

India Is Land of Filth, Beautiful Temples, Gems

La Grande Man Describes Adventures at Calcutta—Burning Bodies Seen in Ghat.

Editor's Note—This is another article written by A. B. Cherry, now touring the world on the S. S. Belgeland. More articles will follow from time to time.

(By A. B. Cherry)
Friday, February 12, we arrived in the river Hooghly and approached Calcutta by a tortuous river channel varying in depth with the phases of the moon, and changing in direction every turn of the tide. Navigation is difficult and ocean steamers like the Belgeland anchor at Diamond Harbor, about midway between the city and the sea, (eighty miles) from which point the voyage was continued on a paddle-wheel river steamer to the city where we arrived at 10 o'clock and had our dinner. It took us eight hours to make the forty miles, a swift current running against us all the way up. The most interesting sight along the river was the large jute mills located here and there, seventy-five in number.
For the next four days we were provided accommodations at the

Grand hotel, the largest hotel in Calcutta. The rooms are dirty, many mice and ants running over the floors at night and mosquitoes and fleas make life a burden. In the morning at 4:30 o'clock you are greeted with thousands of crows flying overhead and if the winds are open they will fly right inside your room. Everyone is provided with a native servant and he sleeps just outside your door in the hall on the floor. No matter when you come and go he is always there to serve you.

Eighty of our passengers left us here to take the overland trip across India and will rejoin us at Bombay. Another group went to Darjeeling, "the roof of the world," but because of the clouds could not see the top of the famous mountain.

Saw Calcutta Temples.

We cannot take space to describe the wonderful things we saw in Calcutta. Beautiful temples, palaces, memorial buildings and residences, too numerous to mention, precious jewels beyond anything we had ever dreamed of, rare paintings by great masters and antiquities by the thousands.

The archaeological and geological collection in the museum carries you back thousands of years. The outstanding things that most all tourists come here to see are the Kalighat temple and the Burning Ghats. The temple is three hundred years old and as late as 1829 human sacrifices were made in it. Today a goat is killed and placed upon the altar. We witnessed this strange ceremony amid the foul, filthy surroundings. Thousands of dirty, filthy natives surrounded the building and with difficulty we pushed through the mob all the while trying to keep from touching their bodies or garments. Beggars, cripples, those afflicted with leprosy, all were there. The stench was terrible. One writer in describing the place says "don't strike a match while there, the stench might explode." Of some of the things we saw we cannot write here. On a cot we saw them bathing a dying man, nothing left of him but the black skin and bones.

Covered With Ashes

Much depressed we went on to the Burning Ghat. This is a vacant lot about one hundred feet square with a high brick wall around it on the bank of the river. We were allowed to enter with our cameras, a privilege extended to few. Three bodies in various stages



of cremation held our eye. We stood and watched them burn a while and soon a man poked up the fire around one of the bodies. The wind covered us with ashes and we quickly shifted our position. On the ground was the body of a little eight-year-old boy who had died of the fever, awaiting cremation. It was all so different than we had expected to see. I had supposed there was a deep pit of everlasting fire where the bodies were thrown in without any ceremony and in a few minutes were no more. Not so. It is all done quietly and religiously. The family and the mourners come and hold their service before the fire is lighted. The body is consumed and the ashes are thrown in the river. The bodies of all children under seven years old and the priests are

STUDENTS MAKE UP JURY

DENVER, Colo.—Law students from the University of Denver visited a justice of the peace court to get a first hand view of legal procedure and were pressed into service as jurors. They fined a woman lodging house owner \$200 and costs on a liquor charge. The defense, however, appealed from the findings of the student jury.

FIND VALUABLE WINERY

SAN FRANCISCO—Prohibition agents found a suburban winery containing between 40,000 and 100,000 gallons of well-aged wine beneath a deserted house. The wine was valued by officials at between \$180,000 and \$300,000. No arrests were made.

The Garden

Six pots will start enough cucumber vines to give early salads long before the regular outdoor planting can get into action.

Leeks are working their way into the gardens slowly. The big fat ones if the market have looked so tempting they have attracted misadventurers. They are easy to grow and better than onions for soups and stews. They stand a lot of hard frost.

Start sweet peas outside if you can work the ground, indoors in pots or boxes if you can't. The only way to have good sweet peas is to get them blooming in May.

You should be cutting your own French cutlets from a bone in the collar instead of paying its weight in gold for it. It is as easy to grow as a parsley. Plant the seed early.

Don't forget to seed the lawn in the thin spots. Scatter pulverized sheep manure with the seed.

Cooking schools have been epidemic all winter. Your wife will want sweet herbs for seasoning. Put in the savories, basil, marjoram, chives and leeks. Get a few plants of thyme.

SUNDAY MAY ENTER RACE

CINCINNATI—Billy Sunday is likely to run for president if the republicans and democrats nominate weak. His platform will be "to hell with booze."

SUIT FOR MONEY ALLEGED DUE IS FILED IN EUGENE

EUGENE, Ore., Apr. 7 (AP).—George T. Mickle and W. T. Culver have filed suit in the Lane county circuit court against T. C. Sturget, of Detroit, Mich., seeking judgment in the sum of \$56,250 alleged due as a commission on the sale of the Starret-Hovey timber and boom holdings on the Stuslaw river last winter.

The holdings were sold to the Stout Lumber company, of North Bend, for approximately \$1,500,000. The plaintiffs in the suit allege that they had a contract with the defendant to furnish a buyer, and that the contract was fulfilled on their part.

The contract, according to complainant called for a commission of \$75,000, and \$56,250 of it is held to be payable now.

Eugene to Build Two New Grammar Schools

EUGENE, Ore., Apr. 7. (AP)—The proposed bond issue of \$90,000 to provide for the building of two new grade schools here, was approved by voters of the city, 323 to 157. The total of 482 ballots cast is the highest in many years, since there were more than 2500 qualified voters.

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