

FORTUNATE ELEPHANTS

Are Those That Share the Glory of Indian Princes.

HOW THEY ARE CAUGHT

Sold-Tipped and Hung With Cloth of Gold They Bear Silver Towers on Their Backs on Days of State—Elephants as a Means of Ostentation in Many Other Ways.

The elephant in India must work when caught. That does not necessarily mean an unpleasant time for him. He may haul cannon over Himalayan passes or he may take part in tiger hunts in the jungle. He may haul logs in the teak forests of Burma, or best of all he may be dressed in glad rags and share the glory and sports of some native prince.

Whatever they do, all the elephants come from the same source—the jungles of central and southern India, where thousands of them roam wild under protection of the Government. Periodically, when a shortage of elephants is felt, the forest service departments organize a roundup of wild elephants.

For weeks shikaris, or hunters, go scouting through the forest to discover where elephants are most plentiful. Here is built a stockade of rough hewn tree trunks, buttressed on the outside with walls of earth. Its entrance, which is narrow, has a kind of funnel built away from it, also of tree trunks.

The roundup itself is often done at night. You can imagine no more weird spectacle than the Indian forest lit up by torches of the hunters, who shouting and yelling drive the screaming and trumpeting elephants into the stockade through the funnel. Very often there are a thousand elephants in the bunch, and perhaps four or five times that number of beaters and shikaris.

The elephants are left alone in the stockade for a day or so until they sink down a bit from their excitement and terror. Then green food by the ton is thrown in for the elephants, and gradually a few expert trainers mounted on tame tusked yaks venture in to make friends with the captives. One by one the wild elephants are roped to two tame colleagues and then taken out. Should the wild elephant show fight he is promptly rebuked by his guardians in a way that admits of no further dispute. They take him for walking and lead him down to the river to drink and bathe, and gradually he reconciles himself to his fate.

If he is a very wild fellow he is eagerly bought up by one of the ruling Maharajahs of India as a fighting elephant. For in the native States not wholly belonging to Great Britain fierce combats between elephants are given by the princes as entertainments in honor of distinguished guests; also fights between tigers and elephants.

At an elephant fight, which is rarely to the death, two mahouts or drivers sit upon the heads of the monsters who approach each other until separated by only a low stone wall. Then they begin wrestling with head and trunk and foisting this way and that to get a chance to make a furious thrust with the tusks.

In the elephant and tiger fights the latter comes off second best. He springs, of course, and as he does so the elephant curls up his tender trunk and permits himself to be mauled by his adversary, while his keen little eye is watching for an opportunity to kneel and crush the life out of the tiger with his five tons of weight.

The largest of all the elephants and the most intelligent are chosen by the Government and the native princes for the state studs. Elephants of state have a very easy life of it. They do little or no work and only come forth on state occasions bearing lofty towers of silver or gilded wood from which depend superb brocades and great draperies of cloth of gold blazing with precious stones.

In many cases, too, the ends of the animals' tusks are fitted with great boxes of pure gold, and his massive forehead is armored with golden plates studded with steel spikes.

Most in the silver tower will sit a prince such as the Nizam of Hyderabad, whose family pedigree may be traced back for five thousand years. Before him on either side of the elephant walk great nobles proclaiming his might and majesty, while behind come picturesque cavalry and spear-men more ornamental than useful, and last of all may come batteries of gold and silver cannons drawn by teams of elephants, six or eight to each battery.

According to the American Consul at Monterey, Mexico, everybody in that sunny land has a fave for music. The common laborer, who works all day long, leaving the streets may be found at the evening taking a leading part in the dancing playing classic music on a poor house lute that has not a sort of musical instrument.

The chief of the Great police who maintains a brigade of police who respond to take on none except from 10 to 10. At that age he has reached years of experience and has a great deal of knowledge of the city.

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GUESSING AT DEAD WEIGHTS.

Skill Shown by Farmers at English Fairs and Markets.

Among farmers and agriculturists generally in the north of England what is known as "dead weight guessing" is a very popular form of competition, and at the various fairs and markets marvelous examples of accuracy are forthcoming.

Perhaps in the county of Cumberland they enjoy a greater amount of popularity than anywhere else, and beyond question nowhere is more striking judgment displayed. Only the other day a really remarkable instance of this was reported from Silloth.

In common with other visitors, T. Atherton was invited at the show there to guess the dead weight of a fat beast on exhibition. After scrutinizing the animal Mr. Atherton expressed his opinion that the weight would be found to be 40 stone 11 pounds.

When recourse was had to the arbitration of the scales the foregoing figures proved to be absolutely correct. On another occasion, at Skelton, in the same county, there was a still more noteworthy demonstration of skill, a couple of expert competitors succeeding in guessing the exact weight of a beast.

But the place of honor ought perhaps to be awarded to a lady, who at a still more recent show successfully judged the weight of a heifer, even to the last half pound. The lady who has this performance to her credit is Miss Jeannie Armstrong, who at a show at Haltwhistle estimated the weight of a ponderous heifer at 47 stone 10 1/2 pounds. The beast turned the scale at exactly these figures.

