BIG GAME SHOOTING
IN NEPAL
PLATE 1.

HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA ON HORSEBACK.
BIG GAME
SHOOTING IN NEPAL

(With leaves from the Maharaja’s Sporting Diary)

by

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CALCUTTA
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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated with profound respect to him who alone made its production possible,


Eting Paoting Soon Chian Luchuan Syang Chyang, Honorary Lieutenant-General British Army, Honorary Colonel of all the Gurkha Rifle Regiments (Indian Army), Prime Minister and Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Nepal.
PREFACE.

DURING the last decade of my service in the forests of the United Provinces, India, which adjoin the Nepal Terai forests on the west and south-west, I used to hear wonderful accounts of the Maharaja of Nepal, his shikar exploits and his phenomenal bags of tiger and other big game. Being a shikari myself (as all Indian forest officers are) I was always anxious to hear further details, and when I came as Forest Adviser to Nepal I fortunately had an opportunity to see and read the very interesting shikar diaries of the Maharaja, translated into English, and illustrated with many wonderful photographs and pictures. As I read through the pages, I soon realised what wonderful material there was for a shikar book, if only justice could be done to it. I ventured to suggest this, adding that such a book could only be written by one having an intimate knowledge of jungle life, and if His Highness so desired, I should be delighted to do anything I could to help. In due course His Highness approved of this suggestion, and I was given the honour and responsibility of the task. My chief fear is that I have not done full justice to His Highness’s unique shikar experiences. During my 30 years of service in the Indian Forest Department I have been in close contact with plenty of shikar (which in India is controlled by the Forest Department) and have had plenty of thrills of my own; I have met and exchanged yarns with most of the famous big game sportsmen of northern India, but never have I seen or heard of anything like the Maharaja’s shikar in Nepal.

Some big game shikaris—and I include myself in this category—prefer to kill their tigers neatly and quickly, without undue fuss or danger. There are others—like Sir William Stampe—who positively prefer to have wounded and fighting tigers trying to maul them and their elephants. His Highness is evidently in the latter category! That his shoots should have produced a high proportion of such incidents is not surprising, because the Nepal ring method of tiger shooting, although supremely efficient, emphatically encourages nerve-racking episodes. A slightly wounded and cornered tiger is about the most dangerous animal on earth. With his pluck, ferocity, agility and tremendous strength he is bound to attack somebody or something. And in the Nepal ring, wounded and cornered tigers are the rule rather than the exception, the ring corners the tiger, and in the tremendous Terai grass and undergrowth to wait for or pick out an immediately
fatal spot—such as the heart, neck or head—is practically impossible. This explains why in this book so many shoots occur with fighting tigers charging and mauling the elephants, putting them to flight or alternately the elephants trying to kill the tigers by their tusks or weight, mahouts being thrown and other hair-raising escapes. Everyone who has seen the Maharaja in action, following wounded tigers into their lair in thick undergrowth, bears witness to the fact that the greater the danger, the more he enjoys it!

Having been privileged to tour extensively in the great Terai forests, in the areas where these shoots take place, I have tried to give some idea of the atmosphere that surrounds these shoots, the appeal of these wild jungles to some atavistic trait in modern man, the lure of trackless forests far from civilisation, the calls of wild animals often heard, the glorious scenery of plains and wooded hills, with the cold glitter of the everlasting snows ever visible on the far horizon.

I have also tried to give some idea of this only independent Hindu kingdom, Nepal, of which the Maharaja is the sole and absolute ruler, of her tribes and peoples, and temples, her flora and fauna, and her geography. In this I have drawn freely from previous books about Nepal—Percy Brown's "Picturesque Nepal", Northey's "The Gurkhas" and "The Land of Gurkhas".

But the bulk of the book is based directly on the illustrated volumes of the Maharaja's shooting diary. The photographs and illustrations were taken and made chiefly by the artist-photographers, Major General Samir Shumshere and his son Major Balkrishna Shumshere. The coloured photographs, excepting the one of His Highness in Durbar dress, are all made by photographer Suba B. D. Joshi. To Brigadier-Colonel S. P. Thapa, B.sc., I must express my special indebtedness, for his continuous assistance and advice in the preparation and publication of this book within such a short time and in arranging, under his personal supervision, the English translations of the 8 years' voluminous diaries, done by Pandit Lakshmi Prasad Devakota, B.A., LL.B., which I have often quoted verbatim. Commanding General Kaiser Shumshere, whose knowledge of big game shikar in Nepal is very wide, has very kindly supplied much information and gone through the draft of the various chapters, making corrections where necessary. Commanding General Bahadur, during a short stay in Nepal, very kindly went through some portions of the writings and made valuable suggestions and corrections. This has ensured that the descriptions of the many exciting episodes, and the information regarding the measurements and numbers of animals shot, are really accurate and correct. Inaccuracies, exaggerations, and insincere flattery have been scrupulously avoided; this assurance seems advisable, as many of the shikar incidents are so
extraordinary, and some of the tiger and leopard measurements so huge, that a degree of scepticism might otherwise creep in. Lastly, I am thankful to Brigadier-Colonel Indra Bahadur Karki, A.D.C. to His Highness, for kindly verifying my writings with the original diaries.

His Highness entrusted me with a task which I have found of absorbing interest, and which has given me months of pleasure. My knowledge (and love) of Indian jungles and jungle life helped me to describe the scenes, although the limitations of my literary skill have, I fear, prevented full justice being done to the subject. But, if I have, as I hope, at least succeeded in giving a picture of a thorough sportsman, as well as a great ruler and a charming personality, I shall have the satisfaction of knowing that in the task I set out to do I have not altogether failed.
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CHAPTER I.

THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL.

A PICTURESQUE LAND.

The traveller's first glimpse of the beautiful valley of Nepal where beats the real pulse of the Nepalese nation, and in which is situated Kathmandu, the principal seat of the Nepal Government, is gained from the top of Chandragiri, a hill that serves as the southern rampart. The beautiful panorama of golden pagodas, brown temples, white edifices, and red hamlets seen in a romantic setting of hill and dale remains an ineffaceable memory. Far away on the northern horizon, dominating the whole scene, rise the snow-clad peaks of Dhaulagiri and Gosainkund, and in front of them a majestic series of smaller mountains, tier upon tier, in bold relief against the clear blue sky, sloping down to the very edge of the valley. Kathmandu, the capital, lies in the heart of this valley. Here and in the two neighbouring cities, Patan and Bhatgaon, one finds magnificent modern palaces side by side with ancient picturesque temples and pagodas, the like of which cannot be seen anywhere else in the world.

The valley of Nepal is 15 miles in length and 13 in breadth and is said to have been originally a lake. Within this small area stand practically all the principal temples of Nepal, and the temples are the chief glories of the country. On their walls are to be found some of the most wonderful handicraft of by-gone ages—with sermons in stones—carved by pious monarchs whose chief ambition seems to have been to leave behind them undying testimony to the burning devotion in their hearts.

TEMPLES AND FESTIVALS OF NEPAL.

Of all the Buddhist temples, the oldest, finest, and most perfect specimen is Swayambhunath, on top of a small hill near Kathmandu. Its origin is lost in the mists of antiquity—one legend (recorded by Oldfield) suggests it was pre-Buddha. The chaitya, which forms the main structure of the temple, is composed of a solid hemisphere of brick and earth, supporting a lofty conical spine, the top of which is capped by a pinnacle of copper-gilt, and on the four sides of the base are painted,
very realistically, the two eyes of Buddha. According to the belief of Newars, as far as these eyes can see the land may never be ploughed with oxen, but may only be dug by hand. As an instance of the curious blending of Hinduism and Buddhism in Nepal, Northey has noted the interesting fact that situated in the very cloisters of Swayambhunath there is a purely Hindu temple, dedicated to the goddess Devi Sitla (the goddess of smallpox), which was built by the Buddhists, and a visit to it is part of the ceremonial attendant upon a visit to this famous place of Buddhist pilgrimage.

Other Buddhist temples and relics include the very similar temple of Bodhnath, and the five stupas of Asoka erected in and around the city of Patan.

There are other examples in Nepal where Hindu shrines have been erected within the precincts of Buddhist temples, which are decorated with Hindu gods and Hindu symbols. While the national religion of the Newars was originally Buddhism, about half are now followers of Hinduism, and the influence and spread of Hinduism is steadily and surely pushing back Buddhism to the higher mountain ranges adjoining Tibet. This trend is naturally influenced by the fact that the rulers of Nepal are strict followers of the Hindu faith in all its details, whose example influences the majority of their people towards the same religion.

Of the sacred Hindu temples and places of pilgrimage in Nepal, which are legion, only the most important can be mentioned here. They can be classified as belonging or dedicated to Shiva, or Vishnu, or Shakti (the goddess of power and procreation). The most sacred of all the Hindu temples to the followers of Shiva is Shree Pashupatinath, where annually pilgrims from all over India assemble in thousands during a particular fortnight.

Brown in "Picturesque Nepal" has described it as follows:—

"Pashupati is a picturesque collection of temples and shrines, about three miles north-east of Kathmandu, on the banks of the Bagmati river. Here this stream passes through a narrow gorge, which may be appropriately called 'the valley of shadow', for Pashupati is truly the doorway of death. So holy is this place that the one great desire of the Hindu is to gasp out his last breath on the steps of the ghat, with his feet lapped by the swirls and eddies of the sacred stream. And so, lying about in corners and recesses are people in the last stage of life, tortured perhaps in body but happy in mind, because they have been spared to die within the holy precincts of Pashupati. And in the gloaming one may see the turrets and gilded roofs lit up by the glow of the funeral pyres of the dead."
PLATE 2.

THE SACRED TEMPLE OF PASHUPATINATH.
The Kingdom of Nepal.

Pashupatinath is one of the twelve most sacred Lingams of India, and ranks with Rameswaram of Madras, Kedarnath of the United Provinces, Visveswarnath of Benares and the others.

North of the Nepal valley, where the encircling snows hang highest in ethereal space, towers the great mountain of Gosainthan, and at its foot, at an altitude of nearly 15,000 feet, is the sacred lake of Gosainthan. Here every year the pious devotees of Shiva Mahadev come to worship the divinely carved representation of their god, sunk in the water of the ice-cold lake. This is another of the amazing pilgrimages to Hindu shrines which lie concealed in the ice-bound fastnesses of the Himalaya, like the pillar of ice at Amarnath in Kashmir, and the Cow's Mouth (the source of the sacred Ganges) at Badrinath in Kumaon, but the sacred lake of Gosainthan in Nepal is the severest and greatest penance of them all. To anyone who has seen (as the writer has) old men and women attempting to scale the heights, gasping and palpitating from the rarified atmosphere, shivering from the intense cold, it appears a miracle of surpassing faith—faith that can move mountains—that the goal is ever reached and the pilgrimage successfully accomplished.

Other famous temples dedicated to Shiva, outside the Nepal valley, are Jaleswar in Mahotttri district and Pindeswar in Morang.

Four sacred temples dedicated to Vishnu, guard the valley of Nepal—Changu Narayan on the east, Ichangu Narayan on the west, Bishainkhu Narayan on the south, and Narayan or more commonly Burha Nilkanth on the north. This latter has a colossal figure of Vishnu reclining on serpents, carved from a great block of stone. The beautiful Krishna temple in the main square at Patan has superb decoration and architecture. Janakpur (in Mahotttri district) marks the birthplace of Janaki or Sita (wife of Rama), where two great fairs are held annually.

In Nepal, there are also two of the five most sacred places in all India of the followers of Vishnu, which rank with Pushkar in Ajmer, and Kurukshetra near Delhi. These are Varahkshetra in the Kosi gorge in Morang (the birthplace of the third incarnation of Vishnu) and Muktikshetra, in the high Himalayas, the source of the sacred river Gandak.

To the goddess Shakti are dedicated a very large number of temples and shrines. In one of these—Taleju Bhawani in Kathmandu—the last of the Newar kings concealed himself when the victorious Gurkhas besieged the town in 1768. Another is Bhadra Kali on Tundikhel (the big parade ground of Kathmandu) near the Maharaja's official residence Singha Durbar. But the most famous is Shree Guhyeswari, the consort of Shree Pashupati, and situated near his temple, on the opposite bank of the river.
In this brief survey of the sacred temples, shrines, and pilgrimages of Nepal, it has only been possible to mention a few of the more famous. But to appreciate the religious atmosphere of Nepal, and of the valley in particular, one must realise that there are scores and hundreds of temples and shrines, tucked away down alleyways in the towns, or on the wayside in villages, by river banks, on hill-tops, or buried away in the forests. Over the country there hangs, as it were, a pall of fervent religion, which is intensified by the enthusiasm of the people in observing the endless succession of religious festivals, and strengthened by the deeply religious attitude of the Maharaja himself.

Just as almost every situation is sanctified by its altar or shrine, so almost every day of the year is marked by its religious ceremony or festival. Many are mere local observances associated with a village saint or a minor divinity. The Nepalis love displays of dancing, music, and general hilarity, which are considered an indispensable ingredient of Hindu festivals, and so are indulged in with the greatest enthusiasm.

There are a number of great national festivals peculiar to Nepal, besides several others which differ little from those practised in India. Of the purely indigenous festivals, the most important is that in honour of Machhendranath, the patron saint of Nepal. The ceremony of annually presenting his present-day embodiment (in the form of an image) is one of the most fascinating events of the valley, which has been maintained for centuries.

Of the more than twenty other indigenous festivals the most interesting or important are the following:

The Indrajatra, which takes place early in September, and lasts eight days. On the third day there is a grand procession, when elephants, gaily painted and caparisoned, bear in their gilt and silver howdahs the rulers of the State; when through the crowded streets of Kathmandu three great wooden chariots are dragged in which, with their attendants, sit two little boys, representing Ganesh and Bhairab, and a little girl representing the goddess Kumari, in whose honour the Indrajatra is held. In front, between, and behind these rocking chariots the regiments of the Nepalese Army with their bands march on, interspersed with groups of Newars with torches, incense, and men with huge masks dressed as women dancing along—a Saturnalia of noise and revelry.

The story goes that the Gurkha conqueror of Nepal, Prithiwi Narayan Shah, arrived in Kathmandu with his troops in the middle of this festival, and the Newars—or such of them as were still capable of running—fled, leaving the goddess and the chariots deserted. Suddenly a voice was heard, the voice of no other than the goddess
herself, who, evidently disgusted at the want of regard shown to her by her votaries, demanded the completion of the procession and promised the rule of all Nepal to whoever would fulfil her order. Prithiwi Narayan, hearing this, took charge of the subsequent proceedings and with his troops dragged the chariots round to their final destination. His reward was the conquest and first kingship of all Nepal.

During the evenings of this festival, and sometimes through the whole night, there are further tamashas. In the courtyard of the King's Durbar Hall something not unlike a sort of primitive Spanish bull-fight is held.

Of the purely Hindu festivals of India, the three that are celebrated on a grand scale in Nepal are the Dashera, the Dewali and the Holi.

The Dashera or Durga Puja lasts for ten days, of which the first six days are not so important. On the seventh day a grand review of the troops takes place on the Tundikhel parade ground, in the presence of His Majesty and His Highness. All round the Tundikhel the people stand in dense crowds dressed in gala attire. The troops are drawn up forming sides of a great square, with the artillery at intervals drawn up in the space left, and massed bands in the centre. At a given signal the troops commence to fire a feu de joie, in which the artillery presently joins. The noise becomes deafening and continues for several minutes when it suddenly ceases, and the crowds disperse to continue the festivities in their own homes.

The Dewali, which occurs three weeks after the end of Dashera, is a festival of a very different nature. It lasts for five days, and is sacred to the goddess Lakshmi, the consort of Shree Vishnu, and the goddess of wealth and good fortune. During this period the many palaces of Kathmandu as well as the streets and bazaars are ablaze with multi-coloured lights, and so this festival is called "The Festival of Illumination". In Nepal, however, there is an additional interesting feature in it. Gambling in all its forms is strictly forbidden throughout Nepal, but the ban is removed for three particular occasions. The one in Dewali lasts for three days and nights, and gives an opportunity for the display of a grand orgy of games of chance.

The Durbar square, the streets and bazaars are crowded with little booths each with its coterie of enthralled players and interested spectators, while in the seclusion of the houses and palaces play is universal and stakes run higher. The favourite game is called "Chharuwa" and is played with four players and 16 cowries (shells), each player having a group of four numbers (e.g., No. 1 player has 1, 5, 9 and 13, No. 2 has 2, 6, 10 and 14 and so on). The players shake the cowries in the closed hand and throw them on the board (carpet
around which they squat), and if, for example, 9 cowries fall with the
curved side upwards, No. 1 player scoops the pool. It is a fascinating
sight to see the swarming happy crowds eddying around the tense-
faced players (sometimes even boys playing for farthings) under the
eaves of elaborately carved houses and gilded temples, the whole scene
lit up with electricity or petromax and thousands of flickering Diwali
lights.

The Holi, which is the great Spring festival, is celebrated all over
Nepal in the same way as in India, and lasts for eight days. During
these eight days it is the fashion for all and sundry who choose to regale
themselves thus, to go about with bags of bright vermillion powder
and vessels of coloured water, with which the passers-by are plentiful-
fully bombarded. Towards the end of the festival the whole popula-
tion exhibit conspicuous traces on their clothes and on their faces of
active participation in it.

Besides these religious festivals, there are also many civil festivals
and holidays which are usually attended by some sort of tamasha or
entertainments, such as the birthday of the Maharaja or the anniversary
of his accession. In fact, amongst this gay and care-free people a
carnival spirit seems to predominate on most days of the year, and
there is no lack of holidays to give free scope for the peoples’ love of
ceremonial and martial displays of bands and music and song, and of
religious ritual and observance.

THE PEOPLE OF NEPAL.

All writers about Nepal have been struck with the extraordinary
variety of races, tribes and languages in Nepal. Professor Turner
has written this about it:—

"To the western European nothing could be more astonishing
than the diversity of races and languages which he would find in Nepal.
In a population of about six millions in all, there are spoken at least
a score, if not indeed a still greater number, of languages all mutually
unintelligible, and some broken up again into numerous and often very
different dialects. Even within the limits of a single valley there may
be, and often is, a village the inhabitants of which speak a language
completely unintelligible to their neighbours in the next village a mile
away."

The origin of this diversity is to be found in the various migrations
which have brought the present population into the country.

These multifarious languages belong to at least three different
families of speech: (a) Munda, a division of Austro-Asiatic, (b)
Tibeto-Burman and (c) Indo-Aryan.
The earliest or aboriginal inhabitants of the country were Dravidian or Austro-Asiatic, whose dialect is still surviving in the plateau of Chota Nagpur and amongst races on the southern slopes of the Himalayas and the Terai, including Nepal. But these primitive races have been overlaid and enslaved by two waves of invasion, by Mongolians from the north and by the Aryans from the south and west, and have largely disappeared now. The two main branches of the population of Nepal are thus: (1) Mongolian or Tibeto-Burman and (2) Indo-Aryan. While the Aryan invaders of India were pouring into India from Iran through the north-western passes somewhere in the second millennium B.C.—the Mongolian emigrants were pouring in from Tibet through the northern passes, and, roughly speaking, the latter occupied the northern, central and eastern tracts of Nepal, while the former found themselves in the western and southern tracts.

At a much later date, there was a further invasion, which has had a predominant influence on present-day Nepal. As a result of the Moghul invasions, a number of high-caste Thakurs and Rajputs, driven out of Rajputana and Central India, took refuge in the Himalayas, and from these immigrants have descended the present rulers and nobility of Nepal. Thus the family of the Maharaja traces descent back to the Rana family of Udaipur.

This invasion, if tradition can be believed, had another and more humble influence on the population of Nepal. The malarious and deadly Terai is inhabited by a race called the Tharus, who are practically immune to malaria. Northey has quoted the following story of their origin:

"The Terai was originally inhabited by a race of wild men (aboriginals) who knew not the meaning of law and order. Sometime during the twelfth century, when the Rajputs were about to be besieged in Chitor, they sent their womenfolk to take refuge in the lower hills of Nepal. Later on, when Chitor had fallen and most of its garrison had been slaughtered, the Rajput women, who until then had held aloof from the local inhabitants, began to take husbands from amongst the inhabitants of the Terai, and their offspring were the original Tharus."

It is interesting to note that even to-day the Tharu women, who are known as RANIS (queens), are considered to be the leaders of the race.

Tharus figure largely in the shikar incidents recorded in this book, as they occupy the key-position of mahouts and attendants of the elephants of Nepal, and their pluck and skill is a predominant factor in the success of all big game shooting in the Terai.
In addition to the semi-aboriginal Tharus, there are (more particularly in the east) other and altogether aboriginal tribes found in the Terai, such as the Dhimals of the Terai and the Satars or Santhals (a recent emigration), skilled hunters with bow and spear. The language of these tribes is quite unintelligible to the ordinary inhabitants of Nepal. The Dotials of Western Nepal are another primitive race, which is possibly a mixture of Aryan and aboriginal, but not Mongolian. They are the weight-carrying coolies of many hill stations.

Turning to the inhabitants of Mongolian origin, which supply all the recruits for the Gurkha battalions of the Indian Army, the principal tribes or races are the Gurungs and Magars of Central Nepal, and the Rais and Limbus (Kirantis) of Eastern Nepal. (From time immemorial, i.e., in the Mahabharat and Ramayana, the name Kiranti is associated with hill tribes outside the boundaries of the Aryan invasion, but has a more limited application now.)

