

# OUR COMIC SECTION

## Our Pet Peeve



## FINNEY OF THE FORCE

## His Tools



## THE FEATHERHEADS

## And So Forth—



# Formosa's Head-Hunters



Kampanzan Savages of Formosa.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

FORMOSA, where a recent earthquake took heavy toll of life, is still inhabited by savage head-hunters who have resisted the development of the island's resources. Formosa is larger than Maryland and Rhode Island combined but the region extending from the mountains that form the backbone of the island to the rocky eastern coast is yet to be wrested from the tribesmen.

The civilized agricultural regions along the western side of Formosa were so menaced by the head-hunters during the middle of the last century that the government of China, which owned the island at that time, built a high metal fence for more than a hundred miles along the border of the wilderness. Some sections of the fence are now charged with electricity. The Japanese who took the island from the Chinese in 1895 have extended the barrier until the tribesmen are shut off from civilization. Heavily guarded gates at frequent intervals permit the savages to trade with the Formosans but no savage is allowed to come into the "foreign" territory and no "foreigner" is allowed to enter the savages' domain without special permission of the Japanese police and a well-armed guard.

Back in the mountain recesses, the tribesmen live in compact villages, so camouflaged that one is within their confines before realizing it. The huts are built of large slabs of slate with thatched roofs that resemble the thick foliage of the forest. There is no furniture. When the savage rests, he squats as if ready to spring upon his prey, or lies on the floor.

No tribesman's hut is complete without a skull shelf just outside the door. His shelf may have a hundred pigeonholes, each containing the skull of a human being. It is as indicative of his glory as the trophy cabinet of a modern Olympic star.

### Women Insist on Heads.

The women have been blamed for maintaining this ghastly custom, for among some tribes the maidens will not listen to the pleadings of a suitor until he has at least one skull on his shelf. When there are no victims within easy reach of the village the ardent swain goes to the borderland of civilization, sometimes digging his way under or climbing over the fence. The first person who crosses his path is his victim. Falling in this, he may attack a member of a neighboring tribe.

It is so common for a Chinaman living near the savage border to lose his head that little attention is paid to the incident unless his relations band together to avenge the murder. Freshly severed heads must be displayed at various savage festivals, religious rites and on other occasions too numerous for the safety of the Formosans.

Since the Japanese have owned Formosa, towns more modern than those in Japan and China have been built, schools established, harbors improved, and a railroad built nearly the entire length of the island. Now there are approximately 4,000,000 inhabitants. More than three-fourths of them are natives who are of Chinese extraction or an admixture of Chinese and aborigines. The aborigines number about 84,000. The remainder of the population is made up of Japanese and foreigners.

Taihoku, the capital, lying 18 miles inland from the port of Keelung, has been called the most modern city of the Japanese empire. Wide, well-paved streets, fine parks, large handsome government buildings and a botanical garden give it more of a Western than an oriental appearance. For a busy city of 180,000 inhabitants, it is unusually quiet. There are no street cars, and automobile traffic is not yet large enough to disturb the population. Hundreds of jinrikishas are propelled through the streets by Formosan "chauffeurs" in spotlessly clean white uniforms and large picturesque mushroom hats. Save for the pitter-patter of their soft shoes as they carefully transport their fares, and the occasional rumble of a heavy wooden-wheeled cart, one hears only the sing-song of oriental tongues.

Japanese orderliness marks every move of the Formosans. All through the civilized portion of the island one notices the effect of Japanese government. From the window of the train all the way from Taihoku to Tainan, the old Chinese capital near the southern end of the island, the traveler sees miles of flooded rice fields in the lowlands while higher land is systematically planted to sugar cane, tea, sweet potatoes and tobacco. Farther back toward the hills, camphor trees vie with huge bamboos. Men and women work side by side in the fields. Because of their loose-fitting garments and mushroom hats, one cannot detect the sex of the workers at a distance.

### Its Products Are Large.

Although thousands of miles of the island have scarcely been touched by civilization, in a recent year Formosa produced approximately 25,000,000 bushels of rice, 25,000 tons of sugar, 12,000 tons of tea, 1,000,000 tons of coal, 3,000 tons of camphor, and 5,000 tons of camphor oil. Petroleum, gold, silver, copper, jute, opium, tobacco and salt also are important products.

Opium is sold only to old licensed smokers and the number of users is reduced each year. Among the natives both men and women smoke tobacco in long-stemmed bamboo pipes and many chew betel nut.

The need for new sources of camphor has been one of the principal causes for the development of the island. When the trees on the civilized side of the boundary fence have been leveled and supplies diminish, the fence is moved back into savage territory; for the constant demand for the product is too great to await the maturity of new trees that the Japanese have recently planted. This gradual encroachment on the savage domain and the plan to penetrate certain parts of the interior with roads and railroads, should bring the entire island under Japanese control in a few years.

### Peril of Camphor Workers.

Many of the camphor stations are near the head-hunters' district. While the Japanese are bringing the savages more under control each year, and a heavy guard is constantly on duty among the workers, raids on these stations are not uncommon occurrences. The huge trees are felled and then chipped with a scapelite cutting instrument. When small cars, that the workers push on a narrow gauge track, are filled, the load is consigned to a camphor still where the cuttings are transformed into pure camphor by a boiling process. Attached to the still bamboo pipes take off the camphor oil. A large quantity of the world-production of camphor of which about three-fourths comes from Formosa, is used in the manufacture of celluloid, perfumes and drugs. As is the case with many of the larger industries of Formosa, the Japanese government has a monopoly of the camphor business and dictates its own price by which the product is purchased from the individual producers.

In the wilderness, one cannot mistake a head-hunter for a harmless native if he keeps his head long enough to see one approach. For clothes they wear a single piece of cloth that reaches from their armpits to their knees, around their hips is a huge knife encased in a bamboo scabbard, and some of them carry bows and arrows to assist them in their head-hunting activities.

Most of them are tattooed with a blue substance that adds to their already uncemely features. Every savage child is forced to submit to the cruel operation which is performed by holding the victim on a bamboo mat on the ground while wooden chisels and hammers are used to break the skin.

Natives and savages of Formosa are fond of fishing. Instead of using a hook and line, the savages throw a narcotic fluid into the water, which stupefies the fish and causes them to float on the surface. Then, in their home-made craft of bamboo trees lashed together, they collect their catch.

## The BABY



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