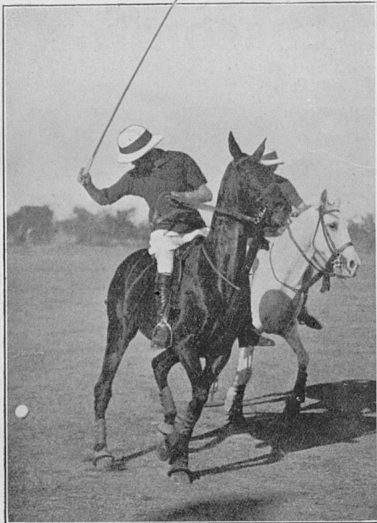


THE PRINCE OF WALES IN INDIA. SPORT IN THE NEPAL TERAI.



THE PRINCE OF WALES PLAYING POLO IN INDIA.

detail was displayed in the lay-out of the camp and every provision was made for the comfort and convenience of the guests. The roomy tents, which were beautifully furnished and fronted by garden terraces, blanketed an open lawn scattered with chairs and tables where people might sit in the evenings. Here also a huge bonfire flared all night and a giant yule log blazed—quite the biggest I have ever seen. The whole camp, both inside and outside, was lit with electricity from the great arc lamps which hung picturesquely from the trees, under which all the trophies shot during the day's sport used to be shown before being handed over to the ministrations of my men in the skinning camp, down to the little reading-lamp by one's bedside, which one could switch off before turning in.

"The Royal suite of apartments were simple yet all that could be desired and ornamented, as befitted the occasion, with emblems and trophies of the chase. The floor of the mess tent was carpeted with leopard skins pieced together as a great mat; the effect, as can be gathered, was extremely rich and striking. The very appointments of His Royal Highness's writing-table were all mementoes of sport in Nepal, being made up from rhino hoofs, horns and hide, and even the waste paper-basket was made from the lower joint of a rhino's leg. One cannot but refer to the beautiful albums on the tables of the mess tent, whose pages held the photographic record of many a famous shoot in the Nepal Terai."

Extremely efficient arrangements were made for dealing with the game which fell to the rifles of the Royal Party. Mr. Ellison had a skinning camp a mile away from the others, but even so, he tells us, when he had five or six rhinos, as

between the Royal Camp and certain suitable spots within the forest for a radius of 30 miles. Lieut. Leonard was assisted by a party of English Sappers who, throughout the period during which they were engaged in putting up the necessary wires and installations, spent a very thrilling fortnight alone in the jungles."

To realise this, we may recollect that the jungle had been reserved for the Royal Shoot by instituting a close season, and that the Terai abounds with dangerous game. It fell to Mr. Ellison to receive news of the movements of different quarry day by day.

"One of the receiving field stations was fixed to the trunk of a tree near by my tent and every morning on my visit to the skinning camp, I would ring up for news and would be promptly informed as to the whereabouts of the last 'kill,' or the location of a tiger 10 or 15 miles away. No rhino was untracked or tiger left to itself. The rhino no sooner began to doze off as the sun grew warm, as is his wont, than the tracker, climbing up a neighbouring tree, made signs to his mate on the ground, who ran off to flash the news by the nearest telephone station."

And here we have extracts from Mr. Ellison's diary of the Shoot. The camp is astir early on December 14:

"Talk is of nothing else but the arrival of the Prince and the prospects of the shooting. A very large tiger had been seen and it was hoped that it would fall to the Prince's rifle. Shortly after 9 a.m. a fanfare of bugles announce the arrival of the Prince. The Nepalese Guard present arms and the Royal car sweeps into the camp followed by the cars of his suite. The Prince steps out, looking remarkably