In point of accuracy not far behind was a competitor in the block test guessing competitions held at Wigton (Cumberland) Agricultural Show. In this case, however, the animal whose weight had to be guessed was a sheep, a much easier subject for such an estimate.

One forecast of its weight was 32 1/2 pounds, which turned out to be absolutely correct. This guess was made by Percy Strong of Drumlennan, but how close the estimates were may be gathered from the fact that three or four other competitors were only a half pound out.

At the same show there was some excellent guessing at the dead weight of a huge bullock which won the admiration of the visitors. The actual weight of this bovine monster proved to be no less than 50 stone 13 pounds.—Tit-Bits.

INDUSTRY OF FOX FARMING.

Has Become a Source of Profit Within a Few Years.

When fox became a fashionable fur the question arose how to capture them in numbers equal to the demand. These foxes abound in large numbers in the neighborhood of St. George, Alaska, and as the natural conditions there are favorable a successful attempt has been made to raise them. The great drawback has been the lack of food during the winter, but the fox farmers are learning to meet this deficiency by supplying prepared foods, such as dried salmon and linseed meal mixed with seal oil.

The catching of the foxes is comparatively simple. An enclosure or corral is erected adjoining a large shed and so arranged that the entrance can be easily closed by a man stationed within the building. Large quantities of food are spread about the corral, and the foxes enter the enclosure without any apparent hesitation, so that from five to forty can be taken at one time. Having been shut in the corral the animals are driven one at a time through a small door in the side of the shed, where they are examined as to their sex. All females are turned loose after being marked by clipping a ring of fur from the end of the tail, which serves to identify them if caught a second time. All white foxes are killed, the idea being to produce a breed of animals which will not turn white in the winter.

By trapping on various parts of the island it has been made clear that foxes have no predilection for any special feeding place. Consequently, by judicious baiting, the animals are enticed from all parts of the island to the vicinity of the village where they can be taken wholesale.

Blue foxes seem to be without the proverbial cunning of the other species, for not only do they readily enter the pen, but, as shown by the marks, they were caught again and again, some being caught no less than five times, while a few were taken twice in succession at intervals of about ten minutes.

The pole does not improve with age, as is the case with some fur-bearing animals, but is in the best condition when the animal is about a year or two years old.

Odd Origin of "Orange."

Oranges came originally from India, having been carried westward by the Arabs. The fruit crossed from Africa to Spain by Mohammedan hands, while, probably, the crusaders are to be thanked for bringing it to Italy and western Europe among their trophies of the East. The name is Arabic—"narang"—and of Eastern origin, though the legend that it comes from two words meaning "elephant" and "be ill," because elephants ate oranges to make themselves ill, is absurd. Probably in French the initial "n" is dropped and from narang with the final "r" of the Italian article, just as "an orange" represents "an arancia" and "orange" with "a" points to the fruit with "ar" (gold).

WE ARE DYING YOUNGER.

Only the Babies Have a Better Chance to Survive Now.

In view of all that has been said about the fall in the death rate it seems strange to realize, says Health Culture, that we are not living so long as our grandfathers and grandmother's did. More babies live to grow up nowadays than formerly, but people in later life die younger. Once arrived to adult age the average man or woman has fewer years of survival to expect. This seems on the face of it so surprising a statement that in order to be accepted it should be backed up by data authentic and indisputable. Such data are furnished by the figures of the insurance companies (which all agree on the point), but it is easier to refer to the Government census reports, which tell the tale in simple and convincing fashion. Even in the last fifteen years the death rate among all persons over 55 years of age of both sexes has risen very considerably.

Lion, Tiger and Leopard. Mr. R. Lyd-kker, the English naturalist, calls attention to the observations of Mr. R. I. Pocock on the significance of the spots on lion cubs as indicating the close relationship of lions, tigers and leopards. On lion cubs the pattern of the markings is intermediate in character between the stripes of the tiger and the rosettes of the leopard, but inclines more toward the former. East African lions retain more or less distinct traces of these early markings even when they reach maturity. A distinct tiger-like feature of the lion cub is a white patch over the eye, which disappears in the adult. Puma cubs show a pattern quite unlike that of the lion, tiger, leopard and jaguar.—Youth's Companion.

NOT A HORSELESS AGE.

Facts Seem to Indicate That It is Farther Away Than Ever.

The horseless age that has been so persistently predicted is not merely slow in coming; the facts seem to indicate that it is farther away than ever and perhaps may never come. People must be riding a great deal more than they ever rode before. The automobile industry in this country has quadrupled in value in the last three years and has developed at even a greater rate in the number of machines manufactured. But the statistics of horseflesh keep on expanding. There were more than fourteen million horses in this country in 1897, but according to the figures for the year just closed there are 19,746,000 horses in the United States at the present time. This is a gain of nearly 40 percent. In a decade, a much larger one than the human element can show in spite of our large and continuous importations. As mechanical rivals multiply he rises in the scale of dignified personality. The last horse will probably take his leave at about the same time as the last man.—Boston Transcript.

Squeaky Shoes in Demand.

