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AN EXCITING SPORT

Hunting Monkeys in Burmah is Full of Thrills.

Concentration in Treetops When Gibbons Are Assailed—Travel Faster Through Trees Than Man Can Run on Ground.

Our most exciting sport at the Namting camp was hunting monkeys, writes Roy Chapman Andrews in Harper's. Every morning we heard querulous notes, sounding much like the squealing of very young puppies, which were followed by long drawn drawn wails. When the shrill notes had reached their highest pitch they would sink into low, full tones exceedingly musical.

We were inspecting a line of traps placed along a trail which led up a valley to a wide plateau when the querulous squealing abruptly ceased. We moved on, alert and tense. The traps stretched upward a full 150 feet, their tops spread out in a leafy roof. In the topmost branches of one we could just discern a dozen balls of yellow fur from which proceeded discordant wails.

It was a long range for a shotgun, but the rifles were all in camp. I fired a charge of "BB's" at the lowest monkey and as the gun roared out the treetops suddenly sprang into life. They were filled with running, leaping, hairy forms swinging at incredible speed from branch to branch—not a dozen, but a score of monkeys, yellow, brown and gray.

The one at which I had shot seemed unaffected and threw himself full twenty feet to a horizontal limb below and to the right. I fired again, and he stopped, ran a few steps forward, and swung to the under side of the branch. At the third charge he hung suspended by one arm and dropped to the ground.

We tossed him into the dry creek bed and dashed up the hill where the branches were still swaying as the monkeys traveled through the treetops. They had a long start and it was a hopeless chase. In ten minutes they had disappeared and we turned back to find the dead animal. It was a young male, and I knew at once that it was a gibbon (Hylobates), for its long arms, round head and tailless body were unmistakable; but in every species with which I was familiar the male was black. This one was yellow and we knew it to be a prize.

For the remainder of our stay at the Namting river camp we devoted ourselves to hunting monkeys. The gibbons soon became extremely wild. Although the same troop could usually be found in the valley where we had first discovered them, they chose hill-sides on which it was almost impossible to stalk them because of the thorny jungle. We went forward only when the calls were echoing through the jungle and stood motionless as the wailing ceased. But in spite of all our care they would see or hear us. Then in sudden silence there would be a tremor of the branches, splash after splash of leaves, and the herd would swing away through the trackless treetops.

The gibbons are well named Hylobates or "tree walkers," for they are entirely arboreal and, although awkward and almost helpless upon the ground, once their long thin hands touch a branch they become transformed into veritable spirits of the treetops. They launch themselves into space, catch a branch twenty feet away to swing for an instant and hurl themselves to another. It is possible for them to travel through the trees faster than a man can run on open ground.

Hard on Norah.

Norah was a new servant girl in the employ of the Browns, and hardly had she been 24 hours on the job before she had the misfortune to drop a piece of roast beef on the floor.

Roast beef that has been used as a mop becomes just a little bit gritty to the taste, so Norah thought it the part of wisdom to consign it to the garbage can.

"I think, Nora," remarked Mrs. Brown, rambling into the kitchen later in the day, "that we will have some of that roast beef, cut cold for supper."

"Sure, an' O'm sorry, ma'am," responded Norah, contritely, "but the cat got it when OI wasn't lookin'."

"The cat got it?" exclaimed the mistress. "What cat?"

"Jay whizz, ma'am!" rejoined Norah, considerably concerned. "Ain't there no cat?"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

First Settlement on Manhattan.

The first habitations of white men on the island of Manhattan were erected in 1613. The first structures in the American metropolis were four small houses, or, rather, huts, and they were on the site now occupied by the skyscraper at 41 Broadway. A bronze tablet on the building at that address commemorates the beginning of New York city.

The collection of hovels gradually grew into a town, which was almost wiped out by fire in 1624. The first fort was commenced in 1625, on a site now occupied by the customhouse, the main gate of Fort Amsterdam, as it was called, opening on Bowling Green, where the first settlers played their games. In 1653 a wooden wall was constructed as a defense against a threatened invasion of New Englanders, and the site of this wall afterward became Wall street.

BOMBAY GREAT CITY

Beautiful Metropolis Owes Much to the Parsis.

Unthinkable Towers of Silence Still Maintained in Heart of Most Fashionable Residential District—Population Now Million.

Bombay now has nearly 1,000,000 inhabitants. At the beginning of the nineteenth century it already had 200,000 and early in the twentieth century the census takers counted 959,537 souls. Eleanor Franklin Egan writes in the Saturday Evening Post. Nearly 700,000 of these are Hindus and 150,000 are Mohammedans, while less than 16,000 are Christians, counting both pure European and mixed blood.

There are about 60,000 Parsis, and the Parsis are the most interesting and important element in the community. It is to British initiative and example and to Parsi appreciation, intelligence and generosity that Bombay owes the fact of her present existence as one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Yet the Parsis still maintain the unthinkable towers of silence in the heart and center of Bombay's most fashionable residential district; the towers of silence, where the Parsi dead are disposed of by the forever hovering horrible flocks of kites, which on occasion grow gorged and careless and drop human flesh and little bones in the flowering fragrant gardens of the great on Malabar hill. But what would you? The towers of silence are unthinkable only to the Christian mind. To the mind of the Parsi all other methods of disposing of the dead are unthinkable.

The Parsis are sometimes carelessly referred to as Persian Jews or are grouped with Persian Jews, of whom there are a good many in Bombay. But the faith of the Parsis is not the Jewish faith. They are Zoroastrians—worshippers of the sun and fire as the truest manifestations of the Almighty—and they came down from Persia into India about the middle of the seventh century, when they began to be grossly persecuted by the Mohammedan conquerors of the Sassanian empire.

But they were persecuted always by the Mohammedan conquerors of India and by the Hindus, until the happy day arrived for all religions when British power began to be predominant in India. But Bombay was purely British long before the rest of India was anything but a happy hunting ground for English merchants, and the Parsis along with other mistreated elements in the population flocked to the sure shelter of the British flag. There are only about 100,000 Parsis in all India today and 90,000 of them belong to the Bombay Presidency or province; and at least 60,000 of these live in the city of Bombay.

Many of them are gentlemen of the finest type and they are distinguishable by their long black coats and the curious stiff black miterlike hats they wear. Their homes are the most pretentious in the city—palaces set alongside British palaces in the most fashionable districts; and they control a tremendous percentage of the city's commerce and trade.

City Dweller and the Tin Can. "Here is an astonishing fact," writes Harry S. Stabler in Everybody's, "which the proper authorities will verify for you: "Thirty per cent of the business of the wholesale grocers of the entire country is in canned goods. In the wholesale houses of New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and other large cities, foods make up 40 per cent of the business.

"The fact is that, if you were to take the tin cans out of any city of the first or second class, the inhabitants would begin to starve almost at once. That means, of course, that those cities could not have grown so large without food conserved in tins."

One-Man Pontoon. Building bridges under fire, the greatest ordeal that the army engineers of other campaigns were subjected to, bids fair to go out of fashion. In future a regiment going across a stream will, if a recent invention meets with approval, merely wade into the stream and drift across, meantime utilizing both hands to manipulate his rifle.

The new invention is a sort of glorified "water wings" arrangement and is adapted to the fording of deep streams without the necessity of bridge building. The encircling buoy is blown up by the soldier. It holds him upright in the water with his shoulders and arms clear of the surface. In experiments recently conducted a man made several bull-eyes on a target 300 yards away while floating across the stream.

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