatipur
division.

In the north, in the Ráyagada, Gunupur and Bissamkatak taluks of the Jeypore zāmindārī and Párvatipur division, they are lower than elsewhere and consist of steep and rugged lines, devoid of plateaus, hedging in the two broad, almost parallel, valleys of the Vamsadhára and Nágavali rivers, which drain them southwards down an easy gradient into the Bay of Bengal. A line of heights runs north and south through the middle of this tract and separates these two valleys. It is called the Kailásakóta hills and the highest point on it is 3,895 feet above the sea. In the north-west corner of Bissamkatak taluk is a curious group of larger hills, called the Nímgiris, which rise abruptly from the upper valley of the Vamsadhára (here 1,100 feet above the sea) to close on 5,000 feet.

CHAP. I:
HILLS.

As a rule (the appearance of the various taluks is referred to in more detail in Chapter XV) the hills in this part of the district are covered with stunted forests ruined by constant felling and burning, while the valleys are open expanses of park-like land cultivated with a little paddy and much dry crop. The forests here and elsewhere are briefly described in Chapter V and the roads and passes in Chapter VII.

The hills on the west of the coastal plain consist of three main plateaus. The highest and largest of these, which is made up of the main line of the Eastern Gháts and runs parallel to the shore of the Bay, is usually known as 'the 3,000 feet plateau.' It sweeps down from the southernmost limit of the wedge-shaped bit of Kálahandi State already mentioned on the north, right through the middle of the district, to the Gódavari boundary on the south; and is about 110 miles long with an average width of 40 miles. The whole of it is tilted slightly to the west and its eastern edge is boldly marked by a line of the biggest hills in the district and drops sharply to the plains. Between this escarpment and the low country proper, however, often intervene range behind range of lower foot-hills, hidden among which are secluded valleys of all sizes and shapes, cut off from the outer world except for rough tracks across the passes, but inhabited and cultivated. Viewed from the plains, these outer hills lend the main plateau a charm which is lacking in ranges not thus attended. It does not stand boldly forth to be appraised at a single glance; only its higher peaks can be seen, peering over the shoulders of their lesser vanguard and across the mysterious-looking valleys which divide the ranks of this latter.

The 3,000
feet plateau.

Except a narrow strip on its high eastern side which falls away to the plains, the whole of this 3,000 feet plateau drains westwards into the basin of the Gódavari through the Indrávati, Koláb, Machéru and other tributaries of that great river. Some description of the plateau will be found in the accounts in Chapter XV of the various taluks of which it is made up, and it is sufficient to say here that it consists of a table-land of red soil profusely scattered with hundreds of little red hills of remarkable similarity of appearance. In the north, the hills and valleys have long since been denuded of almost all their forest and cultivated, but in the south, especially in the Golgonda taluk, all but the tops of the hills are still covered with heavy forest.

According to the maps, the highest point on this plateau (and therefore in the district) is Deomali hill, seven miles

CHAP. I.
HILLS.

above the sea. Other well-known heights are Sinkaram (5,300) and Yendrika (5,188), which rise head and shoulders above their fellows in the interior of the Pádwa taluk, and Gálíkonda ('windy hill,' 5,300 feet) which stands on the edge of the plateau south-west of the former, amid a group of several other notable peaks.

Gálíkonda as
a sanitarium.

In 1859 this last was examined under orders from Sir Patrick Grant, the Commander-in-Chief of Madras, to see whether it would make a good sanitarium for the troops serving in the old 'Northern Division' of the Presidency. A committee of five members presided over by Dr. Duncan McPherson, Inspector-General of Hospitals, went up the hill in February of that year to prospect, the country being marked in the maps of that day as unexplored territory. They named the saddle which joins the two crescentic ridges of Gálíkonda 'Grant's range,' and selected a site for a sanitarium on an elevated spot 600 feet lower than this and lying 'a little to the west of north (of Gálíkonda) and about a mile from the foot of the hill,' which they called (after Lord Harris, then Governor of Madras) 'the Harris valley.' It is in reality less a valley than a shoulder of Gálíkonda, and is a little over 4,000 feet above the sea. Government ordered that a party of European soldiers should go up and reside there for a few months to test the climate. A company of 60 Sappers went up in December 1859 to clear the ground and make approaches, and in the March following twenty-one men of the European Veteran Company at Vizagapatam, with two officers, followed them and lived there for three months. But of this party 'only one escaped fever. The men returned subject to frequent relapses and greatly enfeebled in constitution. Three of them died; two on the hill, one in the way back to Waltair.' It was thought that this melancholy result was partly attributable to the fact that the men were old and worn-out veterans, so a party of the 2nd European L.I. was sent up in their place at the end of May. But only one of these escaped fever. The Sappers, who had remained on the hill at a spot called 'Taylor's knoll,' on the eastern side of the saddle and about 380 feet above the Harris valley, also suffered severely from malaria.