Although these four tribes supply the bulk of the recruits for the 20 battalions of Gurkha regiments now increased to 40 owing to exigencies of war, historically and geographically only the Gurungs and Magars can claim to be the original Gorkhali or Gurkhas. Two centuries ago Gurkha was a petty kingdom in the Gurung country with a small hill village called Gorkha as capital. In 1742 Prithwi Narayan Shah became king of this village and surrounding territory, but before he died in 1775 he had conquered the valley of Nepal itself and consolidated his power and expanded his kingdom over the Kirantis in the east, to the passes of Tibet on the north, to the Terai in the south and far to the west, thus becoming the first king of Nepal.

The Rais and the Limbus, the aboriginal Mongolian tribes of Eastern Nepal, were amongst his conquests.

Other Mongolian races of Nepal include Tibetans, Lepchas, and Sherpas—the latter now world famous as the high-level porters for Everest expeditions—of the higher mountain, and Sunwaris, Bhotes, and others of the outer hills.

There is one important race left to describe, the Newars of the valley of Nepal. Their origin has been a matter of considerable speculation. Some authorities consider that the Newars originally migrated from Southern India, being the Nair soldiery who formed a part of an army which invaded Nepal in the ninth century A.D. But it seems more probable that they have been the inhabitants of the Nepal valley for a much longer period, and probably migrated from the north before the spread of Buddhism.

Dr. Oldfield, writing many years ago about Buddhism in Nepal, records a legend which, if true, suggests a possible origin of the Newars.
"Having travelled through the greater part of north-western India, Buddha made a pilgrimage to Nepal, accompanied by one thousand three hundred and fifty mendicant ascetics, and having with him the Raja of Benares with his Minister of State and an immense crowd of all sorts and conditions. In Nepal he found that the doctrines of which he was the apostle had already taken firm root. They had been introduced into the country by a distinguished teacher from Tibet named Manjusri, who had led the first colony from China into Nepal and built a temple to the eternal self-existent spirit Swayambhu. When Sakya (Buddha) returned to Hindusthan, most of the followers who had accompanied him—being charmed with the beauties of the sacred valley—settled in Nepal and became gradually blended by intermarriage with the earlier inhabitants of the country."

The style of buildings and the most characteristic types of Nepalese temples are in the so-called pagoda style. Professor Levi thinks it not improbable that the pagoda style was in existence in Nepal long before it made its appearance further east, and suggests that the pagodas of China and elsewhere are due to the influence of the Newars, who were employed as skilled workmen (up to quite modern times) in Tibet, Tartary and many parts of China.

Recruitment for the Gurkha battalions of the Indian Army is not allowed in the Nepal valley and adjoining hill districts, as this is the main centre of recruitment of the Nepalese Army. The Nepalese Army is recruited chiefly from the castes of Chetri, Gurung, Magar, and Limbus.
CHAPTER II.

PHYSIOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY OF NEPAL.

PHYSIOGRAPHY AND GEOGRAPHY.

The numerous expeditions which have struggled in vain to ascend Everest and Kanchenjunga, the Himalayan giants on the borders of Nepal, have brought into world-wide prominence the physiography of this Himalayan kingdom, so a brief description will be of general interest.

The geography and physiography are much better known than formerly, thanks to the survey carried out about 15 years ago and the excellent maps resulting therefrom, published by the Map Office of the Survey of India.

The total area is about 54,000 square miles and it stretches about 540 miles in length parallel to the Himalayan axis, and averages about 100 miles in breadth, lying between 80° and 88°E. longitude and between 26° and 30°N. latitude. The eastern boundary with Sikkim is the great transverse Singalila range, which runs through the beautiful but terrible mountain Kanchenjunga (28,146 feet) and divides the waters of Sikkim and the great Ranjit river from the waters of Eastern Nepal and the Timur river. This range and valley of the Timur was explored nearly a century ago, by special permission of Maharaja Jung Bahadur, by the great naturalist, Sir Joseph Hooker, and described in his classic book "Himalayan Journal". This is the only occasion in all Nepalese history that a European has been permitted to explore extensively the hill portions of the country above the Terai and submontane belt!

Where the Singalila range fades out near the plains, the Mechi river continues the boundary, dividing the Morang district of Nepal from the Siliguri district of Bengal. The southern boundary is over 500 miles of artificial demarcation, separating the Terai of Nepal from the adjoining districts of Bihar and the United Provinces, and patrolled and guarded throughout by Nepalese troops.

The western boundary is the Sarda or Mahakali river, from Banbassa where the headworks of the great Sarda canal are situated, to its source
at the Lipulekh pass, where Nepal, British India and Tibet meet. From here the northern boundary runs south-east for over 500 miles back to near Kanchenjunga, along the roof of the world in a great maze of Himalayan snowy ranges, over great peaks and watersheds where no human being has ever been. In the eastern half, the Tibet-Nepal boundary follows the main crystalline axis of the Himalaya and includes such giants among mountains as Kanchenjunga, Makalu, Everest, Gaurisanker and a dozen peaks of over 24,000 feet altitude. Here the Kosi river and its great tributary the Arun break through the boundary and drain vast areas in Tibet before entering Nepalese territory.

But in the western half, the Tibet-Nepal boundary swings north of the main Himalayan axis and follows instead the watershed of the Gandak and Karnali rivers and their tributaries. Here the great peaks of Himalaya, Manaslu, Himalchule. Annapurna. Dhaulagiri, a dozen peaks in all over 24,000 feet, lie wholly within Nepal territory, behind which lie Mustang and many other districts of Nepal which are practically unknown. It is interesting to note that Nepal has within or on its boundaries 26 peaks of over 24,000 feet, which include 12 of over 25,000, eight of over 26,000, three of over 27,000, and the one and only mountain in the world over 29,000 feet. Such an agglomeration of high peaks makes Nepal unique amongst all the countries of the world.

This brief description of the boundaries of Nepal will suffice to explain how natural features and geography have rendered possible a policy of isolation from the rest of the world. Only on the southern frontier is the country at all accessible, and this frontier is backed by a great belt of dense tropical forest, which runs its whole length, and is intensely malarious for seven or eight months of the year. Behind this Terai belt lies the trackless and equally unhealthy Churia or Siwalik ranges of foothills, behind which, again, is the long range of Mahabharat that forms a further barrier to the hill districts of Nepal. To a wonderful extent, therefore, physiography has simplified the policy of isolation.

The whole kingdom is divided into two main zones: (1) the plains or "Mades" (which includes the submontane Siwaliks and "Duns") and (2) the hill districts or "Pahar". The hill districts greatly exceed the plains in area and are exclusively the source of recruitment for the Gurkha battalions of the Indian Army. They fall naturally into four basins.

On the east is the basin of the seven Kosis—that is, the country drained by the Kosi and its great tributaries—the home of the Sunwars, Rais, Limbus, and Lepchas. In the centre is the great tract drained by the seven Gandaks, e.g., the Narayani or Gandak and its great
tributaries. Here we find the Gurungs and Magars, and it includes Gurkha, the ancestral home of the Gurkha Raj. To the west lie the basins of the Karnali and Mahakali rivers (called Gogra and Sarda in India), inhabited by Magars (to a limited extent), Bhotes, Dhotials, and tribes of Tibetan origin behind the great ranges.

The fourth basin, although much the smallest, is also the most important. A great ridge coming from the sacred mountain of Gosainthan in Tibet (over 26,000 feet), which divides the Kosi and Gandak basins, suddenly and unexpectedly bifurcates to enclose the Bagmati basin and the valley of Nepal proper. This lovely and fertile elevated plain was once a vast lake, and remains of fossil elephants have been found in the deposits. To Manjusri by the Buddhists, and to Vishnu by the Hindus, is given the credit of transforming this lake into a fertile plain, by cutting a pass through the mountains with his sword. Science suggests a more prosaic agency in (geologically) comparatively recent times. The plain is now covered by a thick deposit of rich dark silt which ensures its wonderful and perennial fertility.

It lies at an altitude of 4,500 feet and is surrounded by a ring of forested mountains reaching to over 9,000 feet altitude, composed of the limestones, slates, and quartzites, typical of the Mahabharat. Descending from the Chandragiri pass on the road from the plains, one of the most glorious views in all the Himalaya becomes visible. Imagine a great amphitheatre of well-wooded mountains, 15 miles in diameter, rising 2,000 to 4,000 feet above an emerald plain of intense cultivation, which is threaded by a broad river and dotted with many villages. In the centre of the plain, every detail clearly visible in the diamond air, lies Kathmandu, the city of palaces, and nearby is Patan, the sacred city of temples. Beyond and behind the ring of encircling mountains, there rise the great snowy ranges, with Gosainthan and Ganesh Himal, giants of this wilderness of snow and ice, towering above a host of less known peaks and ridges; and far to the east, a distant view of Everest the unconquered.

This land-locked basin to the Nepalese is Nepal, the rest is Mades or Pahar. It contains the seat of administration and Government, as well as the signs and records of the oldest civilisation, ancient buildings, temples, carvings of the last two thousand years (as are described elsewhere). The population of the valley exceeds 330,000. Thus its importance bears no relation to its comparatively small size. The bulk of the population is Newar, but this race is practically not recruited at all for the Nepalese Army which is recruited chiefly from the Chetris of the valley.

There remains for consideration the “Mades”, a continuous belt along the southern boundaries consisting of three distinct sub-zones,
The Terai is a fertile well-watered alluvial plain, about 250 to 600 feet above sea-level. Originally the Terai was covered with dense forest and was notorious for its unhealthy and malarious climate. But now a large proportion of the whole has been disforested and cleared for cultivation, and the process is still continuing, although there are still islands and pockets of forest of varying extent in some districts. This Terai cultivation is far more valuable and pays far higher land revenue than hill cultivation, and in fact the land revenue from the Terai is more than half the total revenue of the whole kingdom from all sources.

North of the Terai belt and south of the foot of the hills, approximately from 600 to 1,000 feet above sea-level, lies the Bhabar or, in Nepali, the Charkosya jhari (eight-mile wide forest). Here the Terai alluvium has been overlaid by sand, pebbles and boulders, which during the course of ages have been washed down from the hills by the streams and rivers. The soil is dry, infertile for cultivation, and so porous that even drinking water is usually unobtainable during most periods of the year. It is therefore quite unfit for colonisation, and efforts to create village settlements are foredoomed to failure. An example of such a failure is Amlekhgunj (the terminus of the Nepal Government Railway leading to Kathmandu), which means the place of the free, where emancipated slaves were given land and huts, but little or no cultivation survives to-day. The Bhabar is almost as malarious as the Terai, despite its dry nature.

Although this eight-mile wide belt is unfit for cultivation, it is ideal for growth of forest trees, and the Bhabar still is, and always will be, forest. The different types of forest are described in a later section. This is par excellence the belt of forest where the Maharaja indulges in his great sport of big game shooting.

North of the Bhabar come the foothills, the Churia Range. This last rampart of the Himalayas rises abruptly from the gently sloping plains to a height of 2,000 to 4,000 feet, tier on tier of wild, broken and uninhabited country, intersected by ravines and streams where tigers and sambhar roam. Near the mouths of the great Himalayan rivers, the Kosi, the Narayani and the Karnali, this range of foothills is composed of enormous river deposits of boulders, pebbles and sand. These, as described elsewhere, were caught up in the last spasms of Himalayan uplift a few million years ago, to form these unstable hills liable to
swift erosion, but in Nepal protected for the most part from such erosion by virgin forest.

Where these old river deposits do not exist, and behind them on the north where they do exist, is found a range of sandstone hills (the geological name is Nahan sandstone) more stable, more fertile, with still more luxurious forest vegetation. Between these two ranges are found the "Duns", the largest and most famous of which is the Chitawan big game preserve in the Rapti valley, a description of which is given in Chapter VI.

FLORA AND FAUNA OF NEPAL.

Since this is primarily a book on shikar, a short description of the natural history of Nepal is clearly indicated, the animals and birds of the forest and the forests in which they live. It is an axiom to say that the fauna of a country depends on the flora, while the flora depends primarily on altitude, soil and rainfall. As might be expected, therefore, Nepal, with its unique range of altitude (from 200 feet to 29,000 feet above sea-level), its soil varying from rich alluvial plains to bare crystalline rocks, and its rainfall from 150 inches on the outer ranges to perhaps a tenth of that amount behind the great mountains, has an amazing range and variety of both flora and fauna. The central position of Nepal in the great Himalayan chain makes it the meeting ground of east and west Himalayan vegetation and races; it provides the connecting link between the dripping broad-leaved evergreen forests of Sikkim and the drier pine and coniferous forests of the United Provinces and the Punjab. As will be explained later, there is a gradual and progressive change in the forest type at any particular altitude as one proceeds from east to west of Nepal. This is due to the climatic factor.

The altitude factor requires a division of the country into three zones or regions:

1. The lower region which includes the plains, Terai and Churia (Siwalik) foothills up to about 4,000 feet.

2. The central region, comprising the Mahabharat and central hill ranges and valleys from 4,000 to 9,000 or 10,000 feet.

3. The alpine region, which includes the main Himalayan chain and peaks above 10,000 feet.

These three zones, although overlapping to some extent, support in general a fauna and flora which are characteristic of three distinct geographical regions, the Cis-gangetic or Indian, the Trans-gangetic or Himalayan, and the Palae-arctic. It is necessary to repeat again
that the flora and therefore, indirectly, the fauna are influenced by the altitude factor working from south to north, and simultaneously but to a less extent by the climatic factor working from east to west.

The lower Terai zone is characterised by immense expansion of tropical forest. Here the valuable Shorea robusta* attains its optimum conditions of growth, and with it are mixed many other species too numerous to mention, columnar stems rising 150 feet or more in close array. Poorly drained areas are savannahs of gigantic grasses, often twice the height of an elephant. The turbulent stream beds are bordered with Dalbergia sissu and Acacia catechu, important for furniture timber and production of katha and catechu respectively. The dry Churia hills produce baih grass (the basis of paper manufacture in India) and tall Pinus longifolia. Orchids clothe the stems of trees and gigantic climbers smother their crowns. As descriptions of these forests accompany the descriptions of shikar in different districts, it is unnecessary to add more here.

In the middle or Himalayan zone, genera that occur in Europe are more abundant. This and the Alpine zone together have four species of willows, eight species of evergreen oaks, eleven rhododendrons and a dozen conifers, besides birch, alder, hornbeam, elm, poplar and the valuable walnut. Other common species include Castanopsis, Magnolia, Myrica nagi, Celtis australis, Pieris ovalifolia, Michelia champaca, Boehmeria rugulosa and many others.

As already indicated, the character of the forest varies progressively. In the east, rhododendrons, oaks and magnolias predominate, the conifers being chiefly Tsuga bruniensis and larch. In the west, the evergreen forest and Tsuga are largely replaced by the conifers of the north-west Himalayas, Pinus longifolia and excelsa, and the sacred deodar, all of which are commercially exploited.

In the high Himalaya, dwarf rhododendron, juniper and birch struggle to live in a smother of snow, and with increasing altitude the last vestiges of vegetation finally peter out to give place to naked rock and perpetual ice and snow.

From time to time several distinguished botanists, including Sir Joseph Hooker, F.R.S., had made botanical surveys and collections of Nepal flora, and this work was greatly advanced by the appointment in 1932, of Professor K. N. Sharma, to carry on the botanical survey of Nepal. In the course of his work he found many new species and varieties of interesting plants and out of his large collection, about

* A list compiled by the writer of 75 commonest trees, climbers and shrubs of the Terai forests, with botanical, Hindustani and Nepali names, is given in the Appendix.
700 plants were sent by His Highness Maharaja Jodha Shumshere to His Majesty King George V, which were acknowledged by Sir Clive Wigram as follows:—

"The specimens have arrived safely and have been unpacked and sorted. They are a glorious lot, and I need hardly say how grateful Their Majesties are to Your Highness for all the trouble you have taken. They are certain to create great excitement among the botanists, as there must be quite a number they have never had the pleasure of examining before, and never would have but for Your Highness's kindness in having them collected." Later, Professor Sharma was presented with the Royal Horticultural Society's gold medal.

T. Hay in "Plants for the Connoisseurs" and "Plants of Nepal" (Jour. Roy. Hort., Sec. LIX. iv, 459–462) speaks very highly of Meconopsis, Gentian, Potentilla, Primula, Anemone, Cyananthus and other beautiful plants collected by the Botanical Department, Nepal, which was instituted by His Highness. Within a short period of two years Professor Sharma had collected sufficient material for the development of minor forest produce. Now the department supplies several thousand rupees worth of crude drugs to the world market. The success achieved by this department is mainly due to the keen interest taken by His Highness Maharaja Jodha Shumshere J. B. R.

The variety and abundance of the fauna increase progressively with decreasing altitude and increasing luxuriance of the vegetation.

In the high Alpine zone, species and animals are relatively few, and include the snow leopard and marmot; bharal, ibex, and tahr represent the sheep and goats, yak the bovines, possibly the rare Tibetan stag exists in the unexplored districts north of the great axis. In this zone also are found some glorious pheasants, the rare blood pheasant, the handsome tragopan and the superb monal.

The middle Himalayan zone has a richer fauna. The cat tribe includes the leopard, the beautiful clouded leopard, and the rare golden cat, while the civets include the tiger civet, Himalayan civet and paradoxurus. Jackals, wild dog and two species of fox occur in this and the Terai zone, as does also the black Himalayan bear and ratel (badger). The beautiful shy flying squirrels are represented by four species, the goats by the serow and goral, the cervidae by the musk deer, and the red barking deer, which, like the porcupine and mongoose, the red monkey and the grey ape (langur), is equally abundant in the Terai.

Amongst the game birds of the Himalayan zone may be mentioned the chir and kalij pheasants, the chikor, black partridge and wood
partridge, while various sorts of pigeon, snipe and occasional duck are seen in the valley of Nepal.

The Terai zone has a still more abundant and varied fauna. The great Terai forests are the home of the tiger and leopard, the sloth bear, the wild elephant, the great Indian rhinoceros and the wild buffalo. The deer tribe includes the sambhar, gond or swamp deer. chital, parha or hog deer and the little mouse deer, while the antelopes are represented by the black buck and four-horned antelope, and wild pig, which are too appreciated by the Nepalese to be abundant.

Amongst the smaller animals may be mentioned the fishing cat, leopard cat and common jungle cat. The large and small civet, the beautiful black and yellow giant squirrel with three other species of squirrels, and that weird scaly animal, the pangolin, add further variety.

The principal game birds are the peacock, jungle fowl and black partridge, while migratory duck and geese swarm on the jhils and great rivers of the Terai.

It is scarcely surprising that the Terai has always been regarded as a sportsman's paradise.

When King George V came in 1911 to shoot in the Nepal Terai, and again when the Prince of Wales came ten years later, wonderful collections of live animals of Nepal were presented by the Maharaja to His Majesty and H. R. H., to enrich the zoological gardens of the Empire. These included—

(1) In 1911, a young elephant, a young rhinoceros, snow leopards, panthers, bears, Tibetan jackals, Tibetan mastiffs, barasingh, sambhar, hog deer, chital, jackals, mongooses, with other small mammals together with peacocks, jungle fowl, several sorts of pheasants and partridges.

(2) In 1921, 1 baby elephant, 1 rhino calf, 2 leopard cats, 1 Himalayan black bear, 1 black leopard, 1 clouded leopard, 1 tiger, 1 Tibetan fox, 1 mountain fox, 2 sambhars, 1 tahr, 3 musk deer, 1 unicorn sheep, 1 four-horned sheep, 1 one-horned Tibetan shawl goat, 2 Tibetan mastiffs and 4 pups, 1 monitor and 1 python. The birds included Nepal kalij, white-crested kalij, monal, chir, and koklas pheasant, chikor and swamp partridges, green pigeon, bronze-winged doves, adjutant birds, hawks and peafowl. Wonderful collections indeed!

Of the wonderful avifauna of Nepal, no detailed account can be given here. It will suffice to mention that Brian Hodgson, who resided
in Nepal from 1826 to 1843, and to whose labours we are indebted for almost all our knowledge of the natural history of this wonderful country, recorded over 560 species of birds*, and the vast collection which he presented to the British Museum included over 9,500 specimens of birds, 900 of mammals, and 80 of reptiles.

This sketch of Nepalese flora and fauna must suffice to indicate what a paradise this marvellous country is to the lover of wild animal and bird life, to the naturalist and to the forester.

HABITS OF SOME WILD ANIMALS.

As this book deals chiefly with tigers and leopards and other animals of the Terai forests below the Himalayas, some notes on their habits and customs may be of interest to those readers who have not had the opportunity of studying them as the author has had during the last 30 years.

There are several widespread misconceptions about wild animals in the jungles. The average stranger appears to believe, (1) that tigers and bears will growl at him round every bush; (2) that it is essential to go armed to the teeth with rifles and revolvers; (3) that he will be besieged by snakes, and (4) that in fact he takes his life in his hand by entering the jungles at all! How different it is in reality every forest officer knows. A man may consider himself lucky or unlucky, according to the point of view, if a tiger growls at him once a year and a bear once in five years, and even if he sees them so often. As regards arms, the sportsman naturally takes weapons because he hopes to shoot something, while the forest officer may take a gun if he wishes to supplement the larder, very seldom a rifle, and never a revolver. Snakes, again, are conspicuously absent in the Terai forest except during the late hot weather and rains, when the forests are closed. It is emphatically true, as Champion has pointed out, that one is infinitely safer walking in the Terai jungles than in the streets of London. There are dangers, very considerable dangers, but not the sort the average stranger recognises, and against which arms and munitions are useless; for example, wild bees and the anopheles mosquito and unboiled drinking water. These are the dangers the experienced jungle-dweller worries about, not the carnivora, pachyderms and snakes.

