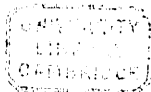


THE COURTYARD OF A SIAMESE WAT (TEMPLE)

(Frontispiece)



BANGKOK: ITS LIFE AND SPORT

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF SIAM'S
COASTAL AND ISLAND GAME AREAS

BY
Lieut.-Col. C. H. FORTY

(LATE ROYAL SIAMESE GENDARMERIE)

WITH PHOTOGRAPHS



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of the qualities demanded in a health resort with the ideal attributes of a pleasure spot—allowing of course for a tropical climate, which is, however, greatly cooled by strong sea-winds. Formerly the Bangkok European invalid was sent to the hill-tops of Penang. Now invalids and pleasure-seekers from the Federated Malay States avail themselves of the healthful and social amenities of Hua Hin.

In addition to its easiness of access, unusual opportunities for exercise and sport, comfortable train service and hotel accommodation, Hua Hin provides excellent facilities for golf. On the first-rate sand-links provided the visitor may very likely see His Majesty King Prajadhipok, who has a country residence in the neighbourhood, engaged in a round of what is one of his favourite games.

The dense jungles, and wild, sometimes uninhabited interior of Siam, afford much protection to animals. The Siamese don't hunt to the extent they might owing to a disinclination to take life, the result of the Buddhist religion. There are exceptions, of course, but most of the big game shooting has been done by Europeans.

in firms or others employed in the Forest and other government service.

Six weeks is about the minimum in which a hunter can reasonably expect to do anything very much after big game, three months would be more satisfactory. Difficulty is experienced in obtaining the help of trackers, or even transport, for there are only a few professional hunters, and money does not appeal very strongly to the inhabitants. April is about the best month to start, and trips may be made from stations on the Southern Railway in the Malay Peninsula, on the Northern Railway, and on the railway in course of construction towards the French territories of Cambodia and Annam.

In Siam the sportsman has a chance of shooting two species of rhinoceros, the double- and single-horned, the Malay and Indian bear, tiger, leopard, bison and tsine. Enormous piebald tapirs are sometimes seen, but are not shot, as they carry no trophy and are harmless. There are seven kinds of deer besides pig, and many varieties of monkey.

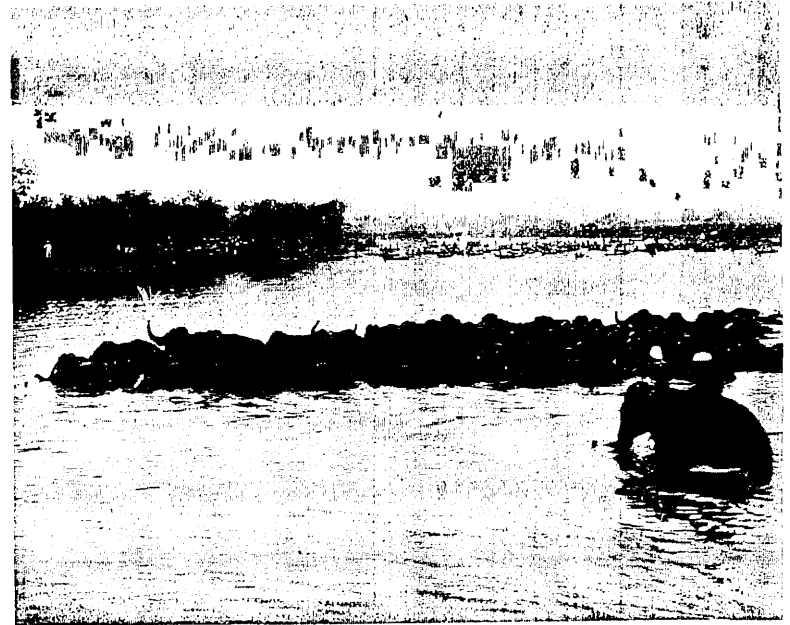
Rhinoceros would be much more numerous

BANGKOK : ITS LIFE AND SPORT

were it not for the great demand for them by the Chinese, who use the horn for medicinal purposes. Of the deer the Schomburgk is the rarest ; it is a splendid animal, with many branched antlers, and is only to be found Siam. A young one was once captured and sent to Berlin, and heads sometimes come down from the interior, but so far no European has ever been lucky enough to shoot one.

Excellent sport is provided by the Saladeng, or bison, veritable kings of the cattle world, difficult to get a shot at, and still more difficult to kill. These splendid bulls are blue-black, and when full grown average over six feet at the shoulder. Their eyes are of a peculiar steel blue. Something heavy is required to floor this game, and a .577 can be recommended, and a magnum paradox is also useful. The writer's favourite rifle was a .303. Thick woollen stockings reaching well up the calves should be worn under leggings, and heelless boots will be found best.

Elephants are regarded with veneration by the Siamese, and persons are not allowed to kill them except in self-defence. The intelligent



(Upper) A HERD OF ELEPHANTS CROSSING A RIVER.
(Lower) ELEPHANTS HAULING TIMBER.