Small automatic pumps, very ingeniously contrived, sprited air in between the layers of the soles of each finished pair of shoes. "That beats me," said the visitor. "I never saw air put in shoe soles before. Pneumatic like that, are they very springy?" "No, they're noisy," answered the foreman of the Lynn factory. "These shoes are for the export trade. They go to Africa. A native African judges the white man's shoes by their squeak. The louder the squeak, the finer the article. In fact, the native won't wear a non-squeaking, silent shoe. It is wind between the soles that make shoes squeak. Put in enough and your footgear will be as noisy as two pigs under a fence."

A Fireless House.

To demonstrate his faith in the practicability of electricity for all domestic purposes, an official of an Illinois electrical company has recently built a house at Carrollton, Ill., without a chimney or any other means of making use of fire. The house is heated by steam and the cooking done by electricity, both supplied by the heat, light and power company with which the gentleman is connected. This construction marks the beginning of an effort to obtain customers for current to be used in the kitchen, and a special rate has been fixed for that kind of service.

Farthest Point North.

Point Barrow, Alaska, is Uncle Sam's farthest point north. A letter from Detroit to Point Barrow goes first by train to Seattle, 2,500 miles; then by ocean steamer to Valdez, 1,600 miles farther north and west; then dog sleds, over ice and snow 2,700 miles more to the north and west. The letter travels in one direction over 6,800 miles—all the distance in American territory.

The Roads of France.

A feature of the roads of France is the ever-present guidepost. These guideposts consist of an iron plaque, about two feet long and a foot high, securely mounted on sturdy posts or fastened to some substantial wall.

Land of Foot.

In Constantinople the shoemakers are said to be all poets. While a customer is having a heel repaired or a shoe replaced the attendant recites extemporized or memorized verses to him.

High Priced Coffins.

Zinc coffins are largely used in Vienna, but the more expensive ones are made of copper, and cost as much as \$3,500, while a bronze and copper coffin recently made for a Russian Archduke cost over \$5,000.

Volcanoes in the World.

There are 270 active volcanoes in the world, many of them being comparatively small.

Cook Opera House.

The musically inclined among theatregoers will hail with pleasure the announcement that the greatest American comic opera, "Robin Hood" and the most popular of standard operas, "The Bohemian Girl" will be followed at the Cook Opera House by the foremost and recognized classic of English comic operas, "The Mikado" with the same careful selection of capable artists in the cast. James McElhern, a comedian who has been prominent in both dramatic and musical productions of the highest class will come to the Aborn company for the leading comedy role of Ko-Ko one of the best characterizations of his repertoire. The other artists in the array have all been auspiciously introduced in appropriate roles here already, and are all admirably suited, individually, to their assignments in "The Mikado." An elaborate production of Japanese scenery, costumes and effects will be seen, including the equipment used in the revival of the play in New York last winter by the Aborns.

Around the Globe

Catholic News From Many Places.

The Fordham University Press announces the early publication of an important work "The Popes and Science" by the well-known Dr. Walsh.

Arrangements are being made for the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Church in Chicago.

The cosmopolitan character of the city of Brooklyn is shown by the fact that on each Sunday eleven different languages are used in sermons during masses in the various Catholic churches.

Two statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph recently installed in SS. Peter and Paul's Cathedral, Indianapolis, are among the finest pieces of statuary in the United States. They were executed by Aureli, one of the most noted sculptors in Rome, by order of Bishop Chatard and are of pure white Carrara marble.

During the year 1907 the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Ireland expended \$94,000 in relieving the needs of the poor. This is as much as all the Vincentians in the United States devoted to their work.

The Bishop of St. Albert, Canada, has solemnly denounced the Elks and Eagles. Catholics in his diocese are forbidden to join these organizations.

In 1828 the first property for the uses of Catholic Church in Rhode Island came into the possession of the Church in Pawtucket and in Newport. In Pawtucket a piece of land now forming a part of the site of St. Mary's Church in that city was given for church uses by David Wilkinson, a Protestant. In the same year a site for a church was purchased in Newport.

The Daughters of the Confederacy have erected a memorial window to the poet-priest Father Ryan, in St. Mary's Church, Victoria, Texas.

Signor Caruso, the great singer, was guest of Archbishop O'Connell while in Boston with the Metropolitan Opera Company. His Grace is an enthusiastic lover of good music and found in the great Italian tenor one of its most famous exponents.

Rev. Lawrence Carroll, rector of St. Patrick's Church, Jersey City, has returned to a local businessman \$450 which was part of \$600 that was stolen three years ago. Father Carroll says the money came into his possession from a penitent who desired to make restitution as far as he was able.

At a meeting of the Toronto board of education last week, trustees Levee moved that Catholic teachers in the public schools be requested to file their resignations forthwith, and that hereafter no teachers of that persuasion be employed. The motion was defeated by a vote of nine to two.

Rev. Walter M. Drum, S. J., is the first graduate of Boston College to become a priest of the Society of Jesus. Father Drum is a son of the gallant Captain John Drum, of the Tenth United States Infantry, who was killed during the Spanish-American war while leading his men in an assault in Santiago, Cuba.

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