Having removed some common misconceptions, let us consider first the tiger. This magnificent animal is popularly regarded as the

* The majority are described and many illustrated in Smythies' "Birds of Burma".
epitome of brutality, cruelty and savagery, the type (in popular literature) of all that is loathed in ordinary human intercourse. It is a gross and wicked libel. The **average** tiger, lord of the jungle, is neither cruel nor savage; like man, he kills for food, but, unlike man, he does not kill wantonly for sport. When he kills, he kills efficiently and almost instantaneously, and does not gloat over the agony of his victims. Having nothing to fear in the forest, he is completely fearless, but he does recognise a man as an overlord, and when met by chance on a jungle path he politely turns aside and gives the right-of-way. This makes a chance encounter with a tiger a positive **pleasure**, one of the chief pleasures of a jungle life. (It is very different with the stupid quarrelsome bear, who, very often, does not politely turn aside and give the right-of-way.)

There are, of course, exceptions. An old and mangy tiger with decayed teeth or some physical defects, which cannot kill jungle animals, may turn cattle-killer, and then man-killer, and become a terror to a dozen jungle villages. A tigress with young cubs will first growl a warning and then attack and drive off any man or a party of men blundering near her young family. A hungry tiger, enjoying a succulent meal of venison or pork, will not willingly depart without protest. These exceptions do not disprove the general rule that the average chance-met and undisturbed tiger in the jungle is really a welcome, interesting, and friendly acquaintance, and not a source of fear or danger to man. But doubtless the average stranger to jungle life will not believe this.

In this book, however, this aspect of a tiger is not very evident, so it is the more necessary to mention it. When, however, a tiger is hunted and chivied and chased, he becomes annoyed. If he can find no way of escape, he becomes really angry. When cornered and wounded, his armament of claws and teeth, his tremendous energy and power, his superb pluck and fearlessness, combine to make him the most terrifying and the most dangerous animal in all the jungles. This is the view of tiger that is presented again and again in this book, which follows inevitably from the method of the Maharaja’s shikar. But it is an abnormal view, as abnormal as the view the author once had of a tiger climbing a tall tree to knock his wife out of her high machan, and does not represent the typical live-and-let-live attitude of a tiger’s life.

A Terai tiger, on the whole, has a grand time. He is so perfectly suited to his environment that he has no difficulty (unless diseased or maimed) in obtaining abundance of food and keeping in splendid condition. His tremendous shoulders and bulging muscles are in striking contrast to the unavoidable parodies of tigers in zoos all the
world over, which do not cover ten or fifteen miles a night, nor break the
great neck of a buffalo or a sambhar stag. When about one year old, he
leaves his mother and family and successfully fends for himself, in
due course picking up a mate. The act of breeding by wild tigers has
very rarely been actually seen, but has more often been heard, as it
is characterised by an appalling amount of noise. A tiger will often
stay with his mate for years, successfully raising one family of cubs
after another. If the male cubs do not leave when they should, some-
times trouble arises. The author knew a big tiger and tigress who lived
together for seven years, and twice in that period the father killed
one of his sons when about seven feet long—probably for becoming
obstreperous with his mother. In each case there was not a mark
on the cub’s body, except tooth marks on the head, and the skull
crushed and cracked like a walnut! Such is the strength of a big
tiger’s jaws.

The illustrations in this book give a poor idea of a tiger’s wonderful
camouflage, because they were mostly taken when the tiger was
attacking or being chased. (Photo (i) on plate 6 is an exception, and
gives a good idea of a tiger’s power of concealment.) A tiger’s favourite
haunts are in the Terai savannahs, or along the margins of streams,
or in the foothills, where for seven months of the year (December to
June) the grasses are red or ochre or brown with which the rufous and
black stripes blend perfectly. In spite of this, however, the eyes of the
other forest denizens, incredibly quick to catch movement, often pierce
his disguise, and a tiger’s route through the forest is frequently marked
by the alarm calls of his potential prey, a sambhar’s melodious bell, a
chital’s or a porcupine’s treble call, a karkor’s harsh bark, a grey
ape’s violent A—a—a—aw. Why the langur (grey ape) should get
more excited over a tiger than a leopard is a jungle mystery, since
the latter is the langur’s real danger. Perhaps it is some race-inherited
instinct.

Magpies and crows chatter and caw vociferously at the sight of
a tiger; these little thieves, who steal a meal from a tiger’s kill when
they can, have been too often disturbed by the tiger’s approach not to
feel annoyance at the sight of one. A tiger, on the other hand, feels
(and roars) his annoyance at the sight of vultures. those larger thieves
who spoil his kill altogether, unless it is carefully concealed and carefully
guarded. He must experience great satisfaction when, as occasionally
happens, he manages to kill one that has failed to escape his swift
return.

In the cold weather, a tiger likes to lie up in the day in the warm
dry savannah grasses of the Terai, or on a sunny spur in the foothills.
He hates the fierce heat of an Indian summer as much as a European,
PLATE 6.

(i) TIGER SNARLING.

(ii) TIGER PREPARES TO CHARGE.
and then he is found in the cool shady canebrakes of the Terai or on a patch of damp sand by a shady rock in some wild stream of the foothills.

As regards a tiger’s senses, it is well known that while his sense of smell is negligible, his hearing and especially his eyesight are simply marvellous. It is however movement and not stationary objects that catch the tiger’s eye. Once the author sat on a bare burnt fireline by the side of a forest road watching, in full view but unseen, a tiger come leisurely along the road from a quarter of a mile away to within a dozen yards. Then the orderly’s nerve broke, and he dashed up a tree. With his first slight movement, the tiger saw the two humans and bounded lightly away into the tall grass nearby. On another occasion the author sat unobserved on another cleared fireline, watching, at a range of about 40 yards, a family of 4 large tigers playing in the sunshine, until after a quarter of an hour or so they moved off into the forest. In both cases, it may be noted, no weapon was available and it was knowledge, not bravado, that enabled the interesting scene to be enjoyed without a sense of fear. But had the family included young cubs, it would have been quite another matter!

The enormous power which a tiger can exert in his spring is well illustrated by an incident in the Maharaja’s diary, when a big tiger, dragging his kill, weighing probably 1½ to 2 hundredweight, came to a sheer bank of over 15 feet. Carrying his kill, he leapt this in one bound.

The author saw a similar case in another part of the Himalayas, where a small stream cascaded over a sheer waterful of 11 feet. which a tiger negotiated in a bound, carrying a full-grown hill bullock.

Someone once wrote that the tiger is a gentleman, but the leopard is a bounder, a statement which is very largely correct. The dog-snatching leopard of hill stations and cantonments is a universal and unavoidable evil of Himalayan sanatoria. So is the goat and cow-killing leopard of jungle and hill villages. When he turns to man-killing he is a perfect terror, witness the famous man-eating leopard of Rudraprayag in British Garhwal, which killed 126 human beings before he was finally shot. The boldness of this animal was incredible. His favourite method of hunting was to go into a village at night, push at the doors until he found one open, and then go in and drag out the nearest human being. Towards the end, such was the terror he created that every hut and building within a ten-mile radius of Rudraprayag was barricaded every night.

Where tigers abound, leopards are scarce, and vice versa. As tigers increase or decrease, leopards show a corresponding decrease
or increase, and generally speaking leopards shun the vicinity of tigers. It is remarkable that on several occasions in the Maharaja’s shoots, one ring should have enclosed both a tiger and a leopard.

Leopards are beautiful tree-climbers and very arboreal, and, as recorded elsewhere in this book, quite a number have been shot by the Maharaja up trees. Several cases are known of a leopard being treed by a pack of wild dogs. It is also quite common for a leopard to pull his kill up onto a tree. The author once saw a chital stag in a fork of a tree 15 feet from the ground, in an open place not far from a forest encampment. Vultures were perched around, hungry but incapable of eating the kill in a tree. The next day, half the chital still remained, and now 35 feet up the tree, with the hungry and tantalised vultures still hanging about.

The leopard excels even the tiger in its power to make itself invisible, and to move silently as a shadow. Sitting up in a quiet machan over a kill, one usually sees and/or hears a tiger approaching some way off, but a leopard—materialising out of thin air—is suddenly there, with no sound or sign how it arrived. In the ring shoots of Nepal, leopards sometimes manage to sneak out unseen, but a tiger never does.

It is interesting to see leopards hunting in couples, exhibiting team work. On several occasions a leopard has been seen lying concealed and motionless on the horizontal branch of a tree, while its mate manœuvres about on the ground, trying to drive or frighten a sambhar hind or a herd of chital under that particular tree. And, reversing the position, a leopard has been seen climbing about on trees laden with numerous brown monkeys, trying to drive one or two to make a hasty dash from one tree to another along the ground where the leopard’s mate was lying concealed, hoping to catch one en route.

The only other carnivorous animal of any importance in the foothill forests is the wild dog. The size of a collie, and as red as a fox, the wild dog usually hunts in small packs of six to ten—not in hundreds as Kipling described in the jungle books. The method employed by a pack in killing their prey is, from the human point of view, altogether abominable. They are quite tireless and hunt their prospective kill—a sambhar hind, for example—for miles, in the end usually driving it into an open stream bed. The author once disturbed a pack in a stony river bed which had just brought down a sambhar hind. It was still alive, the flanks were bleeding from a score of bites and both eyes had been bitten out. But for the interruption, the pack would have started to eat it, helpless but still alive.
Rhinoceroses occupy a conspicuous place in the Maharaja's shooting diary, but the author's experience of these great beasts is as limited as their distribution. (A few specimens of the great Indian rhinoceros still survive in parts of Bengal and Assam, but in appreciable numbers they are now to be found only in the famous Chitawan valley in Nepal.)

The undisturbed rhino appears to be as inoffensive as he looks alarming. One evening a specimen, that must have weighed a couple of tons, took up his stance a few yards in front of the author's tent, and disturbed the process of bringing his dinner. The beating of a frying pan on a kerosine tin did not perturb him, nor annoy him, but he moved off quietly when a shot was fired in the air, and the delayed dinner was resumed. He could of course have trampled the whole camp flat in a few moments if he had so desired. During the nights of early winter in Chitawan, numbers of rhino visit the ricefields ripening to harvest, returning in the early dawn to the areas of tremendous grass growth and scattered riverain trees of semal, khair and sissu near the rivers. In the hot weather, when all the forests and most of the grassy savannahs have been burnt, they can be seen, a dozen or a score at a time, wallowing in jungle pools and backwaters. In the rains, when the tall green grasses are shooting up everywhere, they scatter and graze in all the open forests.

The Tharu cultivators are kept busy on winter nights, clanging tins over their fields. They also dig deep trenches—almost miniature tank traps—to check the rhino's depredations.

The rhino has the curious habit of going regularly for days to the same spot to deposit his droppings (which look like droppings of a small elephant), until they form quite a high pile; these little pyramids of droppings are a common feature in Chitawan.

Major Lalit Bahadur (His Highness's head shikari) has supplied the following additional and interesting details about rhino. Although rhino are usually fairly harmless, under certain conditions they can be very dangerous. As a cow with calf will charge a man or an elephant, so also will a musth rhino; while a wounded rhino or one that has once been wounded and has recovered is particularly dangerous.

An extraordinary feature of rhinos is their behaviour towards a padah tied up as bait for a tiger. A male musth rhino will attack it and kill it; a female rhino, on the other hand, shows a strong protective reaction, and will stay by or near the little padah. Should a tiger make his appearance during the night, she scares him away and will not allow
him to make a kill. It is suggested that the female rhino in some way confuses the young buffalo for a young rhino, and hence this protective attitude!

It is hoped that these random notes on the natural history of some of the animals frequently mentioned in the Maharaja's shikar diary may prove of interest.
CHAPTER III.

A SHORT LIFE-SKETCH OF HIS HIGHNESS
THE MAHARAJA.

BEFORE proceeding to describe the Maharaja’s shikar exploits, it will be of interest to give a short life-sketch of the ruler of the independent kingdom which has been briefly described in the previous chapter. It will be very short, as a complete account would fill a volume, and that must be the work of some future historian.

He was born on the fourth day of Baisakh 1932 (April 19, 1875 A.D.) at Kathmandu. He was the tenth (and youngest) son in the line of succession of General Dhir Shumshere, who had held for a long time the office of Commander-in-Chief and practically that of Prime Minister also. In accordance with the usual custom he was created a Colonel of the Nepal Army in his infancy by the Prime Minister Jang Bahadur (elder brother of Dhir Shumshere).

In 1884 when the boy Joodha was eight or nine years old, his father General Dhir Shumshere died, and with the death of this power behind the Prime Minister, a period of disturbance followed.

At 16 he was appointed General, and his military duties began in earnest. Two years later he was promoted to the command of the Patan Brigade. During his early manhood General Joodha suffered from poor health, but his strong character and powerful sense of duty enabled him to overcome this handicap.

With the death of Maharaja Bir, and after Deva Maharaja Chandra Shumshere became Prime Minister, General Joodha became Commanding General at the age of 28. He accompanied his brother the Maharaja Chandra in 1908, in the capacity of Chief General of his staff, to Europe and visited Britain, France, Switzerland and Italy. He filled this post again when King George V came for his famous shoot in the Nepal Terai in 1911. Two years later he became senior Commanding General and thus responsible for the organisation, training and equipment of the Nepalese Army, a large contingent of which went to British India at the outbreak of the first world war of 1914–18.
PLATE 8.

HIS HIGHNESS IN DURBAR DRESS.
From 1926 he suffered again from ill health, and at one time the doctors despaired of his life. It was due to the efficient medical aid and ministration of an eminent Ayurvedic physician, Kaviraj Sivanath Rimal, that His Highness’s life was not only saved, but up till now His Highness is keeping perfectly fit and well. But before the death of his brother Maharaja Chandra, he had fortunately returned to perfect health and vigour, and during the life of Maharaja Bhim Shumshere he occupied the important administrative post of Commander-in-Chief. On his death in September 1932, His Highness Maharaja Jodhha Shumshere became Prime Minister and Maharaja, and for the last ten years the prosperity of his people and the destiny of his country have been in his hands.

The Maharaja was 58 years old when he became Prime Minister. For more than 30 years under Maharajas Bir. Chandra and Bhim, he had held important administrative and military posts, and was thoroughly experienced in the art of statesmanship and trained to the high office he has since adorned.

Within a few months of his accession, the Prime Minister was faced with a national disaster altogether without precedent. On January 15, 1934, when the Maharaja was shooting in the Naya Muluk (see chapter V), the appalling earthquake which shattered Bihar and north-east India generally wrought terrible havoc in the valley of Nepal, which was near the epicentre. Many of the old stone temples suffered severely, including Mahabudha. (It is interesting to record that this temple was built about 250 B.C., and in the foundation was found a parchment giving exact details and measurements of the temple from which it has since been accurately reconstructed.) But it is worth noting that the pagoda-like wooden temples escaped almost entirely, while the most famous and sacred of all, Shayambhunath of the Buddhists and Pashupati of the Hindus, were also unscathed.

It may be noted that His Highness has contributed in all nearly Rs. 75,00,000 (£580,000) including materials and no one would now imagine that the valley of Nepal had ever suffered an earthquake at all! The Jodhha road, the main thoroughfare between the parade ground and the Durbar square in Kathmandu, is a fine modern creation, 60 feet wide, lined with fine shops and houses, and lit with neon lights! It is largely due to His Highness’s action and energy that Nepal has made so rapid a recovery from one of the greatest disasters in all its history.

While Maharaja Jodhha’s name will always be associated with the remarkable recovery of Nepal from the great earthquake, there have been many other developments and activities during the nine
years of his rule. Chief among these is perhaps economic development, and among the items of economic importance to the country may be mentioned a big jute mill, a soap factory, a match factory, new hydro-electric power houses near Kathmandu and Morang, a new branch of the Nepal Government Railway at Jayanagar, and the creation of the Nepal Bank and its branches in Terai districts. To examine and plan further developments, the important Development Board was set up with Commanding General Bahadur as President, which is supplemented by the Board of Agriculture and Forestry, under Commanding General Kaiser.

The Maharaja has taken a keen interest in the development of cottage industries, for which a special department has been started and special funds allotted.

On the civil side, reforms in the civil administration of the country have been inaugurated, too numerous to mention in detail, but the following deserve brief reference. A system of pensions for civil servants. (Previously no pensions whatever were payable in Nepal.) The judiciary and executive have been separated. The whole Terai from east to west has been, and is being, linked up by telephone with Kathmandu, facilitating administration in this land of difficult communications. Arrears of long outstanding fines, court fees, etc., have been remitted to the value of many lakhs of rupees.

On the social side, abuses have been abolished and steps of a far-reaching character introduced. Thus the Hindu custom of wild extravagance on marriages and wedding feasts has been completely stopped by fixing a prescribed maximum on these, and the same applies to funerals.

On the military side, the opening of the Military Academy School and Army Savings Bank, Army pensions and the expansion of an explosive and ammunition factory, and additions to the Nepal Army, should be mentioned.

On the political side, the creation of a Minister, and appointment of a Minister, in London has been an important step, and diplomatic missions have been sent to Belgium, France, Italy and elsewhere. The Maharaja has also made diplomatic visits to Delhi and Calcutta from time to time.

These visits will remain ever memorable in the annals of Nepal, in so far as they gave striking proof of the high esteem and regard in which the Maharaja is held not only by his countrymen but also by the Government and the people of India. During His Highness's visit to New Delhi in January 1935, he stayed in the Nizam's Palace as the special guest of the Viceroy, and a magnificent military manœuvre
and parade, in which 15,000 troops took part, was held in his honour—a special mark of respect and recognition which no other Eastern Ruler or potentate appears to have ever received in India’s capital. Again when the Maharaja visited Calcutta in December 1939, he received many more convincing proofs of India’s cordiality and affection towards him expressed in many a meeting and civic reception held in his honour, and yet another signal mark of distinction, viz., the insignia of the Order of G.C.B. (Military) which was conferred upon him by His Excellency the Viceroy, the Marquis of Linlithgow, at a special investiture ceremony. Indeed, the Maharaja’s visits evoked great enthusiasm and interest in India.

At the outbreak of the war in September 1939, the Maharaja foresaw that the struggle would be long and hard, and as a staunch friend of Britain and supporter of the British cause he immediately came forward with a spontaneous offer of friendly help, which was gladly and gratefully accepted by the Government of India. That help included the despatch of two brigades of the Nepalese Regular Army to India, under the command of His Highness’s eldest son, Commanding General Bahadur Shumshere J. B. R. (formerly the first Nepalese Minister in London). The request for recruits from Nepal for the British Gurkha Regiments in India also found a ready response, with the result that very soon the strength of the Gurkha battalions of the Indian Army was doubled, i.e., increased from 20 to 40 battalions. Requests for 10 to 14 thousand more Gurkha recruits were subsequently received and by special recruiting measures were complied with. This was a tremendous effort for a comparatively small country, but carried out punctually and efficiently under His Highness’s directions.

Nepal’s contribution to the war effort was not confined to the supply of troops and recruits. The output of timber and other materials for war purposes was considerably increased, while money contributions to the various war organisations were also liberally given.

All this shows how closely the Maharaja has associated himself, and the country he rules, with Great Britain, and his determination to do everything that this small and independent kingdom can do to help the British Empire in her life-and-death struggle.

His Highness Maharaja Joodha Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, though over 66 years old, is an indefatigable worker, wonderfully active and vigorous. Being a very devout Hindu, he rises early in the morning, takes his bath, performs his puja, goes out for a morning ride, after which he hears in detail public petitions presented by the Bintipatra Niksari Adda, with the petitioners picked out standing
JOODHA ROAD, KATHMANDU, REBUILT AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.
before him. Even the poorest of his subjects are granted audience and this personal touch with the ruler is very highly esteemed and appreciated by his subjects. He then hears the official letters of Chitthi Niksari Adda and the papers brought by the Hazuria General. In order to keep himself in close touch with the working of every department of administration the Maharaja, every day after his morning meal at 12, gets into telephonic communication with all heads of important departments. He then attends to the official correspondence of the war office, and then takes a short rest. He comes out at 3 or 4 p.m. when the heads of the several departments according to routine come in turn with their papers for his necessary instructions. He then goes out for an airing on an elephant towards Tundikhel after which he reads newspapers and listens into radio news. Then he takes rest and notes important points of the day. After supper he takes his night’s rest.

Every Saturday is his day of nominal rest, for he has to attend to personal affairs.

When the Maharaja goes on a long tour in the Terai, the schedule of work is modified. It should be mentioned that all the important officers accompany him. Normally, on tour, High Highness attends to correspondence and office work from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Then after lunch, if there is a ringed tiger or other shikar, he sallies forth to enjoy it. On off days he continues with office work from 2 to 4 p.m., and then gets some fresh air on an elephant. The combination of work, touring, and shikar, make these periodic visits to the outlying parts of his domain a very busy and strenuous time.

But this book is concerned chiefly with the Maharaja as a shikari and sportsman, and the following brief description is given by one who has often seen him in action:—

“What strikes one chiefly and primarily about His Highness is his absolute fearlessness. He goes into a ring raging with tigers, and remains throughout cool, calm, and collected, never flurried and ready for all eventualities. By nature and abundant practice he is a magnificent rifle shot, quick to spot the animal in the thick grass or undergrowth and quick to kill it as soon as a fair opportunity arises. His knowledge of wild animals of the jungle is immense, and his shikarcraft most impressive.”

The striking illustration of His Highness aiming at a tiger, which is in the very act of leaping on his elephant (see plate 23), is a fine example of his coolness and nerve.