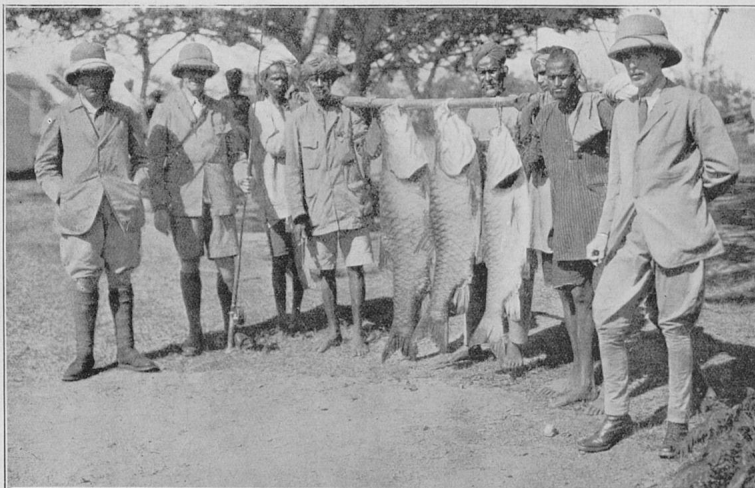
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES arrived in Nepal on Dec. 14, 1921, to find himself at once in a camp which a month before had been rank jungle. How rapidly and efficiently the arrangements for his sport had been made by his host, the H.H. the Maharajah of Nepal, we may learn from a letter written by General Kaiser Shumsher Jung Bahadur, President of the Nepalese Committee formed for the Prince's visit, and also officer-in-charge of the arrangements for the shoot:

"It was only in July (1921) that definite news of the Prince's visit to India being available, the question of His Royal Highness having a shoot in Nepal was raised. The Prime Minister of Nepal had pressed the Government of India to arrange the dates of the Royal Shoot to fall in January, or better still in February, so that a better bag of big game might be anticipated, but in view of the extended tour in India and the Far East, Dec 14 and 21 were given as the only possible dates. The Prince's stay in Nepal was, therefore, shorter than those of his father and grandfather."

"In 1910 previous notice of more than a year had been received, enabling the men to work for two seasons, i.e., on either side of the rainy season, to erect two shooting-boxes and camps in the interior of Chitone for the use of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor, in 1911. The short notice on the present occasion compelled the Prime Minister to abandon the idea of a shoot in Chitone, and consequently Pathenghetta off Bairagnia was suggested, but considering the poorness of game that side, a camp at Thon, the gate of Chitone, was finally decided upon."

There were really four camps. The Prince's was on a plateau by itself, overlooking the river bed. Next below it came the Press Camp, and opposite this was the Servants' Camp, which housed the huge retinue of the shoot; and quarter of a mile away lay the camp of H.H. the Maharajah. The following is a description of the camps by Mr. Bernard C. Ellison, C.M.Z.S., the officially appointed naturalist to the shoot, which has been published in the *Journal* of the Bombay Natural History Society:

"Both camps, that is to say His Royal Highness's and that of the Maharajah of Nepal, were surrounded completely by palisades and guarded by Nepalese troops. Great fires were lit at night to keep away a possible marauding elephant or wandering rhino or tiger. Such unwelcome visitors were always a possibility in a spot where wild animals abounded. A further provision against incidents of this description was a machan, termed very aptly a "Funk Machan," designed as a haven of refuge in the event of a stampede of elephants, or the visit of a wandering rogue. The greatest attention to



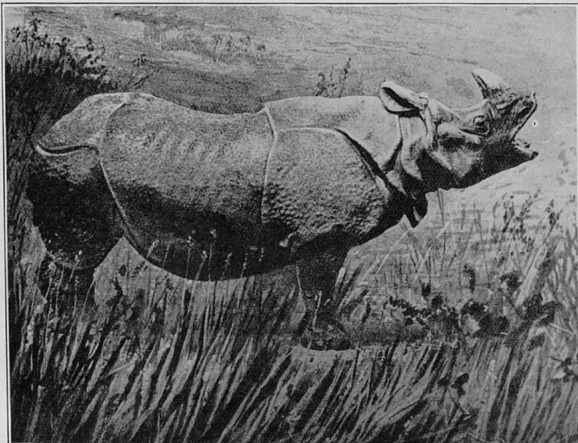
CAPT. DUDLEY NORTH, ADMIRAL SIR LIONEL HALSEY, AND CAPT. PIERS LEIGH BESIDE THEIR CATCH FROM THE RIVER AT KARRAPUR.

