

Architect Annetoff's Types Quarters.
A charming sketch of the quarters of the chief architect of the Transcaspian railroad from Annetoff is given in the photographs. The quarters are situated between the main road and the station. A correspondent at the railway campment on a soil of clay and gravel stands the railway train in which we live. It consists of from forty to fifty carriages. The first carriage is the residence of Gen Annetoff. On the lower floor are his work room, his sleeping apartment and the rooms of his secretary. On the upper floor are the quarters of the servant and the quarters of the architect. The quarters are situated between the main road and the station. A correspondent at the railway campment on a soil of clay and gravel stands the railway train in which we live. It consists of from forty to fifty carriages. The first carriage is the residence of Gen Annetoff. On the lower floor are his work room, his sleeping apartment and the rooms of his secretary. On the upper floor are the quarters of the servant and the quarters of the architect.

BURMESE ELEPHANTS.

NOT SO COURAGEOUS AN ANIMAL AS IS GENERALLY SUPPOSED.

How the Mahout Takes Advantage of His Beast's Sagacity—An Elephant's Caution When Crossing a Bridge—Nervous About a New Departure.

The elephant holds the first rank among beasts for size, strength and intelligence, although he is not by any means so courageous an animal as is generally supposed. He won't fight unless he cannot get out of a scrape by any other means. He will, when traveling with a load of humans in a forest, start at any noise in the jungle, and if not soothed by his mahout, is ready to bolt into the forest, quite careless about those who are mounted upon his capacious back. Perhaps this trait in his character is not want of courage, but merely nervousness. They are the general and the least in the country, and the government departments have a number of them in their charge. Each elephant has his name, and it is interesting to watch them at work. Their mahouts often take advantage of their sagacity and so save themselves trouble.

I saw an instance of this up the country. The telegraph follows the advance of the troops to secure rapid communication with the rear. So a line was formed along the bank of the river. First a track was made by felling all timber and clearing of any undergrowth, etc., to about twenty feet in width, hundreds of men being employed. Such trees as were suitable in length and otherwise were trimmed into the required shape for telegraph poles, a number of them being piled at intervals along the track. Then the elephants were sent to carry the poles to the distances they were to be set apart. One mahout conducted his elephant to a pile of these heavy poles and told the intelligent animal to pick one up, he then with a long wand he had for the purpose measured off the distance and accompanied the elephant, who carried the pole to the place the mahout indicated. Then I saw the mahout tell the elephant to go to the pile and place them in line along the track, at the same distance apart as the one he had measured. The man then lay down under a tree and went to sleep. In the meantime the noble animal took up each piece of timber and carried it to its proper place in the line. I felt so interested that I stayed to witness the whole proceeding. I measured the distances by pacing and found them all to be equal in length and correctly placed like the first one. The beast then went to his mahout and gently touched him with the tip of his trunk and awoke him, as much as to say, "All is finished, master, according to my orders." The mahout awoke, rubbed the elephant and went forward to continue the line in the same easy and agreeable manner.

I often watched an elephant's motions before he would cross a native bridge over a river. He is most cautious, puts one foot down gently and presses on the plank to see that all is safe and firm before he will venture upon them. When perfectly satisfied of the safety of the structure, and not until then, he will walk over to the other side. Other elephants who may be in company will stop and attentively watch the proceedings of the leader. When all is right they follow him without hesitation. They are not without warrant for their caution, for these native bridges are often very rickety structures, and I saw many of them come to grief during my experience of them. Elephants are sometimes described as running, but it is contrary to their habits to do so. They invariably walk, and I know of their going at a faster rate when a wild elephant is hard pressed by shekaries. Especially if slightly wounded, he will suddenly turn and rush at his assailants, select one and try to catch him. This is termed charging. Should he reach the unfortunate hunter the elephant would seize him around the body with his flexible trunk, whirl him to the earth, and tread him into a bloody mass of flesh.

I have mentioned the nervousness of these animals. An instance was shown in the difficulty found in making them draw a light wagon. It was considered that in a level country a bandy, i. e., native cart, holding a quantity of stores, etc., in addition to a moderate load on the beast's back, would save transport, and that more could be carried than by merely heavily loading the animals. The bandy in Burma is always drawn by a long horned ox, and it is with the oxen of the country that a trial was made to see if the elephants would take favorably to this new departure in the order of things. A special wooden cart was constructed, strongly built, with long bamboo shafts and a capacious body and primitive, solid wooden wheels. One of the most docile and best natured elephants was selected for the trial. The cart was brought up to him, the mahout meantime fondling and coaxing him and calling him by name, and finally with the promising result. He at length permitted the rope harness to be adjusted to his huge person, appearing very much astonished and foolish all the time. He kept swinging his trunk about, and could scarcely be held quiet and in proper position. At last all was fixed, some heavy stones being placed in the cart as ballast. The mahout tried to coax him to go forward, but he would take a few steps only and then suddenly turn off to the right or left, trying to reach the cart with his trunk. He did not like the rumble of it at his tail, which latter appendage he kept down close to his body like a frightened cat.

At length, by dint of praising him and kind treatment, he dragged the cart a few paces onward. As this was thought enough for one day he was released. Every day for about a week he was "put through his paces" until he was pretty perfect, and made no objection to having the bandy harness put on him nor to drag the cart whenever wanted. Then all the elephants were brought out to witness the performance. They looked critically at their brother in harness, walked around the concern and felt it with their trunks. When he started to travel with the bandy creaking behind him they seemed a trifle startled, but after a while appeared reconciled to the look of the thing. After this exhibition little difficulty was experienced in inducing the rest of the government elephants to draw the special bandies when it was requisite to do so. They had seen how the thing worked with one of themselves, and therefore accepted the situation as a matter of course.—Charles A. Aubrey's Burmah Letter in San Francisco Chronicle.

Foreign Goods in China.
The British consul at Ichang, the most western port in the Yangtze, notices in his last report that while the import of the lighter cotton goods has increased, that of the heavy and coarse textures has decreased. In the spring of last year there were rumors among the Chinese of bodily ailments, diseases of the skin, and even death being induced by wearing foreign cotton stuff in Szechuen province the story had much currency for a short time. He suggests that those who control the cotton goods trade should take means to prevent the presence of noxious or irritant matter in their goods. "The alleged use of baryta and its possible effects might be worth inquiry."—Scientific American.

Business is Business.
"Five cents fare for that child madam," said a street car conductor as he opened the door and put his head into the car. "Very well," she replied, feeling in her pocket, "this is an orphan child and I am its guardian. I must have a receipt for all moneys paid out, and as soon as you write one I'll drop a nickel in the box." He shut the door and leaned over the brake like a man in deep thought.—Emporia Democrat.

Too Boisterous.
"John—What is this!"
"Butter,"
"Butter? What? Why did you not choke them if you brought it in?"
—Georgia Cracker.

The female half breeds of Spanish and Indian blood in Yucatan are said to be by far the handsomest people in that country. They are described as a gentle, docile, pleasure loving race, not altogether lazy, perfectly honest and remarkably cleanly in their habits.—Chicago Herald.

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