It will be convenient here to summarise His Highness’s unique record of shikar. Other individuals may, in a life-time of shooting,
have exceeded the total bag of tigers shot (his uncle Jung Bahadur is one for example), but for velocity or rapidity of shooting, there is nothing, it is believed, to approach the following records of big game killed in the Maharaja's shoots:

(1) Individual daily bags: Seven tigers, 5 rhinos, and 5 bears.

(2) Single season bag: In one season, covering 68 days, the total bag included 120 tigers, 38 rhinos, 28 leopards, 15 bears, 11 crocodiles and 1 elephant (captured).

In another short season of 21 days, the bag was 41 tigers, 14 rhinos and 2 leopards.

(3) Total bag in seven seasons: 433 tigers, 53 rhinos, 93 leopards, 22 bears, 20 crocodiles, 1 wild buffalo, 3 elephants (captured), and many wild dogs, hyena, deer, etc.

(4) His Highness has shot the world record for Indian leopard, the measurements, as recorded in "Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game", are—

Length before skinning . . . . . 9 feet 4 inches.
Length of dressed skin . . . . . 10 feet 1 inch.
Width across fore and hind paws . . 5 feet 11 inches and 5 feet 8 inches.

(No other Indian leopard is recorded over 8 feet 6 inches, and this received the Gold Medal for the finest shikar trophy at the Allahabad Exhibition, 1911.)

His biggest tiger measured 10 feet 9 inches, a gigantic animal that weighed 705 pounds!

The figures given above, which are scrupulously accurate in every way (being summarised from His Highness's shikar diary, in which no exaggeration is possible, as it is written under his personal direction), prove conclusively, what a wonderful country Nepal is for big game shikar, and what a wonderful big game shikari Maharaja Jodha is!

His Highness's favourite weapons for tiger shooting are in order of preference — (1) .465 Express Rifle, (2) 12-Bore Paradox and (3) .375 Magnum Rifle. For rhino and buffalo he uses chiefly the .465 Rifle.
CHAPTER IV.

EVOLUTION OF BIG GAME SHIKAR IN NEPAL.
(Including the Hunting of Elephants.)

Contemporary paintings of tiger hunting in the Nepal Terai a hundred years ago give a vivid impression of the thrills of big game hunting by comparatively primitive means and methods in those early days. From these old paintings it appears that in the times before the days of Maharaja Jung Bahadur, various methods were used. Sometimes the tiger was brought to bay by a posse of elephants, occasionally he was attacked at close quarters on foot with sword and spear. The rulers of Nepal have never lacked pluck and courage both in war and in their dangerous sports.

Maharaja Jung Bahadur, after he became Prime Minister in 1903 (A.D. 1846), was able to indulge in his passion for big game hunting, and during the next 31 seasons he made many cold weather shikar trips to the Terai, and is said to have killed over 550 tigers. At first shikar methods were simple and primitive. Wherever Jung Bahadur camped, inquiries were made from the local villagers regarding recent kills, or where tigers had been seen or heard, and on such uncertain khabbar an area was beaten by elephants in the hope that the tiger might be inside. In those days, the number of tame elephants in Nepal was enormous, and Jung Bahadur frequently had as many as 700 for his shikar. But the uncertain methods of locating tigers did not at first produce very good results. Later Jung Bahadur created a special service of 120 shikaris, whose duty it was to find fresh tiger tracks and other signs, to tie up kills (goat at first and later young buffalo calves), and quickly send in news of any kills. It was Jung Bahadur who first evolved and developed the ring method, which more recently has been improved and supplemented by His Highness the present Maharaja.

Before attempting to describe His Highness's shooting experiences, it will help the reader to visualise the scene if a description is first given of the method almost invariably used in all big shoots in Nepal, the famous and unique "Ring". This method is used only in Nepal, where it has been brought to an art, the highest pitch of perfection, and a most deadly method of killing all big game. There is in fact no other country in the world where the necessary factors for the "Ring"
The natural home of tiger is the forest-clad foothills of the Churia (Siwalik) range of the Himalayas, with the enclosed duns and valleys, and the adjoining forests of the flatter Terai. This great belt of tiger country stretches the whole length of Nepal, a distance of nearly 550 miles on the map, and for more than half the year it is deadly to man owing to the malignant Terai malaria. But from December to March, it is a perfect paradise, with a glorious climate, wonderful scenery, and always to the north the incredible panorama of the eternal snows towering into the sky.

In this superb setting occur the big Nepal shoots. A wonderful organisation is employed to ensure success. For weeks before the shoot commences, rough but serviceable motor roads and temporary bridges are constructed radiating out from the various jungle camps. All the jungle paths and streams and sandy river beds are examined to see where the tigers are, for in such places they leave their footmarks. A day or two before the shoot starts, young buffalo calves are tied up as bait, in scores or even hundreds, on every likely route a tiger may take. (The cow, being venerated, its progeny cannot be used for tiger bait.)

There are seven or eight groups of regularly appointed shikaris, each consisting of an officer (subedar), ten or twelve subordinates, and two mounted soldiers for taking messages. Every group of shikaris has ten to fifteen buffalo calves (padahs) for tying up at suitable places. They live in temporary sheds in the jungle, primitive huts of wooden poles, leaves, and jungle grasses fastened with strands of creepers, which they quickly erect with their kukris from the abundant material all around. Between them the various groups cover the whole tract of forest for miles around the central camp.

At dawn the shikaris go out and examine the padahs, tied out the previous evening. If or when one has been killed, they carefully examine pugmarks (footprints) to see if it is a big tiger or small, or one or several. They examine the drag and the direction taken. They then quietly proceed on foot and make a large circle of a quarter to a half mile diameter, demarcating the circumference with chipped stems and grass knots as they go and are very careful to see that the drag has not gone beyond the circle. If it has, they make another one, as they must have the circle enclosing the end of the drag. This is called "cutting the circle" by the shikaris, and the final circle makes the future "Ring".
RING ELEPHANTS MOVE TO MAKE A NEW RING.
Meanwhile, as soon as it is seen that a padah has been killed and dragged, a special messenger mounts his horse and gallops off to bring the khabbar. Sometimes motor cars are parked at central spots to accelerate the delivery of the news, and sometimes even a telephone line has been prepared and operators engaged to flash messages to the camp.

Within a very short time the news has reached the camp from all directions whether and where there are kills, and the day’s plan of campaign is discussed and settled. Immediately a great string of 200 or 300 elephants move off in single file to the first kill, a few with howdahs, the majority with pads. The shooting party follow at leisure in cars as far as possible, and then on pad elephants.

The tiger or tigers have been approximately located by the shikaris from the direction of the drag, the nature of the cover for lying up, and the process of cutting the circle as already described. When the elephants arrive, they divide into two parties, which proceed very quietly in single file right and left along the line of the cut circle and it is astonishing how quietly an elephant or line of elephants can move through the jungle. The rear elephants gradually drop out to take their stations at regular intervals, and finally the two leading elephants meet, and the word is passed down both sides that the circuit is completed, “Lam pugyo”. Then the order “Mudi phira” turn the heads inwards—is passed down.

The shooting party mount the elephants, and the whole circle now move inwards, crushing the grasses and shrubs, and the men on their backs shouting and whistling to drive the tiger towards the centre. The circumference of the circle of elephants gets smaller, until finally it is less than half a mile round, and the elephants get closer and closer until they are almost touching, and the tiger is surrounded by a solid wall of elephants. Then the order “Lam-tham”—stop the line—is shouted out, and the ring is complete.

The stauncher elephants then move into the ring. Glimpses of one or more slinking forms are seen in the grass and undergrowth. when suddenly a tiger breaks cover and charges with a roar, to be met by shots from the rifle, or shouts and missiles if he charges the ring. It is the moment of climax of a culminating excitement. Backwards and forwards he dashes striving to find an escape, to a pandemonium of men shouting and elephants trumpeting, grumbling and gurgling, thumping on the ground, and occasionally, when directly charged, turning tail and bolting in terror.

It is necessary to emphasise that a tiger is not normally a dangerous animal, and does not attack an elephant or a man, but once he feels
cornered, he becomes a fighting mass of diabolical fury, utterly fearless of man or elephant, whom he attacks in his mad rage without a moment's hesitation. He has been known to climb a tree and hurl a (lady) shikari out of a high machan, he has been known to leap a height of 15 or 16 feet into a tall howdah and more often than not a tiger will try to break through a ring by charging home on an elephant unless he is killed or crippled first by a well-directed shot.

It must also be realised that the Nepal Terai jungles, with a fertile soil and rainfall of 100 inches, are either gigantic grass growth, frequently the height of a howdah, or are a dense forest of trees, matted together with great climbers, and a thick undergrowth of shrubs and shade-bearing plants, in which, if an elephant bolts, it is almost inevitable that howdah and rider and mahout and everything on the elephant's back will be swept with a crash to the ground by a thick branch or the loop of a tough climber. In either case it is extremely difficult to see a tiger at all until the area has been well trampled, by which time, naturally, the tiger or tigers are desperate and in a highly dangerous condition. "It is no sport for bad shots, hasty excitable people, or those with no stomach for danger. Even the most blasé hunter is likely to experience for a second or two a sudden spasm of fear when he first hears the blood-curdling roar of an infuriated tiger, and sees the great striped body launched in its charge, a thunder-bolt of death and anger in mid-air. It is one of the most terrific sights in the world ".

Imagine what it must be like when, as frequently happens in the rings in Nepal, not one but four or five and, once or twice, six tigers have been trapped simultaneously in one ring! The danger and heart-bursting excitement may continue for hours, until a succession of well-placed shots finally brings the thrill and nerve-tension to an end.

That describes briefly a typical tiger shoot in the Nepal forests by the famous "Ring" method. But, as numerous incidents recorded in this book show, the ringing by elephants produces endless variations of the standard, the only constant and certain factor is the intense excitement.

This was the method used in many famous shoots in the days of Maharaja Jung Bahadur and Chandra Shumshere, including the famous shoot for His Majesty the King Emperor George V in 1911, and for the Prince of Wales (Duke of Windsor) in 1921. But Maharaja Jodha Shumshere has during the last 9 years evolved and introduced considerable improvements and innovations which will now be indicated.

* Wentworth Day's "King George V as a Sportsman".
PLATE 13.
Hunting Wild Elephant.

(i) THE WILD TUSKER LURED INTO THE OPEN BY FEMALE ELEPHANTS.

(ii) THE WILD TUSKER AWAITS THE ATTACK.
On some lucky days two or three kills may be reported and tigers located in several places some miles apart. Since Jung Bahadur's days, the number of elephants available has been considerably reduced, and it is a problem how to enclose and keep enclosed several tigers in several localities, until the shikar starts. His Highness evolved an ingenious solution of this problem. The available elephants are sent to the nearest or most convenient locality, and ring the tiger. When he has been ringed, long strips of white cloth are fixed up on small posts or trees, just in front of the ring of elephants, thus making a ring or purdah of white cloth, which—as experience has proved—is by itself sufficient to keep the tiger within the ring, as the sudden appearance of this white cloth, flapping in the breeze, arouses his strong suspicions. A few elephants are left to keep watch, and the rest go off to carry out the same operation at the next locality, and so on. It thus becomes possible to hunt several tigers or groups of tigers in a single day with a limited number of elephants, which otherwise would be impossible.

Another innovation the Maharaja has introduced shortens the period of hunting inside the ring and adds greatly to the thrill and excitement of the shikar, but it also demands a high standard of shooting. Formerly it was the custom for the Maharaja (or some favoured guest who was to shoot the tiger) to wait stationary at one point just inside the ring, while other elephants trampled the undergrowth and beat inside the ring trying to drive the tiger to some other part of the ring, which occasionally in his fury he charged and broke, thus making good his escape. But now the Maharaja does not wait for this. He dispenses with the beating to a fixed point, and instead himself invariably advances into the ring on his howdah elephant, supported by an elephant on either side and 3 or 4 elephants forming a skirmishing line in front. As soon as the tiger is located and starts to move, the skirmishing line withdraws, leaving the Maharaja to face and finish off the quarry alone! This is obviously not a method that could be employed with an indifferent or inexperienced shot but fortunately His Highness is a crack rifle shot, and, what is much more, a magnificent snapshot. The ring of white cloth, added to the ring of elephants, facilitates this mode of shikar, and helps to prevent the tiger from charging the ring. By these innovations and improvements the tempo of big game shooting has been greatly accelerated, and this has enabled some phenomenal daily bags of big game to be obtained on the Maharaja's shoots, not only tiger but also bear and the great Indian rhinoceros. Thus 7 tigers have been shot in one day, and on another occasion 6 tigers in one "Ring"! Again, no less than 5 rhinos have been hunted and shot in one day (but not in a "Ring") and elsewhere 5 bears on another day. Daily totals on this scale are believed to be unique in India or anywhere else in the world!
But the whole marvellous organisation is itself unrivalled: the elaborate arrangements for locating every tiger for miles around by skilled parties of shikaris, the quick receipt of khabbar, the great stud of well-trained elephants with their splendid and plucky Tharu mahouts, the methods to prevent the encircled tiger from breaking the ring and escaping, all this, with first-class shooting, make such a deadly combination that few tigers can escape. In fact, if repeated at too frequent intervals in any locality, there would be a considerable risk of tigers becoming exterminated in that locality. In Nepal, however, although the stock of tigers has no doubt been reduced appreciably in the past decade (at the start their numbers were excessive, and they did much damage to village cattle), extermination is safeguarded by two factors. One is the great expanse of broken hill forests, where the ring method cannot be used, which forms a natural sanctuary and breeding ground for tiger. The other is that with tiger country stretching along the foot of the hills for 550 miles, there is such a vast tract to visit that the Maharaja can have shoots with the ring method without frequent visits to any one locality. It must of course be realised that no tiger, rhino, or buffalo may be shot anywhere in Nepal without the Maharaja's special permission.

ELEPHANT HUNTING.

There is one form of big game shikar where the ring method is not applicable, which is perhaps the most exciting of all. This is the hunting of wild elephants, and the modus operandi may be briefly described. It must be realised however that the elephant, besides being invaluable for shikar, inspection, touring and procession, is sacred to the Hindus, being a symbol or representation of the Hindu god Ganesh, and as Nepal is a strictly Hindu kingdom, in fact the only completely independent Hindu kingdom now existing in the world, it is strictly forbidden to kill an elephant, except if human life is immediately in imminent danger. So the object of this shikar is not to shoot or kill the wild elephant, which must at all costs be captured alive.

There are actually three methods of catching elephants employed in India: The "Kheddah" method, usually employed in Mysore and Assam, is well known, and consists in driving a herd of elephants into a strongly built stockade, in which they are trapped. This method used to be employed sometimes in Nepal in the days of Jung Bahadur and Chandra Shumshere, but has not been used lately.

The second method, which was also infrequently used in days gone by, consists in trapping elephants in pits. This method is used
PLATE 14.
Hunting Wild Elephant.

(i) THE HUNT BEGINS.

(ii) THE CAPTURED ELEPHANT LED HOME.
only occasionally nowadays, chiefly in order to get rid of a troublesome solitary rogue, which has been driven out of the overlordship of a herd by a more virile tusker, and wanders alone in the jungle, ill-tempered, dangerous, often musth (a sexual condition), and a living threat to travellers, jungle villagers, and domestic elephants. A large pit is dug, sufficiently large to accommodate an elephant, and carefully concealed by a weak platform (inadequate to support the weight of a big elephant) and camouflaged with soil and grasses and weeds. Forty or 50 yards beyond this pit are stationed some tame female elephants. Normally an elephant is very cautious where he walks, and usually taps or feels the ground with the tip of his trunk at every step before trusting his weight on it. But the musth elephant, on sight or scent of the female elephants, loses his natural caution in his excitement, his instinct of precaution being submerged in the sex appeal, and rushing blindly forward he falls into the pit.

Then follows the exciting process of getting him out of the pit into safe captivity, which has been described elsewhere (see chapter V).

The third (and commonest) method in Nepal is the most exciting, the jangi or war kheddar, and is used for catching a single elephant and also herds of elephants. This elephant hunting is far more exciting than fox hunting, pig sticking and any other known form of hunting. The tame elephants are specially fed with rice and sugar supplementing their natural food, and kept in splendid condition. When a herd or, say, a single elephant is located, the swiftest and best elephants set off in pursuit. They are stripped of all pads or howdahs, but the mahout crouches low on the neck band, and a "pachwa" stands on a rope loop behind the tail, also crouching low, and armed with a wooden handle or club studded with blunt nails.

The wild elephant dashes off, and the elephant pack go hell-for-leather after him, crashing madly through the jungle, lashed with branches, the smaller trees falling like ninepins in front of them, creepers and grasses swishing over the backs and sides, and goaded on by the clubs of the yelling pachwas to exert their utmost speed. Elephants can develop a wonderful turn of speed for a short burst, but cannot keep it for long. So after a mile or so the wild tusker turns and shows fight. The domestic females are stopped, and the big fighting elephants go forward to titanic battle. One is filled with admiration at the pluck of the mahouts, as they urge their tuskers to in fighting with the wild one! One tusker attacks head on, with tusks interlocked and writhing trunks, making what is called "chaudant" (the four-tusks fight), while others push and pommel at the sides. The wild elephant after a time gives up the unequal struggle and turns tail in flight. Again the wild pursuit is taken up, without giving the wild
elephant any possibility of rest and recovery. Again he is brought to book, and so the fight and the pursuit goes on, until he is utterly exhausted. Sometimes the fight and pursuit continue for two or even more days, and in one case the wild tusker finally gave in close to Raxaul on the Nepal border, many miles away from the forests. Finally the tame tuskers close in on him for the last time, nooses of strong rope are slipped round his legs and neck, and he is led off into captivity and tied to a tree or strong post. For a week or so he is not allowed to get any sleep, while relays of trained men sing songs and teach him to obey words of command. This may be considered cruel, but a certain amount of cruelty is inevitable in catching and training wild elephants; it is kept to a minimum, and thereafter in the service of man he is well treated, well fed, with three attendants to look after him until the end of his life.

In this thrilling manner wild elephants are caught and brought into man's service (His Highness has not actually taken part in the wild combat of the hunt, but he has followed along rapidly on a swift pad elephant, and supervised the fight and the final capture).

RHINO HUNTING.

When hunting rhino, the "Ring" method frequently fails, and for the following reason. Elephants, despite their great bulk and strength, are naturally timid animals, and even small animals like cats or porcupines in their vicinity make them nervous and restless. But of all things that elephants fear most, the rhino is *facile princeps*. Most elephants bolt at the mere sight of a rhino, and very few are staunch. A rhino in a ring has only to charge the ring to break it in confusion and make his escape, and although rhino have been shot in rings, the more usual practice is to stalk them or track them down with 3 or 4 of the staunchest elephants available.

Rhinos in Nepal are now confined to the famous Chitawan area in the Rapti valley and near the Gandak river. In this rhino preserve *chaukis* or posts are stationed at various points: these *chaukis* are under the Banjanch officer (forest inspectorate) and five to seven guards are stationed at each. In all there are over 100 guards in Chitawan, whose main duty is to protect the rhinos from poachers, and to find out where the rhino feed and wallow and lie up. The fact that the rhino horn has a very high commercial value in India—a good horn is worth over Rs. 1,500 or over £100—makes it a very valuable prize for the professional poacher, and the species was nearly exterminated in Assam by poachers until adequate steps were taken for its protection. (Rhino horn is supposed to be a strong aphrodisiac, hence its fantastic valuation.)
PLATE 15.

RHINO PREPARES TO CHARGE.
In Nepal however the rhino has been more carefully preserved, and there are probably more specimens of the Indian rhinoceros in the Chitawan preserve than in all India put together. It is estimated that at present the total number is between 300 and 400. On most nights one or several rhino may visit a camp, and their breathing and heavy footsteps can often be plainly heard a few yards away, and a torch flicked on would reveal their nearby presence. It is an interesting experience.

When the Maharaja has decided on or sanctioned a rhino hunt, the "gun" is mounted on a particularly staunch elephant. "Rhino tracks naturally abound, and it requires skill of no mean order to pick out the fresh tracks of a really big bull over hard ground. When these have been found, the tracker, mounted on a small and clever elephant, follows them, leaning so far downward that his head is near the ground. When the rhino is overtaken, the skill of the gun comes in, for it is of little avail to pump lead into a rhino's body, and it is very difficult to get the beast to present the head or neck for a deadly shot"*

The Maharaja, although he has shot many rhinos, regards this sluggish and slow-witted animal as a poor form of sport, not to be compared with the tiger. But a furious wounded rhino charging a fleeing elephant would provide enough thrill and excitement to most sportsmen.

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* Quotations from Stanley Reed's description of shoot by King George V in Nepal, 1911-12.
CHAPTER V.

THE MAHARAJA IN NAYA MULUK.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE NAYA MULUK.