Mr. Fane, the Collector, who had built himself a bungalow on a hillock about 100 feet above Taylor's knoll, said that his servants had escaped; and he thought this was due to their being higher up the hill and having better water. Doubtless, also, the fact that the unfortunate soldiers went through part of the south-west monsoon (the most malarious time of the year) with no better shelter than leaky grass huts had much to do with their sickness.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION.

It was next suggested that Kapkonda, a higher hill south-west of Gálíkonda 'having a considerable extent of table-land on the summit, sufficient to encamp an army upon,' might make a better site for the sanitarium, but this was examined and also condemned; and in 1861 it was decided to proceed no further with this unlucky venture. Mr. Fane gave his bungalow to his head sheristadar, Mr. McMurray, in 1865. The remains of his garden and the graves of the two veterans may still be seen on the hill. The Rája of Vizianagram has a coffee estate at Anantagiri, on the way up to Gálíkonda from the plains, and close by stands the bungalow which Mr. H. G. Turner, Collector from 1881 to 1889, built when he was constructing the Anantagiri ghát (see p. 137) up to this part of the plateau.

West of, and parallel to, this 3,000 feet plateau, and about 1,000 feet below it, lies a table-land which consists of the Jeypore and Naurangpur taluks and is known as 'the 2,000 feet plateau' or 'the Jeypore plateau.' Like its more elevated neighbour, it drains westwards into the Gódávári basin through the Koláb, Indrávati and other rivers, but at the northern corner it drops down into the valley of the Tál, a tributary of the Mahánadi.

This tract differs altogether from the 3,000 feet plateau in other matters besides altitude. It receives a heavier rainfall, so that the basin of the Indrávati and much of Jeypore taluk are covered with broad sheets of rain-fed paddy instead of dry crops; it is almost level instead of being one mass of hills; and in the north of Naurangpur and the west of Jeypore it contains miles and miles of thick forest, chiefly sál.

At its southern extremity it drops abruptly down to the third plateau—the Malkanagiri taluk—which is another thousand feet lower on an average, and a good deal more than this in its south-western corner. Malkanagiri village is only 641 feet above the sea. This part of the hills is the most sparsely populated tract in the Presidency, and is one great jungle containing thick forest in places but being largely covered with coarse grass ten feet high dotted with scattered saplings. It drains into the Saveri and Silérú, two more tributaries of the Gódávári.

All this hilly country, though malarious in the extreme and held in abject dread by the natives of the plains, wins the best affections of almost every European officer whom fate leads to serve within it. The beauty of its scenery, its cooler and more invigorating air, the chances of sport, the absence of the mass of detail and routine which binds an official in the plains hand and foot

CHAP. I.
RIVERS.

hill (the curious fish-pool near here is described on p. 285 below) and through the wide Pádwa valley. When about 35 miles south of Jeypore it winds westwards along the edge of the plateau, as if looking for a way down through the low hills which fringe this there, and then suddenly turns at a sharp angle to the south-west down a steep descent. The drop changes a somewhat sluggish river flowing between banks of red earth into a series of rapids foaming between enormous masses of boulders. Three miles from the bend, about the same distance south of Bádigada, and 26 miles from the nearest road, the descent is barred by a huge barrier of rock shut in on either side by walls of rock two or three hundred feet high. Below this is a sheer abyss of 480 feet, over which the river flings itself into a boiling pool half hidden by dense clouds of spray on which the sunlight throws the brightest of rainbows. In the dry season it is possible to scramble to the edge of the abyss and look straight down through the spray into the great pool beneath, while from beneath the scene is the most impressive in all the district. Below these falls, which are the highest in the Presidency, the river flows south-westwards in a deep and gloomy gorge, hemmed in on both sides by rock walls hundreds of feet high, into which it is impossible to descend and which is said to continue for many miles.¹

This slowly widens until at Kondakambéru, 32 miles as the crow flies from the falls, it has become a narrow valley shut in by high hills. A few miles further on the river, which is now called the Siléru ('rocky stream') and still runs at the bottom of a deep hollow in the mountains, forms the boundary between Malkanagiri taluk and the Gódávari district and flows on, abounding in mahseer and crocodiles, until at Mótu it joins the Saveri. 'Nothing can exceed the extreme beauty of this lonely river, with its bamboo-covered banks, its deep, long reaches of water, its falls, its grass-covered islets and its rushing clear water. From the grand fall at Bádigada to the gorge where it emerges from the Kondakambéru level, it would not be difficult to pole a boat; but this gorge altogether prevents boats from coming up from Mótu, and indeed it is equally destructive of all timber-floating operations.'