many tigers, and an odd bear or two in different stages of disintegration, the local effects were very considerable. He gives us an interesting account of the elaborate methods adopted for giving prompt and exact "khubber" (news) of kills and the movements of game. "This was accomplished by a precise system of signalling, on a scale which I think has never been attempted before on a shoot of this description. The whole arrangement was under the direction of Lieut. Leonard, R.E., who had arrived in Nepal some weeks previously to put up a system of telephonic communication

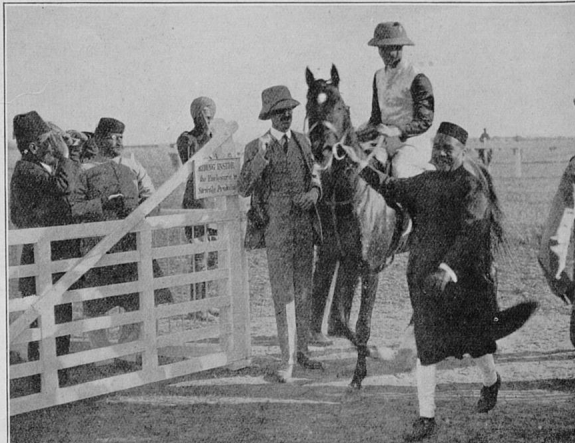
well and boyish in light khaki Jodhpur breeches, shooting coat, and Sambhar leather shoes." The members of the shooting party go off to the chosen beat in cars and on arrival mount the pad elephants, which take them down to the elephants with howdahs standing by the river bed.

"His Royal Highness mounts into his howdah, which by the way, is the same as was used by his father when he last shot in Nepal. The rest of the party are the Earl of Cromer, Admiral Sir Lionel Halsey, Col. Worgan, Lord Louis

(Continued on page 28.)



THE INDIAN RHINOCEROS, A FINE SPECIMEN OF WHICH FELL TO THE PRINCE'S RIFLE.



THE PRINCE AT LUCKNOW RACES, WHERE HE RODE TWO WINNERS.



ON THE WAY TO THE BEAT. THE JUNGLE HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR THE ROYAL SHOOT BY INSTITUTING A CLOSE SEASON.

THE PRINCE IN INDIA—Continued from page 27.

Mountbatten, Capt. the Hon. Piers Legh, and the Hon. Bruce Ogilvy and myself. Everybody is expectant, though nothing happens for some time. On the other side of the huge river bed, now reduced to a narrow stream, stretches the jungle for mile on mile. It is very hot, the elephants are impatient, and every now and then one of them gives utterance to restless trumpeting."

News is brought of a tiger. The procession moves off, the Prince at its head. Suddenly there is a stir in the line, the elephants move up shoulder to shoulder and stand to form the ring:

"Then the real thing happens, and there is a cry 'Bagh

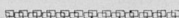
Bagh' from the beaters. The tiger at last. A glimpse of a yellowish form is seen in the long grass for the space of a few seconds and is at once lost to view. Once again it is seen behind a tree trunk. Closer advance the beaters, the tiger charges out, but he is a wary beast and seems to know intuitively where the guns are posted, and gives them a wide berth. Again and again he is driven out only to seek cover in the long grass away from the guns. A Shikari climbs a tree and pelts him with stones. The manoeuvre succeeds, and once again we get a half-length view of 'stripes' as he makes a spring at his tormentor in the tree-top. The ring closes in upon him, but with a roar he dives into the long grass; another roar and he shows himself quite near the Royal

howdah. A moment's suspense and His Royal Highness fires, and a second afterwards two more shots ring out. The Prince has hit. The tiger though mortally wounded has plenty of go in him and charges to the opposite side and is buried once more in the heavy cover. The ring closes in, a shot rings out and the tiger rolls over dead. I descend from my howdah and measure him.