The Naya Muluk is a tract of Terai country at the foot of the hills, about 80 miles in length and 15 to 20 miles or more in breadth, bounded by the Sarda and Rapti rivers on the west and east, by the British India frontier on the south and by the Churia range, the last rampart of the Himalayas, on the north. This Churia or Siwalik range, densely covered with forests of sal and saj, karma and sallo* and many other trees, leaps abruptly from the gently sloping Terai, rising from 1,500 feet to 5,000 feet or 6,000 feet. It is a natural sanctuary for tiger, where shikar with elephants is impossible, and is the source of many streams and little rivers that come down in spate during the monsoon rains and dwindle to a trickle in the cold and hot weather. Below the foot of the hills comes a dry belt of boulders and sandy soil called the Bhabar, infertile for cultivation and destitute of water and therefore occupied by great stretches of primeval forest. The Bhabar merges gradually into the Terai proper where the subsoil water comes to the surface in many springs, and the streams and rivers have perennial water. Here the great forests are broken up with many patches or strips of cultivation and village-lands with rice and mustard, chillies and tobacco, sugarcane, bananas and fruit trees. The tenants are chiefly Tharus, an aboriginal tribe who alone of all mankind are practically immune from the deadly awal, the virulent Terai malaria that infests this tract. They are a delightful race, clean, simple, cheerful, good cultivators and very expert in jungle lore and the habits and customs of the wild animals around them. They are passionately fond of, and very expert in, snaring or killing deer, pigs, jungle fowl, and they also keep large herds of cattle and buffaloes, poultry and pigs.

Although cultivation has increased in recent years, the Naya Muluk is still essentially a district of forest, and 60 or 70 per cent of its total area is covered with primeval jungle, a sea with islands of cultivation.

The forests are of many types. The commonest and most important are the forests of sal, the most valuable timber tree in the

* For botanical names of trees see Appendix II.
sub-continent of India. These sal forests are replaced on the lower and poorly drained soil by wide savannahs of Terai grasses, the narkul and the giant ulla, dotted with clumps and groups of miscellaneous trees, semal, siris, dhak, sissu, khair*, etc. The sal forests are also broken up by numerous broad shallow river and stream beds, covered with sand and pebbles and bordered by grasses and thickets of sissu and khair, the favourite haunt of tiger, where they leave their pugs or footmarks, and the shikari can trace their movements and location. Or again, we find a patch of thorny canebrake in a swampy pocket of land, cool, impenetrable, a favourite lie-up for the big carnivora.

Through this wide expanse of ever-changing forest types the denizens of the jungle roam. In the Naya Muluk rhino and wild buffalo do not now exist, but herds of wild elephants occur; amongst the carnivora are tiger, leopard and wild dog, while the deer tribe are represented by sambhar, chital (spotted deer), para or hog deer, karkar or barking deer, and occasionally gond or swamp deer.

Other animals often seen are the grey ape (langur), pigs, and more occasionally bear. Wild duck and snipe are found on or near the jhils, black partridge and peafowl in the savannahs and river beds, jungle fowl and pheasants in the foothills. Bird life is particularly abundant and varied; large flocks of green parrots continually flicker screaming overhead or through the trees, raucous hornbills are heard, making their astonishing noises in the distance. Brilliant kingfishers haunt the streams, plovers and terns and cormorants the bigger rivers, night-jars and owls and cuckcoos disturb the night hours, while paddy birds, hoopoes and orioles, babblers, drongos, magpies, blue jays, and many other families and genera too numerous to mention, swarm in this bird paradise.

The scenery, as mentioned elsewhere, is magnificent, the cold weather climate superb, with cold dewy nights and brilliant sunny days. To the sportsman and lover of wild nature, the Nepal Terai and Naya Muluk make an irresistible appeal during this cold weather season.

An additional reason for visiting the Naya Muluk was that no Maharaja had visited this out-of-the-way corner of the kingdom for nearly 40 years, the whole district was swarming with tigers, which were doing considerable damage to the village cattle, and it was important to reduce their numbers.

It was here in the year 1876 that Maharaja Jung Bahadur arranged a big shoot for King Edward VII (then Prince of Wales). Again in 1890, Maharaja Bir Shumshere invited Prince Albert Victor to a shoot

* For botanical names of trees see Appendix II.
in this terrain, and there had been a smaller shoot and some elephant hunting in 1895. So it is little wonder that the district was saturated with tigers, in fact it was reckoned (by the United Provinces Forest Authorities) that 40 or 50 tigers migrated every year from Nepal into the adjoining forests of British India! Thus there was every inducement for His Highness to visit Naya Muluk.

THE MAHARAJA LEAVES FOR NAYA MULUK (1933–34).

On Mangsir 26, 1990 (December 11, 1933) the Maharaja and his court left Kathmandu, the beautiful capital of Nepal, for the long journey to Naya Muluk. This hill road, although greatly improved in recent times, is still, probably the roughest and steepest track to the capital of any country. The first eight miles to Thankot is quickly covered on a motor road, but from here for the next 21 miles to Bhimphedi, pony, dandy or coolie is the only means of conveyance.

The bridle road rises steeply, nearly 2,500 feet in three miles through well-preserved evergreen forest of oak, rhododendron, magnolia and many other species, to the Chandragiri pass (7,500 feet) of the Mahabharat range, from where, looking back, a marvellous view is obtained, which has already been described.

Then the bridle track drops down, sometimes steeply, sometimes more gently, to the hill torrent at Kule-Khani, about 4,000 feet altitude, and again climbs steeply 2,500 feet to the Chisa-pani Garhi pass, and once more a steep drop of 3,000 feet to Bhimphedi, the motor terminus from the plains. This well-constructed motor road drops a further 2,000 feet to the Rapti valley, at the head of the famous shooting preserve and the home of tiger and rhino, and then up 2,000 feet to the tunnelled pass over the Churia range, before finally descending nearly 2,500 feet to Amlekhgunj, the terminus of the Nepal Government Railway.

The day, auspicious for departure decided by the Astrologer Royal (Raj jyotishi), is a public holiday in the valley, and all the military and civil officers call at the Singha Durbar or the parade ground to wish bon voyage to the Maharaja and his entourage. Then the journey begins, involving ascents which total 7,500 feet and descents of nearly 10,500 feet.

December 16.

After five days, the Maharaja arrived at the foot hill camp of Amlekhgunj, where a halt was made for several days and attempts were made to shoot a few tigers. But although there were a number of kills,
no tigers were found inside the ring. The bulk of the shikar elephants had left months before for Naya Muluk, and only a few elephants were available here. It is interesting to record that it was here the idea of using strips of white cloth to help to ring the tiger, and supplement the elephants, was first used.

On December 21, His Highness travelled by the N. G. R. special, arriving at Raxaul, on the frontier between Nepal and British India, in the evening, where His Highness was met by the Commissioner of Tirhut Division on behalf of the Bihar and Orissa Government, and by Mr. (now Sir) James Williamson and Mr. J. D. Westwood, the Agent and Traffic Manager of the B. & N. W. Railway.

Early the next morning the special train stopped at Kunraghat station near Gorakhpur, where His Highness proceeded to inspect a Guard of Honour of a Gurkha regiment, the Gurkha recruiting depot under Lieutenant-Colonel M. Wylie, and the Gurkha Brigade War Memorial. During the course of this inspection, His Highness made a speech to the Gurkhalı pensioners, and the following brief extract illustrates his typical generosity:

"At the time you come here to take your pensions, we see that you have to live in tents in case of illness. As the open space and the damp and the influence of climate would aggravate your malady, I shall grant you necessary money for the building of a hospital through Colonel Wylie. If that sum is not enough for the purpose, I shall give additional sums of money. I think you will be benefited by it.” The same day he entrained for Gauriphanta, the last station on the Dudwa branch of the R. K. Railway in the Kheri district, near the Nepal frontier. The train reached Gauriphanta on the morning of the 23rd, and His Highness proceeded to his camp two miles away.

MACHHALI CAMP.

December 23.

The Maharaja benighted.

"Sometimes a drop of water nectar turns,
Sometimes the cloud a golden heaven burns,
Sometimes the worm a silken fabric weaves,
Sometimes a hut the mighty one receives."

——A Nepali Poet.

On arrival at the camp, it was learnt that a tiger had killed a village buffalo two days before, but his exact whereabouts was not known.
However as His Highness was desirous of an outing, a ring of elephants was made at a venture. While this rather forlorn hope was in progress, information came in from another quarter that a second buffalo had been killed about eight miles away. The shikar elephants were sent off to make a ring, but by the time the Maharaja and shooting party arrived, it was 5-15 p.m. and nearly dark, being the shortest day of the year. By the glimmer of twilight it was impossible to find the tiger, and the Maharaja had to return without firing a shot.

Night found the party many miles from the camp, in the depths of the trackless forest, and the cold of a winter night. His Highness saw the lights of a little Tharu village nearby, and decided that it would be better to pass the night in a village hut near the tigers (which he bagged early next morning) rather than to attempt to return to camp through the thick gloomy forest. One can imagine the astonishment of the simple Tharu at the sudden appearance of the Maharaja and all his entourage, requiring accommodation, beds and blankets, food and milk and shelter! One can also appreciate what a new experience it must have been to the high officials, accustomed to the palaces of Nepal, to find themselves in the little mud and grass hovels of the jungle aborigines. An ordinary charpoy of the Tharu was provided for His Highness, who, being very tired, slept soundly, despite the unusual surroundings. Next morning on departure, he richly rewarded the owner of the hut by giving him some land in perpetuity and ordered for a brick-built house in place of his mud hovel.

December 24.

A ring was formed in the Khamaura forest, and the first animal to be beaten out was a half-grown tiger cub. It should be explained that the rules strictly enforced in the United Provinces of British India against shooting tiger cubs are not in force in Nepal (nor in the other provinces in British India and Indian States for that matter), and a tiger is a tiger whether its length is 6 feet or 10 feet.

But this astonishing cub unexpectedly and pluckily charged the line of elephants, throwing a small section of the line temporarily into confusion and taking advantage of this to slip through. Simultaneously the two parents were seen, one on either side of the Maharaja's elephant. The Maharaja brought down the tiger (9 feet) with one shot and the tigress (8 feet 9 inches) with two shots, thus achieving a remarkable "right and left"!

Two miles away from this scene, there had been another "kill" overnight, and the elephants and shooting party moved off to make another ring. This enclosed a tigress and 2 large cubs, and the
PLATE 16.
The Nepal Ring.

(i) THE VICEROY'S PARTY CIRCLE THE RING.

(ii) HIS HIGHNESS AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ENTER THE RING.
Maharaja’s first shot wounded the tigress. Immediately she charged the howdah elephant, leaping up at the head. With another remarkable shot, His Highness shot her through the chest in mid-air and she collapsed at the elephant’s feet (8 feet 3 inches). The 2 cubs were also killed, making a bag of 5 tigers for the day.

A solitary wild tusker elephant had been wandering around in the vicinity of the camp for several days, and that night at 9 p.m., when returning to camp, Commanding General Bahadur Shumshere (His Highness’s eldest son) suddenly met him face to face. It is a very unpleasant sensation at any time to meet a wild tusker while riding a tame female elephant (as the writer knows), since the tusker is liable to molest the female, and killing or firing at wild elephants is strictly prohibited, but still more unpleasant at night. However General Bahadur fired several shots in the air, causing the elephant to retreat some way and enabling him to escape.

The wild elephant did not follow but went to the hut where His Highness was passing the night, and was finally frightened away by flaming torches.

**December 25.**

This day the wild tusker again created trouble. While His Highness was on his way to the ring, he appeared and moved on a parallel course a short distance away, and again later interfered with the ring of elephants. So the Maharaja decided he should be adequately punished, and captured if possible. (As previously mentioned the elephant is regarded as the incarnation of Ganesh, the elephant god, and in Nepal may not be killed.) But the ropes and gear required for capturing wild elephants were not immediately available so the project had to be postponed.

On this day a tigress was shot in a ring (8 feet) and on the following day (December 26) a tiger (9 feet 3 inches) was killed.

**December 26.**

To-day it was decided to organise a punitive expedition against the troublesome “rogue”, which had been doing considerable damage to the tenants’ crops as well as harrying the camp and the tame elephants.

So early in the morning the Maharaja personally conducted operations, and with three big fighting tuskers, Khor Prasad, Jaya Prasad and Bahadur Prasad, and a number of female elephants, set out against him. The wild tusker, a magnificent animal, did not attempt to flee,
but showed fight, and the tame tuskers in turn tackled him in titanic turmoil. The pluck of the mahouts armed with only a kukri, sitting on the necks of their champions, in head-to-head battle with the wild one is almost incredible! One of the tame elephants had the worst of the fight and retired, but after an hour and a half of continuous fighting with the others, the wild elephant at last turned and fled before the third tusker, who was however too exhausted to follow him. The grass and undergrowth had been crushed to pulp and trees uprooted and broken over a considerable area during the fight.

And so the elephant escaped for the time. We shall however make his acquaintance again.

**December 28.**

A kill was reported seven miles to the north-east of the camp. Commanding General Kaiser Shumishere went in advance to inspect the spot and lay out the ring. He sent back word that a fine tiger had been successfully ringed. His Highness motored out some distance, then changed to a pad elephant and again changed to his howdah elephant at the ring-side. Following his usual custom, he moved into the ring with a couple of elephants alongside to walk up or hunt the quarry. This was the innovation in ring shooting introduced by His Highness, which, while certainly increasing the thrill of the sport, also at first tended to increase the anxiety of the rest of the shikar party and officials.

On this occasion, the tiger suddenly broke from under a thick clump of tall grass, and the bullet gave him a long superficial graze on the flank. Blind with fury, he charged straight at a weak point in the line of elephants, who wavered and broke (as they often do, it is a very exceptional elephant and mahout that will stand firm to the direct charge of an angry tiger), and the tiger was through. But the Nepalese and mahouts are wonderfully expert at dealing with such a situation, which to the ordinary shikari has developed beyond hope of recovery. A slightly wounded tiger, or an unwounded one that has been fired at and missed, is almost impossible to get. He usually dashes off at full gallop a hundred yards or more and then proceeds more cautiously, but is very wary and will not show himself in any pursuit.

But the Nepalese method is often able to deal with this. When the tiger has charged through, the ring is immediately broken up, and like a well-drilled battalion the elephants rapidly wheel right and left, extending the two lines which close in and make a new ring as fast
as possible. Sometimes the tiger goes right away, but quite often it is caught by the rapidity and efficiency of the trained staff and elephants. In this case, the tiger was again enclosed in a ring of elephants, but although he endeavoured to break through once more and escape into the nearby foothills, a well-directed shot killed him instantly.

It was on this day that Sir Frederick O'Connor, at one time the British envoy at Nepal, joined the camp by invitation of the Maharaja, who had also invited Mr. Verney, the well-known American sportsman and naturalist, who was touring India at that time, collecting animals, skins, horns, etc., for the wonderful Natural History Museum which he ultimately completed in America.

**BHIT-GHAT CAMP.**

*December 29.*

The camp was moved to a new site some miles to the west. Here two kills were reported from two different places. The first ring drew a blank, except for a small porcupine, but the second ring contained 2 tigers and a tigress. The tigress charged an elephant, scratched and bit the trunk, and, breaking the circle, made good her escape. (The method described above, of making a second ring quickly, is obviously impossible when a tiger or two are still in the ring and have to be dealt with.) The Maharaja killed the 2 tigers with a couple of shots apiece. They measured 9 feet 4 inches and 9 feet 2 inches.

The Bhit-Ghat camp was cold and damp. A morning mist hung about until the sun was well up, and the heavy dew dropped slowly from every leaf and twig in the jungle, or spattered down in a shower when an elephant accidently touched a sapling. But with the lifting of the mist a superb panorama became visible, with the white peaks of the great Himalaya outlined against the sky, forming a glittering background to the dark ranges of Mahabharat and the nearby foothills of Churia.

*December 30.*

This day provided a plethora of thrills and excitement. About five miles from the camp two kills had been made fairly close together, and the pugmarks and other indications suggested the possibility of two pairs of tigers. When the ring was closed and the Maharaja with the attendant elephants started to disturb the enclosure, it was seen that all 4 well-grown tigers were in the ring!

The first shot was at a tigress, which wounded her fairly badly, and she crept back into thick cover, snarling horribly. Simultaneously
the other 3 broke cover, and started bounding and charging in all directions. Pandemonium followed. The roars of the encircled tigers mingled with the trumpeting of nervous elephants, the yelling of the men on the line who set up a ceaseless and deafening "ha-ha-hoo-hoo howah", and hurled missiles whenever a tiger approached, the snapping and crashing of saplings and undergrowth by the howdah elephants inside the ring, all this combined to make a tense scene of excitement. And in the midst of all this turmoil stood the Maharaja on his elephant!

Then the other tigress charged the ring, and leapt through. There still remained 2 tigers and the wounded tigress. The latter was killed first, and then His Highness succeeded in killing the 2 tigers after further thrills.

Orders were then given to make another ring, on the possible chance of circling the one that had escaped. With astonishing skill this was successfully done, despite the delay while the other tigers were being killed. His Highness with two other howdah elephants, in one of which was Sir Frederick O'Connor, entered the new ring, after the infuriated tigress. Presently she charged straight at the Maharaja, but a nearby tusker, Bikram Prasad, intervened and the tigress jumped on his head, scratching his trunk and ear before bounding away. It was all so quick that there was no time for a shot. Again she attacked another small female elephant, clawing the head and trunk. This elephant shook so violently that the "pachwa" was thrown off, luckily away from the tigress, and he picked himself up unhurt and hastily scrambled up a convenient tree. However this fighting tigress had again broken the ring and made good her escape.

A third ring was made and it speaks volumes for the amazing organisation and skill of the Nepalese that once more the tigress was encircled, and was finally despatched by Sir Frederick O'Connor. She measured just under 8 feet. Thus ended a grand day of shikar with 4 tigers and many exciting incidents.

**December 31.**

This day was blank except for a gond (or swamp deer) which was added to the bag.

**January 1.**

New Year's Day (by the Christian era) was to prove another red-letter day. Information comes in that there are three kills in three different directions. At the first kill, although blood and hair around the tying-up post clearly indicate a kill, there is no sign of a drag. The
shikaris, somewhat non-plussed, mark out a circle, which however, as the subsequent ring proves, does not contain the tiger. A further search is made. To the west is a sandy stream bed with a steep bank of 15 or 20 feet on the further side. The fresh marks of a very big tiger are seen crossing the stream bed to the high bank. On the top of the bank, clear marks of a drag are observed; incredible as it sounds, it is quite clear that the tiger has jumped this astonishing height with the padah! Not only that, but he has dragged the kill for nearly a mile beyond the high bank, and there has had a good feed and is presumably lying up close by. Never has such a drag been seen before—up a 20-foot sheer bank and over a mile in distance. He is ringed, and the Maharaja fires two barrels into him. One wild dash and he drops dead, a splendid tiger measuring 10 feet 3 inches.

The elephants then trekked six miles to the east, to another kill, where a big tigress was found. A shot from the Maharaja wounded her in the shoulder, and charging the line of elephants she leaped on the head of an elephant, clawing its trunk. A chorus of trumpeting and shouts broke out, and a shower of missiles drove her back into the ring where she was ultimately killed by His Highness. She measured 9 feet 4 inches, which is quite exceptional for a tigress, and the record shot in Naya Muluk. A striking film of this fight was taken by an intrepid photographer on the elephant next to the one attacked.

**January 2.**

No tiger was shot to-day, but a hyena added further variety to the bag.

**January 3.**

Three guests accompanied the Maharaja on the shoot to-day—Sir Frederick O'Connor, Mr. Verney and Mr. Musselwhite the film operator. They had a day to remember! A single tiger was first found, a fighting beast who provided some fine film before he was finally killed. He measured 9 feet 9 inches.

The next ring was nearly eight miles to the south and provided hours of excitement. This locality was characterised by very heavy grass taller than the elephants, and undergrowth in which it was almost impossible to see the quarry. A tiger is first put up. at which the Maharaja fires two shots. The noise disturbs 4 more tigers, and so there are 5 tigers in all enclosed (2 tigers, 2 tigresses and a large cub, i.e., two families). It is a nerve-racking business to tackle so many tigers in that tremendous grass, in which they can lie unseen
within a few feet of the elephants. But they are moving about, growling and slinking unseen, without offering a shot to the marksman. Suddenly pandemonium breaks out at one section of the line, elephants trumpeting, fidgeting and curling up their trunks, with the usual accompaniment of shouts and yells, clearly indicating that one or more tigers have gone that way. At last after further beating, an animal comes out where the undergrowth has been trampled, and is killed with two shots (8 feet 8 inches).

The ring is beaten again, and a tiger leaps on to the rump of one of the beating tuskers Hiranya Prasad, and stays on for several yards, biting and clawing, before dropping off. Mr. Verney fires, and the wounded animal is quickly finished off by His Highness (9 feet) who presents the skin and the lucky bones (*baju* in Nepali) to Mr. Verney. Again the howdahs and beating elephants go through the heavy grass, and six shots are fired at intervals as one or another tiger shows itself for a moment. The next to fall is a tigress (8 feet 3 inches).

By this time the sun has set, but there are still two tigers in the ring, and the howdahs turn once more into the heavy grass, which however by this time has been trampled down a good deal. For a change, the next tiger charges the line. A pad elephant is panic-stricken, whisks round and bolts, throwing off its mahout and Lieutenant Brikha Bahadur to the ground. They are however unscathed by the fall and by the tiger, and are quickly mounted on another elephant. The tiger turns back instead of breaking through, and is shortly despatched by Colonel Kiran, His Highness's son. He measures 8 feet. This is the first tiger shot by Colonel Kiran, who, in accordance with the custom prevalent in Nepal, presents *nazar* to His Highness.

It is now 6:45 p.m. on a winter night, and the light has completely gone. But still there is another tiger in the ring, a tigress (as it happened), and by now a fury incarnate. It is a weird amazing scene, a nocturne of the jungle, where nothing can be seen except the crowns and branches of the scattered trees against the light of stars. The Maharaja, and Generals Babar and Bahadur fire at intervals at a noise or at random. Then the hunt takes on a different aspect, as torches blaze out all round, and by their light the tigress is at last spotted and killed (8 feet).