The soils of the district have been scientifically classified only in the three Government taluks, in which alone regular settlement operations have been conducted. There they divide themselves into the two main groups of red ferruginous and black, which are

¹ From a description kindly supplied by Mr. H. A. B. Vernon, I.C.S. The height of the falls was taken by Mr. H. G. Turner with an aneroid.

CHAP. I.
SOILS.

again subdivided into clays, loams and sands. The figures subjoined show the percentage of the assessed area of each of the three taluks which is covered with these different kinds of earths:—

Description of soil.	Pálkonda taluk.	Golgonda taluk.	Sarvasiddhi taluk.	Total of the three taluks.
Red { Loam ...	41.7	51.5	53.1	49.0
Sand ...	16.3	38.5	15.1	25.5
Total ...	58.0	90.0	68.2	74.5
Black { Clay ...	13.0	2.7	14.8	9.3
Loam ...	24.9	7.3	17.0	15.2
Sand ...	3.2	...	...	1.0
Total ...	42.0	10.0	31.8	25.5
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

It will be noticed that three-fourths of them consist of red soils and only one-fourth of the richer black earths; that the loams (the most fertile of the subdivisions for wet crops) are not uncommon; that a third of the red land is of the sandy, the least fertile, variety; and that Pálkonda and Sarvasiddhi are far more favoured than Golgonda, in which last nine-tenths of the soil is of the red kinds. This final point is clearly brought out by the figures of assessment given on p. 100 below, which show that only one-eighth of the assessed dry land in Golgonda is rated at more than Re. 1 per acre and less than one-fourth of the wet land at more than Rs. 4-8-0. The black soil occurs chiefly in the alluvial valleys of the streams and rivers, the higher land being usually red.

Though no accurate figures can be quoted, it may be stated in general terms that (except in these valleys) the prevailing soil of the whole of the plains, of the Párvatipur division, and of the 3,000 feet plateau is red, while on the 2,000 feet plateau beyond it the black soils become commoner. The red earth

- CHAP. I.
MINERALS.
- Manganese. The most important, industrially, of the minerals of the district is manganese ore. The mining of this is referred to on p. 125 below.
- Iron. In many villages in the Umarkót, Kótápád, Rámagiri and Koraput tánas of the Jeypore estate iron ore is rudely smelted by the natives in the usual way for the manufacture of implements and tools, but apparently no large or continuous out-crop of ore exists.
- Graphite. Graphite is commonly used for giving a finish to the ordinary earthen pots of the district. It is said to be found in the Mérangi, Kásipuram and Sálúr zamindaris and at a spot seven miles to the north-east of Narasapatam, but no clear account of its distribution or qualities has yet been published and all that can be said is that it has never yet been exploited with commercial success.
- Limestone. The crystalline limestone at Guptésvara and the Borra Cave is referred to in the accounts of those places, on pp. 260 and 285. At the former the Koláb cuts its way through beds of grey, argillaceous limestone which in some spots has been dissolved away by the running water and formed into fantastic pillars, *blocs perchés*, circular caverns and wide arches.
- Steatite. Coarse grey steatite (potstone) outcrops at numerous points west and south-west of Jeypore, and at Ontagaon, three miles from that town, is quarried for buildings and for the manufacture of images of the Hindu gods. It also occurs on the road between Boipariguda and Rámagiri, and on the Malkanagiri road, four or five miles south of the Kollar bungalow.
- Sapphirine. Sapphirine, which hitherto has been found only at Fiskernæs on the west coast of Greenland, was discovered by Mr. Middlemiss $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-south-west of Pádérú on the bridle-path to Gangaráz Mádgole.
- Meteorite. On the 23rd January 1870 a meteorite fell in the village of Nedagolla, five miles south of Párvatipur. It was rescued from the villagers, who had put it in their temple and were doing worship to it, by Colonel Saxton of the Topographical Survey, and was found to be a meteoric iron of 10 lb. weight.¹ Stony meteorites are very common, but this was the first iron one known in peninsular India. A second, weighing 35 lb., was discovered (near Kodaikanal) in 1899.

¹ Progs. of R.A.S.B., 1870, 64.

The flora of the Vizagapatam district may be taken, as typical of the Northern Circars generally. It is not possible to separate it in its character from that of Ganjáur on the north and Gódávári on the south. Only in the possession of a great river and its irrigated delta is the latter district peculiar. In this region there is however a gradual transition from north to south, a gradual dying out of the northern forms as we proceed along the Eastern Gháts to their southern termination, in the Gódávári gorges.

Comparatively little collecting has been done in the district. There are no records of its having been visited by any botanist of note in the past and we are dependent for exact details on a short collecting tour made through several taluks in the year 1900. Sufficient information was then got together for a brief statement on the flora and the following notes have been put together.

