

FROM THE INDIAN FORESTER - ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

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CORRESPONDENCE
TO THE HONORARY EDITOR, INDIAN FORESTER,

GIRDLINGS BY BEARS

Sir,- Will any of the reader of the *Indian Forester* who have had any occasion to visit girdlings of Kail and Rai in Deodar forest kindly let me know whether they have found the fact that in areas where girdlings have been done by the Forest Department, or in areas adjoining to them, bears have imitated these operations?

I have noticed in the Chakarata Division that wherever girdlings of Kail and Rai have been done and in the adjoining forests, bears have also girdled other Kail, Deodar and a very few Rai trees.

The damage is mostly confined to Deodar and Kail, in the pole stage when the sap is copious. Moreover this damage is done in April and May when the sap is rising and is in much larger quantity than during the rest of the year.

One may notice the fact in Deoghar, Kotigadh and Deota Ranges where Departmental girdlings have been done recently. Where these operations have not been done as yet, bears have not touched any tree as in Deoban Range and Tehri State, Mussorie Forests. It appears to me that bears imitate our Departmental girdlings for the reason that in freshly girdled trees they get the sweet sap, and when it stops in old girdled trees they starts their own operations in other to get it. In this way much harm is done to Deodar and Kail especially to the young crops. If the same thing occurs in other Division I suggest that girdlings of Kail and Rai should be stopped altogether, and lopping, topping and felling of trees may be done instead, so that bears may not be tempted to do damage to the standing trees.

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