Six tigers in one day, the last killed by torch light! To paraphrase a famous poem—God of shikar, was ever shikar like this in the world before?

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* This custom is equally prevalent in India also, and consists in presenting a coin, which is touched and given back.
His Highness returned to camp by the light of the torches at 9 p.m. What the representatives of Britain and U. S. A. thought of such a day of sport and excitement is not recorded in the shooting diary.

The primitive Nepali shares with most uneducated Orientals a marked, and sometimes distinctly annoying, inability to give any reliable idea of distance. The expression Ai pugyo (it has arrived) may mean a mile or two further, while Ailekali ladha (a short way) may easily be four or five miles (or furlongs). When some concrete figure of miles or kos has at last been obtained by persistent inquiry, it is usually safe to double or even treble it. (A kos is the Nepali measure of distance, and is about 4,000 yards.)

To-day His Highness experienced this characteristic failing. The messenger brought the news of a kill which he said was 1½ kos away. So the Maharaja spent the morning dealing with accumulation of administrative work, and started leisurely at about 2 p.m. on an elephant. However the distance proved to be 5 kos, and it was already dark before the ring was completed. But by the light of some torches a tiger was killed, followed by a weary trek back to the camp by the faint light of a new moon.

**HIRAPURA CAMP.**

**January 4.**

The camp moved to-day to Hirapura some miles westward. After 2 p.m. a beat was made and a small leopard (6 feet 6 inches) was shot.

A good tiger was killed on 6th. On 7th although there were four kills and three rings were made, the tigers were not in the rings or vicinity.

**January 8.**

The solitary wild tusker, previously mentioned at Machhali camp, turned up again at this camp and caused considerable trouble at night around the elephant encampment and also around the Maharaja’s camp. So the day was spent in giving him a lesson. He was located in the morning about half a mile away, and when he saw the tame elephants, he made a rush at them. But a volley of blank cartridges frightened him off, and the tame elephants set off in hot pursuit. In mid-jungle he turned at bay, and the biggest of the fighting tuskers went in to tackle him. After a brief fight the wild one turned and fled, and although
followed for a time by the tame elephants, and later followed by the trackers for 17 miles, his tracks were finally lost and he escaped.

To-day Sir Frederick O'Conor and Mr. Verney departed.

**January 9, 10 and 11.**

Three tigers were shot but there was nothing of particular interest to record.

**January 12.**

Another wild tusker, attracted by the large herd of female elephants, had turned up and was proving a nuisance. This was not a very large one, but was very active, and an attempt at a kheddah proved useless for this reason. The tame elephants had had a strenuous three weeks hunting tigers almost daily, and were rather out of condition in consequence, so could not catch him.

It was decided to try the pit method and Commanding General Bahadur Shumshere made the following arrangements under his personal supervision. A pit was dug as described in chapter IV, on a path the elephant was likely to follow, and several female elephants were tethered on the side nearer the camp. During the night of 12th/13th, the tusker came and fell into the trap and was caught. There followed the tricky business of getting strong ropes on to his legs and around his neck. As the pit was too narrow to permit him to turn round, it was exciting but not very dangerous work to get ropes round his back legs, but noosing his neck, with his trunk lashing and writhing round, was a more difficult problem. However by the morning he was securely roped, the ropes being fastened securely to 4 big tuskers fore and aft.

Then followed the process of getting him out of the pit, and an interesting film was taken of the proceedings. The bank in front of him was partly broken down, and helped by a steady strain on the ropes, after violent efforts he managed to struggle out. At once he made a dash for liberty, to be pulled up by the rear elephants. Then he tried to turn to one side, to be stopped by the elephant on the other side. For an hour or more the struggle went on in fairly dense tree forest, and the ropes sometimes became tangled with the trees and creepers, which further aggravated the difficulties. Partly by coaxing and partly by force, with big tuskers occasionally pushing him here and there as necessary, he was at last brought out into the open, to form the centre of a triumphal procession back to camp, led by the Maharaja, who was very pleased with the capture.
(i) HIS HIGHNESS WITH SIR FREDERIC O'CONNOR AND MR. VERNEY.

(ii) LORD JOHN HOPE AND BRITISH MINISTER.
January 15.

To-day was remarkable for two events. Although there were no kills, khabbar was brought that a big leopard had been seen trying to kill a village buffalo in an open grassy plain. (It is very rare for leopards to attack a buffalo, although they frequently kill buffalo calves tied up as a bait.) Part of the elephants searched the light grass and the rest searched the adjoining forest, while His Highness dismounted for some refreshment.

Presently an elephant arrived from the line in the forest, bringing the news that the leopard had been seen. The howdah elephants and most of the rifles were away in the other party, but the Maharaja climbed on to a pad with a Mannlicher rifle, and successfully killed it. It proved to be 9 feet 4 inches in length, which is believed to be easily a record for the whole world. (A leopard of 8 feet 6 inches obtained the gold medal for the finest shikar exhibit at the Allahabad Exhibition, 1911, the exhibition where many of the world’s record trophies of Indian game were shown.)

While this shoot was in progress, at 2-15 p.m. the people in the camp felt the shock of a powerful earthquake, although this was of course not felt by the shikar party on the elephants. It passed in a moment, and was a subject for interested conversation but not perturbation. Naturally no one realised at the time that this was the distant ripple of the greatest calamity Nepal has ever experienced, which has been described elsewhere.

January 17.

There was no kill to-day, but Commanding General Bahadur Shumshere saw a tiger and tigress while returning to camp. Immediately the elephants available on the spot commenced to make a ring, but before it was completed the tigress made her escape: However the tiger was trapped and successfully despatched by General Bahadur. As this was the first tiger he had shot since His Highness became Prime Minister, General Bahadur presented nazar according to time-honoured tradition.

It is another tribute to the wonderfully developed skill and shikar sense of the Nepalese that more often than not they can successfully deal with a chance-met tiger casually seen on the way. If by sight, sound, or a kill, a tiger can be approximately located, it is an odds-on chance that the trained personnel and superb bandobast will add it to the bag!
The camp was moved to-day to this new locality. Here wild
rumours of some appalling catastrophe in Nepal reached the camp, but
the complete breakdown of all communications, telegraphs, roads, railways, etc., both in Nepal and in Bihar, made it impossible to obtain
any reliable information. It was not until January 23 that two eye-
witnesses arrived to describe the destruction of cities, the wrecking of
palaces, the loss of life and property. This great catastrophe has been
described elsewhere, and one can appreciate the feelings and sensation
of the Maharaja and all the camp entourage at the receipt of this news
away in the jungles, some hundreds of miles from Kathmandu. It
brought the shooting trip to a premature close, but while arrangements
were being made for special trains, etc., for the long return journey, a
number of tigers were shot in the vicinity of Dhakanabagh and Banbassa.

The return journey was started on January 27 and proved a
terrible ordeal. The B. & N. W. Railway system in Bihar was shattered,
with bridges wrecked and the track a corkscrew; motor roads had
vanished and the surface of the country was fissured with gaping
cracks. It was not until February 4, that His Highness could reach
his capital.

The total bag for the period December 23 to January 26 was
36 tigers and 4 leopards besides the capture of a wild elephant and a
python, not counting numerous sorts of deer and some boar.


JOURNEY TO NAYA MULUK.

Three years before, the Maharaja’s visit to Naya Muluk had been
abruptly cut short by the great earthquake, and as a result nearly half
the district had been left out. He wished to see the condition of the
people on the eastern side and also what works of improvement had
been completed on the western side as a result of his first tour. The
court left Kathmandu on December 3, 1936, and stopped for two
days at Amlekhgunj. On the 4th, the efficacy of the purdah ring was
clearly established. There were less than 30 elephants available, as
the great majority were waiting at Nepalgunj, 150 miles or so to the
westward. A tigress had killed, and the shikaris, who cut the line, were
confident she was enclosed. General Surya Shumshere, who was in
charge of shikar operations this year, fixed up an enclosure in two hours
with half a mile of white cloth (see photos illustrating the purdah ring).
Outside this, about 20 elephants were dotted at 40 yards intervals. Then General Surya went into the ring with a couple of elephants to make sure that a tiger was enclosed. After half an hour a tigress suddenly emerged from thick cover, and a messenger galloped off to camp with the news.

His Highness arrived at 2-30 p.m. and advanced into the enclosure. The tigress again broke cover and went bounding away, but when she came to within 15 yards of the white cloth, she shied off, and repeated this manœuvre three or four times. Presently His Highness fired two shots, which wounded her, and "with a furious roar she made a charge at the howdah and the 3 elephants turned their backs and fled. The tigress came charging after them for 40 or 50 yards, when the Maharaja turned round and with unerring aim put a shot into her chest, and the charging tigress stopped short*." It was a remarkable shot from a restive elephant! It is certain that without the white cloth, the tigress could never have been bagged, but would have made good her escape through the widely scattered elephants.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, General Padma Shumshere, arrived shortly afterwards and admired the skill shown in this shoot. It may be noted that it was the first time during His Highness's règime that the Maharaja and his second-in-command, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, left Kathmandu and toured together.

Two days later the court left by special train for Raxaul, the frontier station on the Nepal-Bihar border. On a clear winter morning one of the most wonderful mountain panoramas in the world is visible from the elevated station foot-bridge. Looking northwards over 20 miles of flat plain, the Churia range of Siwalik foothills can be seen looking very diminutive from here. Behind, the dark masses of Mahabharat rise to 9,000 feet and 10,000 feet above sea-level. Behind this again, the greatest snow peaks of the Himalayas tower up into the blue sky. Two hundred miles to the east-north-east the great massif of Kanchenjunga (28,100 feet) is clearly visible. Slightly westwards two peaks, almost hidden by the Mahabharat range, prove to be Makalu (27,800 feet) and Everest (29,000 feet). A hundred and fifty miles to the north-west Dhaulagiri (26,700 feet) is seen in lonely splendour. In between, four more great mountains of 26,000 feet and over, Annapurna Himal, Manaslu, Himalchule. Gosainthau, tower over Mahabharat; in all, eight peaks of over 26,000 feet height—in a range from Dhaulagiri to Kanchenjunga—of 300 miles of the snowy Himalaya! Surely such a panorama must be unique in the whole wide world!

* All quotations from the official diary are in inverted commas.
Stopping for a while to admire this wonderful view, the Maharaja and suite departed by special train on the B. & N. W. Railway to Bahraich and Nepalgunj Road Station, which was reached on the morning of December 7. Here, after being welcomed and garlanded at the station by high officials of the district of Bahraich (India) and Naya Muluk (Nepal), His Highness motored 11 miles to the first camp Gulari.

As endless repetitions of the same theme must inevitably become monotonous and boring, the shikar incidents of this tour will not be detailed, but only the more exciting or instructive items will be recorded.

On December 7, to quote the official record, "A single tusker wild elephant came in the night and attacked our hathisar, eloped with a she-elephant." However this jungle honeymoon was of short duration, as the she-elephant was recaptured on the 8th.

On December 8, a tiger was shot in the morning. After a couple of rings round other kills had proved futile, a tiger was ringed after 5 p.m. His Highness decided it was too late to go out several miles to the spot, and sent back orders that the Generals and senior officers should return to camp, but the rest of the officers, sepoys, orderlies and mahouts with their elephants should remain, and keep the tiger in the ring all night! Arrangements were made for their feeding during the night.

At 9 p.m. the orderlies took the long strips of white cloth to make the purdah ring, and were engaged in fixing it up, when the wild tusker appeared on the scene and again molested the ring elephants. One of these—a zamindar’s elephant—took fright, threw her mahout, and bolted into the ring where the tiger was. This disturbed the tiger and he started roaring and moving about. The orderlies however bravely went on with their job. "As the tiger was within the ring there was some danger of him attacking them, and of the elephants getting nervous and trampling upon them. But for two hours they continued to fix the purdah wall. From the inside the tiger made attacks, and from the outside the wild elephant made attacks, but the job was completed. Had it not been for the cloth, it would have been impossible to keep the tiger confined. The wild elephant was finally frightened away with pistol shots and noise of explosives.".

Imagine the scene, in the depths of a winter night and a Terai jungle! An astonishing tribute to the Nepalese pluck and organisation. To continue the quotation. "The strip of white cloth made them feel safe against the tiger, and the running away of the wild elephant gave them a sense of security, and so they slept for some time. When the noise and the tumult of men abated, the tiger snarled hideously many
Big Game Shooting in Nepal.

a time, while the officers patrolled with a lantern and torches. Shortly before daybreak the tiger showed his eager intention to escape, but his nose struck against the cloth and he retired into shelter in the middle of the ring”. His Highness with the Commander-in-Chief and other Generals left camp at 7-15 a.m. and entered the ring at 8-30 and the tiger was successfully killed shortly after 9 o’clock.

To keep a tiger ringed all night, in spite of interference of a wild elephant, was an outstanding achievement.

Later in the day, His Highness inspected Nepalgunj town, and sanctioned the construction of pucca roads, and a pipeline for improved water supply and ordered steps to be taken to stop the depredations of dacoits and thieves. Rupees 500 was distributed amongst the aged and disabled inhabitants.

Two days later, news was received in camp that King Edward (now Duke of Windsor) had abdicated in favour of the Duke of York.

December 12 was distinguished by a bag of 4 tigers shot in two rings. A week later, when His Highness was returning late in the evening with a few pad elephants, the big wild tusker, who had been following the camp since his lady friend had been rescued from his attention ten days before, was suddenly met at close quarters in the dusk. The diary notes “His Highness showed admirable coolness on this occasion. The wild one stared at him for sometime, and everyone stood at gaze for several minutes. Then he raised his trunk and was coming towards the party, but was stopped by firing of shots into the air. His Highness decided to capture him after some days, as an attempt at immediate capture would interfere with the tiger hunt”.

By December 28, a considerable number of tigers had been shot, including two magnificent fighting tigers each measuring 10 feet 5 inches. The shoot on the 29th provided a terrific incident, probably the most exciting of all in the Maharaja’s shooting career, when, in fact, the Maharaja was in considerable danger of being killed!

General Surya, who was organising the shoot, went early in the morning and by 8 o’clock had made a successful ring round a tiger, and sent in news to the camp. At 9-15 His Highness and the Commander-in-Chief motored out and reached the ring about two hours later. His Highness and General Surya mounted the tusker Bhimgaj, while the Commander-in-Chief and General Mrigendra rode on another big tusker Ganeshgaj. Several pad elephants also entered the ring to beat out the tiger.
A tiger and a tigress were put up, and His Highness hit each with his 12-bore Paradox. Both wounded animals retired into thick shelter in the middle of the ring. The cover was tremendous and the 2 wounded tigers refused to break. So the only thing was to follow them up close, and to follow up a couple of wounded tigers into such thick cover, soon after being wounded, is about the most dangerous action that can be taken in Indian big game shikar. The Commander-in-Chief begged to be allowed to go forward, but His Highness would not hear of it, and insisted on going himself. He pointed out that his elephant Bhimgaj was staunch, while the Commander-in-Chief's was nervous. Nothing could be seen of the tiger in the undergrowth, but suddenly, from a range of 8 feet, he leapt on His Highness's elephant, catching hold high up on the trunk and started savagely biting and clawing. The other elephants turned tail and commenced to bolt, but Bhimgaj vigorously counter attacked, and tried to kill the tiger by crushing it on the ground. This meant that the elephant was almost standing on his head, and "the howdah was tilted downwards almost to the ground. There seemed to be no possibility of the men in the howdah keeping their position. If they fell out, they would inevitably fall into the jaws of death". (The second wounded tiger was circling around, near its mate.) In this critical situation, deafened by the mad roaring of the tigers and the trumpeting of the elephants, His Highness kept his position by bracing his legs against the front of the howdah and firmly clutching the hand rail. General Surya, who was terrified of falling on to his father and knocking him out, similarly clutched the back of the howdah with all his might.

For minutes which seemed like hours, this life and death struggle between the elephant and the tiger continued, while any attempt at shooting was out of the question. A superb painting of this dramatic moment, by the photographer-artist who was an eye-witness of it, hangs to-day in the great Durbar Hall in Kathmandu, which is reproduced in this book (see coloured plate 20).

"Then Bhimgaj raised his head and retreated for several paces, but the mahout stopped him. Everyone was struck dumb for some time. People were gazing but all were speechless and all faces turned pale. Then His Highness laughed a merry laugh and advanced once more, and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief begged him not to move forward, lest the elephant should once again charge the tiger, upon which His Highness replied that there were no grounds for fear, and calmly fired at and killed the tiger. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief said it was one of the most terrifying incidents that had ever happened, and it was only the grace of Sri Pashupatinath that had protected him. He offered his congratulations on His Highness's escape". The tiger measured 9 feet 6 inches and the tigress 8 feet 11 inches.
HIS HIGHNESS AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WITH TWO TIGERS.
Such an episode would have been enough for the nerves of most shikaris for a time, but His Highness evidently has none, and the very next day was engaged in another nerve-shattering incident. The morning was spent in hunting an elusive tiger which escaped, and it was not until the late afternoon that another tiger was successfully enclosed. The Maharaja and party reached the spot at 5 p.m., where a cloth ring had been made. As soon as His Highness advanced into the enclosure, a tiger started and reached the southern sector, where he turned from the noise and the yelling, and, galloping right across, he jumped the cloth and broke through the elephants. The mahouts immediately swung right and left (as has been described elsewhere) and enclosed him again. Once more he broke through, and once more he was successfully ringed. By this time it was evening and getting very dark. The animal had concealed himself in a big thorny bush, and the beating pad elephants could not drive him out. But as His Highness came near, he charged one of the elephants and scratched her nose, and His Highness fired and wounded him. When once more he went into the thick shelter. It was now difficult to see even the end of the rifle, so torches were lit! An elephant with an orderly holding a torch was charged furiously, the tiger climbing on to the hindquarters and hanging on for some ten yards. After this “the other elephants could not take courage to start it again, or to go near it,” which is scarcely surprising. The very idea of trying to finish off a wounded and furious tiger, by the light of flickering torches in thick Terai jungle, is enough to give shivers to the average shikari!

So the shoot had to be abandoned for the night (the only case recorded in all the shooting diaries where His Highness had to leave a wounded tiger without finishing it off. It was found dead next morning).

A period of comparative calm followed all these thrills and adventures. A tiger was shot every second or third day, but there were no more fighting tigers until towards the middle of January. On the 12th, the stout elephant Jaya Prasad had a sharp fight with a big tiger, which the diary describes as follows: “When Jaya Prasad went to start him, the tiger hung by its trunk and scratched it, and went off into refuge. When started again, the tiger charged furiously, whereupon the tusker gored him with its tusks and rolled him over. But the tiger caught hold of the elephant’s legs with his claws, and the elephant ran forward dragging the tiger for several yards”. This tiger, which had been blinded in one eye by a porcupine’s quill that was discovered there, measured 10 feet 3 inches.

The following day provided one of the most ferocious fighters in the Maharaja’s experience. When the ring was formed, it was known
that a big tiger was enclosed, which the Maharaja wanted His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to shoot. When the shooting party entered the ring on several elephants, the tiger made a desperate attempt to break through the eastern line, then turned and tried furiously to break through on the north, but each time checked at the yells of the mahouts and the volley of missiles. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief fired a grazing shot and the tiger retreated into thick cover, and for a long time the beater elephants could not drive him out. At last he came out with a roar and a rush and sprang on to the head of a pad elephant called Ekrañ, then dropped to the ground and immediately leapt on to the head of Khor Prasad and hung, clawing and biting this elephant’s trunk for a couple of minutes, causing deep gashes and wounds. Again he dropped to the ground and bounded off into thick shelter. His Highness advanced a hundred yards towards him, but before he could get a shot the tiger rushed forward to the north-eastern side and sprang on the head of a third elephant, Bhim Kali, and then bounded off and attacked a fourth on which was a boy mahout aged only 13 years.

"The scene was very terrible and pitiable, for the heads of the boy, the tiger, and the elephant appeared to be all together, the tiger was holding on to the elephant's head with one paw and to the mahout’s leg with the other. A soldier on the pad was holding on to the boy mahout by his belt, and the boy was holding on to the elephant's ear with both hands. After a long minute the tiger dropped to the ground; he had torn away the flesh of the mahout’s leg down to the bone, which was immediately bandaged by Dr. Ganga Prasad." (A doctor always accompanies the Maharaja’s shoots, in case of such accidents.)

Meanwhile His Highness put up a tigress and killed her with four bullets in swift succession. But the wounded tiger, after himself wounding 4 elephants and a mahout, had broken through the ring. Immediately, the well-trained staff and elephants swung round and succeeded in enclosing him again. He was still full of fight and once more charged the beating elephants and bit two of them on the legs. Several more bullets were required finally to finish him off. It had taken one hour and thirty-five minutes to kill him, and he proved to be a magnificent tiger measuring 10 feet 4 inches.

A fortnight later there was another extraordinary day of shikar. "The beater elephants were beating the undergrowth, when a tiger suddenly started and roared, and the sound made a leopard climb a tree. A bullet from a .375 rifle hit it, and it fell to the ground but ran away. The tiger was again started, and he made another thunderous growl, at which the leopard again climbed the tree and remained there, closely hugging a fork. His Highness saw it and fired a shot that hit
BHIMGAIJ VIGOROUSLY COUNTER ATTACKS.
it in the side, and it dropped down again, and, staggering and rolling, it collapsed. Meanwhile the tiger was making for His Highness's elephant, but a bullet from the .375 caused it to roll over, and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief finished it off. It measured 9 feet 8 inches”.