As in most parts of the Coromandel coast, in passing inland from the sea we meet with a series of well-defined geographical areas, and each of these has a different set of plants distinguishing it, while others are evenly distributed from the sea-side to the hills. The plains flora possesses little of interest, as it is practically the same for the greater part of the Madras coast. In it we can separate the sea-side flora, the salt-marsh plants and the dry scrub-jungle. Wherever cultivation exists, on the other hand, we have an assemblage of weeds, shrubs and climbers which may be met with from Tuticorin to Bengal, including a number of exotic plants introduced from various parts of the tropics.

On the sea coast we meet with the sandbinders such as *Spinifex squarrosus*, a thorny grass of great size, widely spreading over the beach, and whose ball-like flowering heads break off and roll before the wind, dropping their seeds in favourable spots; *Ipomœa biloba*, a 'convolvulus' with brightly-coloured, large, pink flowers, which sends out long streamers over the low sand hills; *Launœa pinnatifida*, a small plant with dandelion-like flowers, also a sandbinder with a complex network of branches, *Spermacœe hispida*, *Lippia nodiflora*, *Hydrophylax maritima*, *Ipomœa tridentata* and *Phaseolus trilobus*. The salt marshes may be searched for *Suaeda nudiflora*, *Salicornia brachiata*, *Sesuvium Portulacastrum* and other succulents. It is a curious fact that the plants growing in situations with abundant salt so frequently share this fleshy character with those of very dry regions. The

¹ This section has been kindly contributed by Mr. C. A. Barber, Government Botanist.

CHAP. I.

FAUNA.

Game.

Big game is varied and on the whole plentiful, but it is practically confined to the wilder portions of the Agency, where no one but the local officers can command transport, supplies or beaters and where malaria is ever present. Along the southern part of the coast, and also inland, black-buck are fairly plentiful and there are some pig, barking deer and spotted deer, but no other game worth mention exists. The hills contain wild buffalo (found nowhere else in this Presidency), bison (gaur), spotted, swamp, ravine, and barking deer, sambhar, nilghai and four-horned antelope, as well as pig, bears, leopards and tigers. The flesh of the pig is highly esteemed by many of the hill people as an aphrodisiac, and fetches high prices. The bears, as elsewhere, are very fond of the mohwa flower, and often get extremely drunk upon it. Tigers used to be a perfect pest. The reports of even twenty years ago are full of accounts of the panics caused by man-eaters (especially in the Golconda Agency), which the natives picturesquely called the tiger fituris, or 'tiger rebellions.' Some of these brutes became extraordinarily bold. People were frequently carried off in broad daylight in the villages; on one occasion a woman was taken out of her walled backyard; on another a constable forming one of a guard escorting about a hundred people back from market was killed; and one tiger used even to claw down the doors of the houses to get at the inmates. Between June 1881 and March 1883, 133 persons were killed in the Nandapuram and Pádwa taluks alone. In their terror, the people fled from their villages, avoided the gháts and left whole tracts depopulated. In Golconda the evil was increased by the current superstition that any one who killed a tiger would come out all over stripes. One officer tried to persuade the people that an infallible safeguard against the latter disaster was to stroke one's nose slowly with the dead tiger's tail, and in 1884 a number of old police carbines were distributed among the hill men to enable them to meet the foe on more equal terms.

The most famous tiger of recent times was the Tentulakunti man-eater in the south of Naurangpur, which was credited with having killed 200 persons before it was at length slain by Mr. H. D. Taylor, I.C.S., then in charge of Jeypore estate during the Maharája's minority.

The Government reward for tigers is Rs. 100, or more than in any other district, and these animals are now almost scarce. In the Golconda hills the professional shikáris and skin-hunters turned the carbines supplied to them against the deer-tribe and the bison, regardless of sex and age; and they shot the latter (over the salt-licks) in such numbers that it was reported that

'the whole country was dotted over with bison bones' and it became necessary to extend the game rules to the chief reserves to stop the wholesale slaughter which was proceeding. These rules have also been extended to some of the Pálkonda reserves. In Jeypore the game is much harried by the annual beats in the month of Chaitra (see p. 72), when the whole able-bodied male population turns out and remains out, sometimes for days together, until it has succeeded in killing some animal and so in avoiding the rough reception accorded by the womenfolk to the unsuccessful. One haunch of venison goes to the man who first hits the animal and the other to the headman of the village in which it dies.

The best small-game shooting on the plains is afforded by the duck and teal. Of the former, the red-headed pochard and the gadwall are the commonest kinds. Snipe and quail are comparatively scarce. Peafowl are common all over the hills and the Savaras sometimes catch them by chasing them from side to side of a steep, narrow valley until they are exhausted. Of the rarer game-birds, woodcock have been seen round Pádéru, and in the hills the Imperial pigeon is not uncommon and a brown pigeon with a white head is seen now and again.