"It was a striking scene, this great circle of sportsman, beaters, mahouts and elephants . . . The tiger taped 9ft., but he was a royal beast and looked splendid when I saw him later stretched out for the Prince's inspection near the great log fire in the Royal Camp."

(Continued on page 29.)

ALLURING HOLIDAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA.



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THE PRINCE'S HOST, THE MAHARAJAH OF NEPAL.

THE PRINCE IN INDIA—Continued from page 28.

The next day was fixed for the first rhino shoot. The destination was Thoba, a run of 20 miles by car.

"The party arrived at the spot where the shooting was to take place at 1 p.m., and an adjournment for lunch was agreed to with general acclaim. Several rhinos had been seen in the swamp in close proximity and the chances of a good afternoon's sport seemed assured. After lunch we mounted our elephants and it was not long before a rhino was discerned in the thick grass cover. His Royal Highness, whose position was rather disadvantageous, since he could scarcely see the animal from where he was, fired. Lord Louis Mountbatten fired immediately afterwards and the rhino made off. A prolonged search was made for the beast. The blood-spattered leaves and grass showed clearly that the bullet had found its mark, but it was not till many days later that the beast was picked up dead. It was then too decomposed for preservation, but the skull and horn were recovered. It proved to be the best of all the rhino heads obtained in Nepal during the present shoot. A second rhino wounded on this day by Capt. Dudley North was picked up later under similar circumstances." It was four days afterwards that the Prince shot a rhino at Sarasoti Kola. Capt. Dudley North was with him, and thus describes the shoot:

"I went out with His Royal Highness after rhino. We



MESS TENT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES AT BIKNA THORI CAMP. The floor was covered with leopard skins pieced together.

went to where one was reported, and soon sighted a rhino lying down. His Royal Highness had not seen one properly before so that at first he did not recognise it as they are so difficult to distinguish in heavy cover. However, when the brute rose he saw it. The rhino moved slowly towards us, and I suggested his firing a raking shot into it, but His Royal Highness very rightly preferred to wait for a more advantageous position. The rhino turned to the right and the Prince fired. His first shot hit, though rather high, and the beast swung round, and His Royal Highness fired again, hitting it this time on the neck. We followed the beast into very heavy cover, but the trees were so thick that it was impossible to get a clear shot; the elephants were just getting clear of the trees when the rhino was dropped by one of the Nepalese officials, Gen. Kaiser Shumsher Jung Bahadur, who had fired as he was under the impression the beast was going to charge. His Royal Highness used my .470 Gibbs rifle, which I lent him."

On the following day the Prince had an adventure which but for good shooting might have ended very differently:

"In the course of the evening, near the village of Persami, in British territory, the Prince encountered a hamadryad or king cobra, which he luckily killed. The party were walking up jungle fowl at the time. His Royal Highness first shot at the snake as it was moving away and apparently hit it, for

the brute turned and appeared to be about to attack him, when he killed it with his second barrel. The snake was brought into camp with the rest of the day's bag. It was first assumed that it was an ordinary rat snake or dhman when examined in the fading light. Subsequently when the skin was examined at the Society's museum in Bombay the identity of the reptile was revealed. The Prince's king cobra taped 10ft. 3in. The hamadryad, the largest known poisonous snake in the world, grows to about 15ft. in length. The record specimen now in the Society's museum measures 15ft. 5in. Much has been written about the ferocity of the king cobra, and its propensity for making an unprovoked attack. When cornered a king cobra may show fight, or a female will very probably attack should her nest or eggs be endangered, but experience has shown that these serpents under ordinary circumstances usually seek safety in flight."

This was the last day on which His Royal Highness was out, and it thus brought a rather striking conclusion to one of the greatest shoots in the annals of the Nepal Terai.

For the photographs here reproduced of H.H. The Maharajah of Nepal, the Indian rhinoceros, and the mess tent at Bikna Thori we are indebted to Mr Bernard Ellison. Acknowledgments are made to the Central News Agency for the others.



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