In this ring a tiger and a leopard had been killed, and everyone thought there would be no more shikar. But suddenly there was a great commotion, and a sambar stag, several chital and peafowl dashed off in panic, giving alarm calls, and breaking through the line. So the ring was beaten again, and yet another tiger (not a tigress) appeared, and immediately attacked Moti Prasad, the elephant nearest to him. “The tiger hung by the elephant’s belly, and began to bite it. The elephant too kicked with its trunk and legs, and tried to dash the tiger down, and the tiger also tried his best to hurt the elephant, and for some minutes they were making a great battle. Then the tusker dropped down and rolling over, pressed the tiger with its huge bulk. The kun kun noise of the elephant and the A·O AO groan of the tiger were heard, and there was great excitement all round”. The body of the tiger could not be seen, but the head was projecting from under the elephant, and the head of the daroga on the pad struck against the head of the tiger! The pachwa (i.e., the man who stands at the back of the elephant) and mahout were thrown clear and hastily scrambled up a tree. “The beater mahouts called out to the pachwa, and hearing this the men on the ring shouted, ‘The men on the elephant are killed by the tiger. Surely killed. The elephant’s legs alone are seen but the men are not,’ and there was a great uproar and excitement”.

Directly His Highness heard the noise, he ordered his mahout to advance immediately, to try and rescue the men being killed (as he thought) by the tiger, regardless of any possible danger to himself, and despite the remonstrance of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. As he approached the elephant Moti Prasad stopped rolling on the tiger, and got up, and went to His Highness's elephant, with the daroga, speechless with fright but quite unhurt, still sitting on the pad! The tiger was lying on the ground, still alive and snarling but unable to get up owing to his crushed condition, and His Highness quickly killed him with a couple of bullets. The mahout and pachwa then appeared, and His Highness was very relieved to find that none had been killed or even injured by the tiger.

During the first week of February (1937), the British Minister to Nepal, Colonel Bailey, was having a shoot for swamp deer in the Kheri forests about 18 miles away, with some distinguished guests and several ladies. Colonel Bailey wrote and asked if the Maharaja would
very kindly show his guests and the ladies the famous Nepalese ring method of tiger shooting, as they were very anxious to see it. His Highness not only agreed willingly, but with his usual generosity, he offered, if opportunity came, that two of the guests should have a shot at a tiger.

On January 31, cars were sent and brought to His Highness's camp the following party:--

The British Minister (Colonel Bailey), the Earl of Aylesford, Major-General Sir Richard Howard-Vyse, Colonel Stevenson (the Legation Surgeon) and four ladies. There were no kills or tigers located that day, so His Highness gave a practical illustration or dress rehearsal. the gathering of the elephants, wheeling and dividing them, narrowing down the ring, beating the enclosure, conducting a jhoruwa shikar (i.e., general shikar with a long line of elephants moving through the forest). These and other shikar methods were shown. The English guests appreciated the demonstration immensely and enjoyed the sight of a shikar with so many elephants.

The next day, General Surya sent in the news that a big tiger had been successfully encircled, and a purdah ring was being fixed up. On receipt of the news, His Highness sent cars to bring the British Minister's party, and on arrival at the scene of the enclosure, they (including the ladies) mounted the howdah elephants, all agog with excitement. As the shoot was about to start, a mounted messenger brought the news that another tiger had killed in the Bunda khola jungle. and the shikaris believed it was in the cut circle. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief with General Howard-Vyse in his howdah entered the ring, with His Highness on another elephant, and the beater elephants presently disturbed the tiger, but the General could not see it clearly. A further 20 minutes of beating, and the tiger was driven out into view, and General Howard-Vyse dropped him dead with one shot, a magnificent beast of 10 feet 3 inches. “His Highness congratulated the General on his crack marksmanship, and the latter lifted his hat in grateful salutation. All the ladies' faces beamed with delight, and many photographs were taken.”

After lunch His Highness motored with his guests to the second enclosure. No cloth circle had been formed here. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief with the Earl of Aylesford advanced into the ring, and presently the tiger was glimpsed, but he charged the line and broke through. Immediately the well-drilled personnel formed a second ring, which successfully trapped the tiger. The Earl's first shot missed, but his second barrel hit the tiger badly and he was soon finished off. Measurement 9 feet 10 inches.
PLATE 21.
The Nepal Ring.

(i) & (ii) THE SHOOT WITH FIELD-MARSHAL MANNERHEIM.
Thus in the course of the day each of the distinguished guests bagged a big tiger, and the whole party was treated to a superb exhibition of the splendid efficiency of the Nepalese method of tiger shooting.

A few days later, Colonel Bailey wrote again to the Maharaja, saying another distinguished visitor had arrived, the famous Field-Marshai Mannerheim of Finland, who was also very anxious to see Nepalese tiger shooting. His Highness replied that he would of course be delighted and he hoped during the next few days the Field-Marshai would be able to shoot a good tiger. “The British Minister motored over and introduced the Field-Marshai to His Highness, who said that he felt great pleasure in making his acquaintance, to which the Marshal replied that he felt highly favoured to have this interview with ‘the greatest head of the only independent Hindu kingdom’, and that he had fought in the Great War as an ally with the Nepalese. He further added that by His Highness’s favour, he was greatly looking forward to the pleasure of a fine tiger hunt”.

On February 6, a very big tiger was ringed by elephants and white cloth, and an invitation was sent to the British Minister to bring his party, which included Field-Marshai Mannerheim, the Earl of Aylesford, Mr. Lloyd Smith (an American millionaire) and several ladies. For an hour and a quarter the party enjoyed all the thrills of a tiger ring shoot, with the tiger appearing and disappearing in the heavy growth of gigantic grasses. Field-Marshai Mannerheim was often unable to spot the glimpses of the slinking form, and several shots missed the mark. At last a shot went home, but it required three more to finish him off. The diary notes—“This was an eight-toed tiger who had eaten eight padahs, and was killed with eight bullets. Four bullets had hit him, and he measured 10 feet 7 inches, being the record size for the Naya Muluk jungles. His Highness expressed his congratulations, and the Field-Marshai replied that he felt himself very highly favoured in killing such a magnificent and enormous tiger”.

This great shooting expedition in Naya Muluk was now drawing to a close, but on the 10th, variety was added to the bag by several shooting parties visiting an area of grassy swamp and jhil, a well-known haunt of swamp deer. His Highness did not go, but the parties included His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, Generals Surya, Mrigendra, and others; the shoot was highly successful and totalled 13 fine gond (swamp deer) stags.

This was the last day’s shooting, and on the 12th His Highness and party entrained at Gauriphanta for the return journey. The Maharaja had long cherished a desire to visit Rummindei, “the quiet thicket of rising ground where the Emperor Asoka set up for ever his
pillar to witness that there the blessed one was born—the spot sacred beyond all expression to the teeming millions of Buddhists in all lands”. So the special train went by Nautanwa, from where the Maharaja motored to Rummindel, and had a darshan of Maya Devi.

The journey back was then continued, and by easy stages the Maharaja returned to Kathmandu, which was reached on February 19, thus completing a tour of two and a half months.
CHAPTER VI.

GLORIOUS CHITAWAN.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CHITAWAN.

CHITAWAN! the famous big game reserve of Nepal and one of the most beautiful places in the world. Chitawan! an area of mystery and romance, known by repute to many white men, but seen by so few. Chitawan! a name synonymous (to those who know) with the acme of big game shooting, reserved for the sport of the Maharaja and his distinguished guests, an Emperor, a Princé, a Viceroy. The writer, perhaps alone amongst Europeans, has been privileged to tour extensively throughout this lovely tract, and can thus give a firsthand description of it, its fauna and flora, its geology and scenery, its scattered jungle villages and tribes.

The Rapti river, rising in the Mahabharat range at 7,000 feet near Chisapani Garhi (literally Cold Water Fort), on the main road to the valley of Nepal, flows southwards for a dozen miles parallel to the motor road in a narrow valley bordered with steep, sometimes precipitous, mountains, until it comes to a hamlet called Suparitar. Here the scenery and flora change abruptly with the crossing of the great Himalayan fault that divides the younger Siwalik formations from the older ("Purana") Himalayan rocks, the great fault that runs for 2,000 miles and more from the Brahmaputra valley to the Indus.

An undulating transverse valley runs east and west, four or five miles broad, and the Rapti, joined by two small rivers, leaves the road and turns west, at the hamlet of Hetaura, where His Highness has an imposing shooting box.

From Hetaura this wild and lovely river flows nearly due west for nearly 60 miles before it falls into the Narayani or Great Gandak river, one of the major rivers of Himal. To the north the valley is bounded by a line of (lower) Siwalik hills, densely forested with sal, and backed by tier on tier of the Mahabharat range. To the south is the Churia range, rising 2,000 to 3,000 feet above the valley level, of (upper) Siwalik formation. During the course of a few million years, enormous deposit of clay, sand and boulders were deposited by some great Himalayan river (in this case the Narayani), and, in the period

( 80 )
HIS HIGHNESS WITH HIS RECORD TIGER 10' 9".
of the world’s history which geologists call late Tertiary, these huge deposits were caught in the last great earth movements of the Himalayas, and ridged up a few thousand feet to form the Churia range.

This geological formation is characteristic of, in fact is the cause of, every “Dun” in the Himalayan chain, a Dun being a fertile but usually malarious land-locked valley between the lower Himalayas and the outer Siwaliks (cf. Dehra Dun, Patli Dun and many others).

This Churia range is completely uninhabited by man, clothed with primeval forests of sal and pine and bhabar (or sabai) grass, a wild medley of broken ground, with steep or precipitous slopes and dry, pebbly stream beds bordered with other grasses, the ultimate home of tiger, leopard, wild dog, and the deer—sambhar, chital, barking deer—on which they prey and live. In Chitawan the range is duplicated by a double line of hills with the Reunadi (the chief tributary of the Rapti) between. Thus this famous shooting preserve is roughly pear-shaped, four or five miles broad at the eastern end at Hetaura, widening to 25 miles or more at the western end and covering in all nearly a thousand square miles.

The lower well-drained slopes of the valley are a continuous belt of virgin sal forest, containing stretches of the most magnificent sal in the world, gigantic trees towering up 150 feet, festooned with still more gigantic creepers, bhorla, debre lahara, arari*, with here and there a gap in the canopy where a monster tree has fallen and lies rotting on the ground. (No timber fellings have ever been permitted in the Dun!)

Near the banks of the rivers and streams and in the poorly drained savannahs the dark sal forest gives place to riverain forests of a different type, with semal and karma, sissu and khair trees standing up in a smother of tremendous grasses, the home of uncounted rhino, and of occasional wandering herds of wild elephants. On the western border for over 20 miles flows the Narayani (or Gandak) river, which in monsoon floods occasionally washes a live rhino into Gorakhpur and the adjoining districts of British India, to the excitement of the sportsmen of those parts.

In the time of Maharaja Chandra Shumshere attempts were made to colonise Hetaura and the upper parts of the valley with Bhotes and other tribes and the land was given here to the emancipated slaves. (It is less than two decades since slavery was abolished in Nepal.) But the “awal”, the dreaded malignant malaria, which is rampant through

* For list of botanical names, see Appendix.
all the basin from March to November, spoilt the attempt. But in the centre of the Dun around Jhawani, are a number of villages and fertile cultivation of the Tharus, that interesting semi-aboriginal race, immune from malaria, which has been described in an earlier chapter.

Camping in this locality in the early cold weather, when the rice fields are ripening, is an unforgettable experience. At nightfall the woolly evening mist forms, enveloping the little encampment in silence and darkness. Sometime afterwards one often hears the footsteps and breathing of a rhino moving calmly from the riverain savannah towards the rice fields for his nightly meal. He pauses, curious but suspicious, to inspect the tent into which he has nearly blundered, and then moves on. Half an hour later a burst of yelling and a clatter of tins reveal the watchful Tharus protecting their fields from the marauder, to be repeated at intervals as the night advances. In the early morning the calling of rhinos to one another in the savannah forest behind mingles with the ringing alarm call of a chital at the glimpse of a hunting tiger, and the piercing calls of swarms of peafowl, sailing down from their roosting places for their daily feed in the rice fields.

Then the morning sun dissipates the mist, and from one’s bed an amazing panorama becomes visible. The flat plain of rice fields, dotted here and there with a mango grove and a cluster of Tharu huts, spreads for several miles northwards to the forest-clad hills and the dark backing of Mahabharat beyond. Behind Mahabharat again, floating in the sky, ethereal, glowing like pink pearls in the early morning sun, tower at close range the great giants of Himalaya, Himal-chuli, Manaslu, Annapurna, Dhaulagiri (all about 26,000 feet), the eternal snows “changeless since the world’s beginning, but changing to every mood of sun and cloud”. There is no such view to equal this in all the Himalaya, and so in all the world.

At Kasra, further down the Rapti valley, in the time of Maharaja Chandra Shumshere, King George V had a camp and shoot in 1911-12 at which a record bag was made (39 tigers, 18 rhinos, 4 bears and several leopards, in 11 days)! Here also Maharaja Jodha Shumshere has shown grand sport to His Excellency Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India, which is described elsewhere in this book. And for the comfort and reception of a still more distinguished visitor, His Highness had constructed a magnificent double storey shooting pavilion of concrete, looking out over sal and savannah to the snows, but alas! the outbreak of the war made the visit impossible.

From Kasra, the route to the outside world passes through more magnificent sal forest into the Reu valley (beloved of wild elephants) and, winding up this valley over a watershed, reaches Bhikna Thori on
"THE TIGER SPRANG WITH ONE TERRIBLE BOUND TOWARDS THE HOWDAH"
the border of British India where His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in 1921 had another famous shoot, and where His Excellency the Viceroy and party stayed.

And now we have completed a tour of this wild and lovely valley, and with the help of the plates of illustrations, it is hoped that the reader will have been able to form a mental picture and background to the tales of shikar that follow.

THE MAHARAJA VISITS CHITAWAN, 1933.

His Highness has visited the Chitawan area and Rapti valley three times in all in seven years. The first time was in January 1933, within four months of his accession to the post of Prime Minister, when urgent administrative duties and the organisation of the affairs of the State made it impossible to spend more than 20 days on the shikar trip. The second time was at the tail-end of his tour in the Mahotari–Sarlahi districts in February 1936, which has been described in chapter VIII, when he spent just a fortnight in Chitawan.

The third time was in 1938-39, when His Highness invited His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, Lady Linlithgow and party to a camp at Bhiikna Thori and a shoot in lower Chitawan, which is described later in this book. His visit on this occasion included ten days with the Viceroy, and rather over three months in all.

Before the Maharaja visited this famous shooting preserve in 1933, the upper part of the valley had never been shot at all, or at any rate not since the days of Jung Bahadur 60 years before, while the lower part had been shot over twice, first in 1911 by King George V, and then in 1921 by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. So one can imagine what a shooting paradise it was. It was saturated with tigers, their numbers limited only by the available food supply, and their natures unsuspicious and inexperienced in shikar matters. As is usual when tigers increase and multiply in any locality, leopards were few, but they were magnificent. Rhinos on the other hand, which do not compete with tiger for their living, had also increased and multiplied, and in fact their numbers were frequently excessive, and a positive nuisance when they spoilt promising tiger rings.

Needless to say, the first period of 20 days of intensive shikar was packed with thrills and dramatic moments, and His Highness revelled in it. It should be explained that all big game shikar in Nepal follows the general rule of the State. Without His Highness's permission or invitation no one can shoot big game, nor use the stud of elephants and shikaris and the rest of the organisation.
To the undisguised alarm of his staff on numerous occasions, His Highness introduced innovations, which, while increasing the excitement, also increased the danger to himself personally. For example, to watch an infuriated tiger charging from a distance and to hold his fire until it is only a few yards from the elephants, requires amazing nerve on the part of the sportsman, but is really shattering to the nerve of the spectators!

During his first trip, there were very few blank days, as the following record shows.

**PADAMPOKHRI TO JHUWANI.**

**January 7.**

A tigress 7 feet 9 inches was shot in a ring. It is considered very auspicious to shoot a tigress at the start of a shikar trip. An English engineer, Mr. Horst, who was employed by the State for Chandra Canal at Hanumannagar, was present to-day, and he expressed his unbounded surprise at the clock-work precision of the shooting arrangements.

**January 9.**

There were no less than six kills to-day in various directions. In one ring a tiger and a tigress were enclosed. The latter managed to slip through the line of elephants, but the former, after being wounded twice, charged straight at the Maharaja’s howdah, and was killed in mid-air at a few yards’ range, a magnificent shot, which is only possible with a nerve as steady and cool as the elephant who faces the charge unmoved.

**January 10.**

A red-letter day, with 4 tigers killed in two rings.

**January 11.**

Another red-letter day, with 4 tigers killed out of 5 in three rings. Three of the tigers were over 9 feet. One of the rare occasions when a tiger managed to escape!

It is interesting to record how the supreme efficiency of the Nepalese ring method in again ringing an escaped animal originally evolved. As explained earlier, Jung Bahadur first used the ring method, and it was his custom, whenever a tiger or a leopard broke through a ring between two elephants, to give a good thrashing with his stick to the two mahouts of those elephants, unless the animal was successfully ringed again!
It thus became a point of prudence, as well as of honour, for the mahouts to perfect their drill and carry out the necessary evolutions in quick time to encircle the escaped animal. The tradition and the training have lasted to this day. If a lone tiger or leopard escapes from the ring, the two mahouts at the point of escape immediately swing their elephants round and make them gallop off in a wide arc for a quarter of a mile or so, to be followed as fast as possible by all the rest of the elephants. Thus within a matter of minutes another big ring has been formed and the chances are that the animal will be inside. Of course where some more tigers are in the original ring, still to be shot, this rapid procedure cannot be followed. Many instances have been and will be recorded in these shikar notes where an animal has escaped and again been successfully ringed at the second, third and even fourth attempt.

January 12 and 13.

Five tigers, all shootable (i.e., over 7 feet), were shot on the first of these days, but this number was actually exceeded on the second day, when no less than 6 tigers were killed! This made the phenomenal bag of 19 tigers in four consecutive days!

It is proof alike of the phenomenal number of tigers in the valley, of the superb organisation and shikar arrangements under General Kaiser, and of the deadly accuracy of the Maharaja’s shooting. With a similar organisation and similar accurate shooting it might be possible to equal this bag in the famous game sanctuary of the United Provinces, the Hailey National Park (where, of course, no shooting whatever is allowed, even to Viceroy, and where the tigers swarm in astonishing numbers), but nowhere else in India or Nepal would it be possible to shoot 19 tigers in four days over such a comparatively limited range. Incidentally, the Hailey Park, in scenery, climate, and forests, is Chitawan in miniature, which suggests that these Duns, inside the outer Siwaliks, are where tigers reach their optimum. Dehra Dun must have been another such tiger paradise before man turned "a smiling savannah into a howling wilderness of tea".

The next few days in this sporting paradise produced records of another sort, this time in the size and character of animals killed rather than in the numbers. On January 14, news was received of a man-eater that was prowling round a Tharu village. On the previous night a tiger had forced an entry into a grass hut, killed a girala (a boy who looks after cattle) and wounded two others. The villagers came to the Maharaja for deliverance from this pest. In some subtle way the whereabouts of the man-eater was ascertained. She proved to be a tigress 8 feet 4½ inches and His Highness shot her in a ring.
(i) HIS HIGHNESS INSPECTS HIS RHINO.

(ii) JUNGLE CAMP.
After some refreshment, the Maharaja was having a ride on an elephant through the forest, when a leopard was seen leaping across a small glade. The order was given to enclose him, and when the report came that he had been enclosed, the Maharaja entered the ring. This proved to be a magnificent leopard but since eclipsed by a still more magnificent leopard shot by His Highness (as described in chapter V).

This however did not complete the day’s shikar. Another successful ring round a kill produced a magnificent tiger 10 feet 2 inches, the largest up to this time. On the way home, a leopard with 3 cubs was sighted, but His Highness let them go in peace. To-day’s bag included a man-eater, a record leopard and a huge tiger.

PATLIHARA, BARDAHA AND SHERGUNJ CAMPS.

January 15.

This proved to be another red-letter day. The first ring produced a tigress 8 feet 3 inches. In the next ring a big male rhino, to quote the official account, “emerged lethargically. The firing began, and the mountainous creature tottered and fell. But in a second he was up like a flash, and at a tremendous speed, a speed not to be believed in him, he broke through the elephant ring and charged away to the distant horizon”. A hot pursuit ensued, which proved hot in several senses. With his howdah elephant following at top speed, crashing through the heavy grass and flashing past scattered trees, His Highness opened rapid fire with his .465 rifle, and anyone who has tried shooting under such conditions will realise that accurate aim was impossible. In the excitement of the hunt, His Highness did not realise how hot his rifle barrels were after twelve or fifteen shots had been fired, and in fact they had split and burnt his hand. Finally, after nineteen shots, the rhino rolled over dead.

The day’s shikar was however not ended, and another thrilling encounter was to follow, this time with another enormous tiger, which measured 10 feet 5 inches when finally killed. But first he put up a grand fight. “This monarch of the forest made a mighty charge against the line of elephants, some of whom retreated several paces in fear. He leapt on to the trunk of a tusker, when a young tusker advanced, and with some valiant thrusts of his tusks drew away the rabid creature from the elephant’s face. The tiger was now safely dealt with ”.

January 16.

The day started with a pleasant drive to the next camp—Bardahas through paddy fields and open country, with a glorious view of the
great snowy peaks to the north, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna Himal, and Manaslu towering up 26,000 feet into the blue sky, the thickly wooded Churia range to the south, and the broad Rapti river flowing quietly between two banks with high rhino grass. On reaching camp, "His Highness, taking some rest on the edge of the camp, was admiring the beautiful forest scenery with the Rapti river beyond, when to the delight of one and all, a tiger was seen swimming across the river to the jungle bordering on the camp itself. Everybody, including Her Highness the Bara Maharani and the ladies of the suite, enjoyed this rare and interesting sight".

No less than nine kills had been reported from different places around the camp, a plethora on a marching day when all the elephants were employed in moving camp. General Kaiser organised a ring only 500 yards away from the camp, on the further side of the Rapti, and successfully enclosed a tiger. This proved to be yet another enormous fighting tiger, who on being wounded "sprang with one terrible bound towards the howdah, but his progress was stopped in mid-air by a shot from the Maharaja". A superb and realistic painting of this scene hangs to-day in the great Durbar Hall in Kathmandu, which is reproduced in plate 23 in this book. This was the largest tiger His Highness has ever shot, 10 feet 9 inches, and probably one of the half dozen largest that ever have been shot since correct measurements started. (All measurements recorded in this book are round the curves, from the nose to the tip of the tail, with the head stretched out and are absolutely accurate.) Thus for the third day in succession His Highness increased his record sized tiger, from 10 feet 2 inches to 10 feet 5 inches to 10 feet 9 inches. To shoot 3 tigers of these measurements in three consecutive days would be virtually impossible except in a virgin area such as Chitawan was in 1933.

January 17.

The good luck of this magnificent shoot still held, and the bag to-day totalled 4 full-grown tigers, all within an inch or two of 10 feet. The third ring of the day provided unparalleled excitement. The tiger, slightly wounded, suddenly took a tremendous leap and actually clutched at the Maharaja's howdah! At this range of a few feet, the Maharaja fired again, and the tiger rolled off, but still full of fight, and started clawing the elephant's trunk (Bikram Prasad—"the fruit of Victory"), who immediately took part in the fray and started trying to trample on the tiger. This great fight went on for several minutes, during which time His Highness was being thrown about the wildly swaying howdah. At last Bikram Prasad, living up to his name, succeeded in nearly crushing the life out of the tiger, and this
BIKRAM PRASAD FIGHTS THE TIGER.
scene also is recorded by a fine painting in the Durbar Hall, which is reproduced in plate 25.

There was an unexpected epilogue. To quote from the official translation:—“Ten or fifteen seconds later, this mighty tusker, who had come out with such flying colours from the fray, all of a sudden bolted from the field like a frightened child to the utter surprise and consternation of all. It was strange that this well-trained elephant should run helter-skelter through the jungle without a care for the noble occupants on its back. The mahout tried all he could, but to no use. The terrible jolting on this occasion and the great risk of the huge beast crashing into trees roused the alarm of everybody. After careering thus madly for a hundred yards, the elephant came to a stop as abruptly as he had jerked off. The Maharaja had had a lucky escape—so shouted all the shikaris. His Highness considered it a thrill, and called the day a good one which had provided such a tingling adventure”.

The picturesque description of this episode gives a good idea of His Highness’s nerve; not everyone who had shot a tiger clawing at the howdah, stood the racquet of a fight between his elephant and the tiger, and had the shattering experience of the elephant bolting—all in a matter of minutes—would have “called the day a good one”! And after such an experience, who would go straight on and calmly hunt up and shoot another tiger?

**January 18.**

The first, and last, blank day of the tour. Three rhinos were enclosed in a ring, but broke out before His Highness arrived to shoot.

**January 19.**

Again a rhino hunt was organised, and this time with considerable success. In a patch of thick grass a rhino was put up, and killed after several shots by His Highness. Simultaneously another rhino emerged on the other side and fell to Colonel Neer Shumshere. This one had a calf with her, and the calf was successfully captured alive, and later taken to camp. Two more rhinos were encountered and shot, and then the Maharaja performed the Khadga-rudhir Tarpan ceremony.

This ceremonial is connected with the sacred Shradda ceremony of the Hindus and it will be interesting to give a brief description. Every year the head of a Hindu family has to make this religious performance on the anniversary of his father’s death, and again in some particular fortnight a similar ceremony in honour of all his departed
ancestors. Part of the ceremony consists of pouring water out of a vessel. If the vessel used can be a hollowed rhino horn, the ceremony increases very greatly in value. If further the libation can be rhino blood, this further very greatly enhances the importance of the ceremony. This is called the Khadga-rudhir Tarpan ceremony. Finally, if the offer of the rhino blood from a rhino horn can be made from inside the body of the rhino, it is of such high merit that the ancestors are freed from re-incarnations in their long journey to Nirvana. Hence when a rhino is killed, the great mass of bowels and entrails are removed, leaving a vast cavity into which the man crawls to make the blood libation. But this last and rather unpleasant performance is not often done.

January 20.

The Maharaja, rather bored with rhino shooting after the last two days, turned again to tiger, and once more quickened the heart beats of his entourage. Another 10-foot tiger had been ringed and wounded, when, to quote the official diary—'the tiger was seen coming straight towards the howdah from a spot over a hundred yards away. The entire shikar party raised a unanimous cry, 'Look, look, the tiger is going to charge. Your Highness should shoot him without delay'. The Maharaja replied 'Yes I see him, I will shoot him at a range of three yards', and continued watching in delight the charge of the tiger towards himself! True to his word, he fired as the tiger was taking his final jump and the tiger rolled on the ground. Two more bullets in his chest put an end to his depredations'.

The next ring enclosed a tigress, 3 rhinos, and a big boar, which went rushing around the ring, 'having a merry sport among themselves, with strange growls and grunts, a unique sight to see'.

January 21.

'Early this morning the Maharaja bathed in the sacred waters of the Narayani river, after which he gave in charity 108 cows, in strict accordance with the injunctions of the Hindu scriptures. This place, called Devghat (or the bathing place of the gods), is the confluence of the seven rivers of Gandak, and therefore particularly sacred, and mentioned in several of the Puranas'.

From here the return journey commenced to Hetaura and Kathmandu, marching again through the beautiful Dun of the Rapti valley. On the 21st and 22nd, 2 tigresses were shot and in one of these rings, a rare and alarming incident occurred. Before the Maharaja arrived, the two big tusker elephants Khor Prasad and Jaya
A THREE WEEKS' BAG.
Prasad suddenly and without apparent reason commenced a savage fight, and attacked each other with tusks and trunks. While the fight was raging, Khor Prasad’s mahout was thrown off and crashed to the ground, where he lay half stunned. The other elephant, Jaya Prasad, turned on him, and tried to gore him, and with a great lunge thrust his tusks deep into the ground, one on each side of the unfortunate mahout! Some plucky rescuers quickly pulled him out, and when the elephant was brought under control again, the mahout, though bruised and shaken, was otherwise unhurt. A remarkable escape!

On the 22nd afternoon, with His Highness’s permission, various members of his staff went out shooting rhino, and the remarkable bag of 5 rhinos was shared between Commanding General Baber, Major Generals Surya, Brahma and Narayan, and Colonel Surendra. The next day (January 23), the Maharaja shot a tiger, measuring 9 feet 4 inches, which was almost white with black stripes and he was delighted to get this rare specimen.

The camp marched back to Hetaura, on the Kathmandu motor road, by easy stages, arriving there on 29th, and during these days a few more tigers and a couple of rhino were shot.

Thus ended a memorable shoot, with a record number of 41 tigers and 14 rhinos shot, considering the limited period of 21 days’ shooting. Commanding General Kaiser Shumshere, who was in charge of the shooting arrangements on this trip, received the thanks and appreciation of His Highness for the splendid sport that had been obtained.
CHAPTER VII.

THE VICEROY SHOOTS IN CHITAWAN, 1938.

In 1938 the Maharaja invited His Excellency the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, to a big game shoot in Nepal, an invitation which was gladly accepted, and it was arranged for the first week in December. According to the Maharaja's instructions, Commanding General Bahadur, who was in charge of shikar and camp arrangements, left for the area selected for the shoot two weeks before the Viceroy was due to arrive, to make all the necessary arrangements for the camps, as well as for the efficient organisation of the shikar arrangements. He worked night and day, attending to the smallest details, and it is a great tribute to his organising capacity that everything connected with the camp was perfect, and the shoot was such a magnificent success. A large camp was laid out at Bhikna Thori, on the boundary between India and Nepal, and a large party was entertained, which included His Excellency the Viceroy, Lady Linlithgow, their three daughters, and the Viceregal staff, the British Minister (Colonel G. Betham, C.I.E., M.C.), Mrs. and Miss Betham, and the Legation Surgeon (Colonel Rogers).

As the Viceregal party were due to arrive at Bhikna Thori on December 2, His Highness the Maharaja left Kathmandu on November 28, reaching Bhikna Thori on the 30th, where he was met by the British Minister, the Legation Surgeon, Major Maxwell and others, and inspected the camp prepared for the Viceregal party. The next day His Highness inspected the stud of shikar elephants of which no less than 315 had been collected for this shoot. This does not include an unexpected, and on the whole rather unwelcome, addition of a gigantic wild tusker, who was very much in evidence around and close to the camp for the next week. The following remarkable incident occurred before the Viceroy's arrival, which was seen by the British Minister and others.

News was received that the tusker was in the forest to the east of the camps, and while a party of female elephants was reconnoitring along a broad stream, he suddenly appeared from the dense tree forest, and came towards the small female elephants, who rapidly retired. Large reinforcements of tame elephants, including some of the big fighting tuskers, were collected and advanced on the wild one, who, as
the official record puts it—"did not care a fig". More of the fighting elephants arrived and stood around the wild one, but were unwilling to attack. However with the increased numbers and the yelling of the mahouts, the wild one turned round and ran away, to be followed hell-for-leather by the whole pack. He escaped this time, and continued (as described later) to cause trouble round the camps, until further steps were taken to capture him (Photo ii of plate 14 shows him being led after capture).

The Viceroy had unavoidably to postpone his arrival by one day, and came on the 3rd. As this is an account of the shikar, we can pass over the formal arrival, the inspection of the guard of honour, the official visits and introductions and so on, and proceed to the first shoot, which followed soon after the Viceroy reached the camp. Two kills had been reported; in one case the tiger had departed to the nearby hills, but in the other a tiger was successfully encircled. The first tiger of the shoot was, naturally, to fall to His Excellency who, accompanied by His Highness, and the whole Viceregal party all agog to see the famous Nepal ring in action, motored and then rode on pad elephants to the place.

When the party had mounted the howdahs, the beater elephants commenced operations. A good idea of the ring, with the purdah wall and the Viceregal party in howdahs, is given in the accompanying illustrations (see plate 16). It will be noted that in one respect these shoots differed from the Maharaja's usual custom when himself shooting. All the guns and howdahs are massed on the edge of the ring, and not hunting about inside. The Maharaja, in fact, with memories of innumerable fighting tigers scrapping with the elephants, mauling them, putting them to flight, would not expose his distinguished guests, and the ladies, to the major risks of tiger shooting which he habitually faced himself. Thus the manipulation of the ring on the Viceroy's shoot largely eliminated the nerve-racking episodes as described in other chapters of this book. The remarkable crack shooting of the Viceroy and the party generally throughout the shoot eliminated the rest, and although it took longer to bring the tigers to the guns, the official diary records that only one elephant was scratched during the shoot.

To revert to the beater elephants, whom we left working methodically through the ring*. "After a long time the tiger started and came bounding round to where the Viceroy was in his howdah. At the first sight of the tiger, His Excellency fired a .450 bullet and the animal collapsed. Another bullet, and it rolled over dead". A tigress 8 feet 10 inches, a lucky augury for a successful shoot.

* Quotations in inverted commas are (as usual) from the translation of the official diary.
December 4.

A plethora of kills were reported to-day from various directions, no less than five by tigers and two more by leopards. Two shoots were organised, in one Lady Linlithgow was to shoot, in the other Major Maxwell. A delightful snapshot of Lady Linlithgow in the ring is shown in plate 30, with the Viceroy, the A.D.C., the mahouts and others excitedly pointing out the tiger as it breaks cover. "Her Excellency fired two shots, one of which hit the mark, and the tiger turned into cover in the middle, and for a long time he could not be induced to come out. Then His Highness took Their Excellencies to the north side of the ring, where presently Her Excellency fired another shot, and the Viceroy backed it with a bullet which proved a fatal shot".

Meanwhile some miles away Major Maxwell's shoot proved equally successful, and he bagged a tigress 9 feet 3 inches.

This however did not end the day's excitement. In the evening the big wild tusker turned up at the Viceroy's camp, and remained some time in full view of the party—the Viceroy commenting this was the first wild elephant they had ever seen.

December 5.

His Excellency having expressed a desire to have what the Nepalese call "minor sport"—i.e., general shikar with a line of elephants for anything from a quail to a rhino, Commanding General Bahadur set out with the party at 7 a.m. Meanwhile news arrived later of 3 tiger kills and one leopard kill, and by midday it was known that 2 tigers had been successfully ringed, one five miles away and one 20 miles away. Two parties were again formed, Lady Anne Hope to shoot at the nearer, and a party under General Surya and Colonel Betham went to the distant one.

"The tiger came charging straight at Lady Anne's elephant, she fired two shots in a hurry, one of which hit the tiger, who retreated into mid-cover. The beater elephants attempted to start it, but the tiger would not come out, it simply growled and threatened them. Colonel Toogood suggested it might now injure men, and so with the Viceroy's permission he fired, and the tiger started quickly to be killed by two shots from Lady Anne and one from the Viceroy". It was a very fine tiger measuring 10 feet 1 inch.

Meanwhile the other party with Colonel Betham, Colonel Rogers, Major Maxwell and Captain Chandos Pole were trying conclusions with a still bigger tiger. For the best part of two hours the beast kept bounding round inside the ring, giving occasional fleeting glimpses but never
a shot. At last Colonel Betham suggested that as it was getting late, the howdah guns had better enter the ring and walk it up. After some demur this was adopted. The tiger was found sitting on his haunches, with his tongue hanging out, panting from his two hours' exertion. He was soon killed—the final shot from a rifle of some gigantic bore of Captain Pole's shattering the skull completely. This magnificent tiger measured 10 feet 4 inches.

That night, the big wild tusker walked into the Nepalese camp, and passed close to the tent of Senior Commanding General Mohan Shumshere. The next morning he was in evidence again. To quote the official diary:—"The band played at 10-15 a.m. before the Viceroy's camp. Sixty of them, while returning to their encampment, met the wild elephant, and all were paralysed in nervous fear. One fell upon the other, and the whole party became a solid entangled mass. However, when a party of orderlies arrived, they started up on their legs and departed to their lodgings".

December 6 and 7.

There was no tiger or rhino shooting on these days, which were pleasantly passed in general shikar, in paying and returning visits, in talks about shikar and other matters, and dodging the attentions of the ubiquitous wild elephant. On one occasion when the ladies of the party were out shooting, a wild commotion in their rear signalled the presence of the wild tusker between them and the camp, and a strategic flank movement was carried out to avoid him. In the evening he came so close to the camp, that the Viceroy suggested to His Highness that something might be done about it. His Highness replied that he would arrange accordingly. It will be explained later that His Highness's arrangements for disposing of this wild elephant were satisfactory.

December 8.

As the tigers around Bhikna Thori had apparently become shy, operations and the elephants were transferred to Kasra, 30 miles away in the Rapti valley, to which a motorable road had been constructed for facility of shikar.

From Kasra, as might be expected from this wonderful big game centre, news came in by telephone of six kills, and one tiger in particular was reported to be enormous, as it had dragged its kill over a mile. At 10 o'clock the Viceroy and the party set off in half a dozen cars and a bus or two, and reached Kasra at midday. As the motors came out
of the tree forest on to the banks of the Rapti river, suddenly the incomparable view, which has been described elsewhere, burst on them, and held the whole party spell-bound and enthralled. His Excellency remarked to His Highness he had never dreamed there could be such magnificent scenery. A final touch to the appeal of that jungle scene was provided by two rhinos, who chose that moment to cross the river in full view.

His Highness went personally to make arrangements for the ring in which a very big tiger was successfully enclosed. His Highness asked the Viceroy to shoot it, as it was of such a magnificent size, but the Viceroy explained that Lady Doreen had had the luck of the draw in camp and asked that she might be allowed to shoot it. The Maharaja gave the order for the beater elephants to start operations and very soon the tiger broke cover and came towards the howdahs. As soon as Lady Doreen saw it, she fired two shots, which took effect, and two more shots killed him.

"The party went inside the ring to inspect the dead tiger, which measured 10 feet 8 inches and proved a record size for the shoot. His Highness congratulated the lady, who received the joyful clapping of all the party with a beaming smile”.

The party then proceeded to an area of terrific grass growth, where there were two rhinos located. The sound of the rhinos frightened some of the elephants. When the first rhino was started, the Viceroy’s elephant attempted to bolt in panic. So His Highness mounted the Viceroy on his own elephant Bhimgaj, which was very staunch to rhino, and although the rhino charged him with fury this splendid elephant did not flinch an inch. This gave a chance to His Excellency and the rhino collapsed after two well-directed shots. The Viceroy was very impressed with the staunchness of the Maharaja’s favourite, Bhimgaj, which contributed greatly to the success of the shoot.

After some refreshment at Kasra, the Maharaja led the way to another ring nearby where a tiger was enclosed, and the Viceroy suggested that Lady Joan should shoot. The tiger was soon driven out of cover and came towards the howdah. Lady Joan took an admirable shot, and the tiger pitched backwards. The bullet hit him in the shoulder and he died. He measured 9 feet 3 inches.

After this, the Maharaja said there was still one more ring nearby and asked if the Viceroy would care to shoot it. Lady Linlithgow suggested that the A.D.C., Captain Ker, had not yet had a shot, and it was decided that he should bag the beast. It proved to be a tigress measuring 9 feet.
(i) TIGER CAUGHT ALIVE.

(ii) RHINOS BREAK COVER AND CHARGE.
The Viceroy Shoots in Chitawan, 1938.

And so, after a wonderful day’s shikar, which included a record tiger and 2 other tigers and a rhino, the party motored back in the gloaming for 30 miles through the virgin forests of Chitawan, reaching camp at 7-45 p.m.

During the morning, while waiting for news, the Viceroy and party were entertained by Commanding General Bahadur bringing the Maharaja’s wonderful jewelled durbar headdress for their inspection.

December 9.

The penultimate day of the Viceroy’s shoot and one which all who were present will never forget. The shooting to-day was around Sukhibar, 30 miles from Thori, and not far from Kasra, in another part of the Rapti valley.

The Maharaja did not accompany the party to-day; General Surya and Colonel Chet went in advance to make the rings, and the Senior Commanding General Mohan and Commanding General Bahadur accompanied the party who started in the misty morn at 8-15.

It was a day on which, so the diary records—" The English gentlemen fired at random and it was rather difficult to decide whose bullet took effect ". So apparently the owner of the trophy was decided by who fired the first shot.

The first ring, which was reached about 10-30, was comparatively hum-drum. A tiger broke cover and came towards the Viceroy, who fired the first bullet, and other gentlemen and ladies backed him up. The tiger fell dead and measured 9 feet 11 inches.

The second ring was much more exciting, and the party had the thrilling experience of having to tackle 4 full-grown tigers (2 tigers and 2 tigresses) all together in the ring, and all between 8 and 10 feet in length!

"When the beating began, several tigers were found inside the ring. As the first tiger was coming towards the howdahs, the Viceroy fired the first bullet and a fusilade followed from the rest of the party, which made an end of the tiger and he measured 9 feet 11 inches. Again the second tiger (a tigress) was started, and was met with a bullet from the Viceroy, and other members backed up His Excellency, and the tigress collapsed. She measured 8 feet.

"After this Jaya Prasad, the big tusker, went forward to start the third tiger, which charged him and hung from his head for sometime, making a deep gash. The tigers began to growl everywhere, and their deep thunderous menace of 'whang—whang' and 'whung—whung'
filled the air as they saw the elephants coming towards them and enclosing them on all sides. His Excellency shouted to his A.D.C., Captain Southby, to shoot and the latter accordingly fired a shot, after which other people backed him up with random shots and the tiger fell dead at last. He also measured 9 feet 11 inches. The final tigress measured 9 feet 2 inches and was shot by Colonel Toogood”.

Thus ended a remarkable day’s sport which accounted for 5 tigers, 4 of which were shot in one ring!

**December 10.**

This was to be final day’s shoot. “His Highness said that 13 tigers had been killed by the Viceroy and party, and as 13 was regarded as a very unlucky number he wanted the Viceroy to add one more to the bag, and 2 or 3 rhinos also. *So His Highness ordered Commanding General Bahadur to make the necessary arrangements*. (Our italics.) Where else in the world could such an order be given, with complete assurance that it would be carried out? It is, of course, only the superb Nepal organisation and abundance of animals that makes it possible to give such an order at all. And on this last day of the shoot Commanding General Bahadur obeyed the Maharaja’s order and one tiger and 2 rhinos were added to the bag!

But the first rhino, judging by the record in the diary, evidently caused Commanding General Bahadur a good deal of anxiety. “Two of the rhinos encircled could not be prevented from breaking through the ring and bolted away into the jungle, but the third rhino remained. The Viceroy caught sight of it, but as he did not fire Commanding General Bahadur urged him to have a shot. The Viceroy did not fire for a long time, most probably because he was looking for a vital spot where the bullet would take most effect. At last he fired and the rhino fell down. The Viceroy did not fire again, in spite of the request of Commanding General Bahadur, and at the same time the rhino got up and ran away towards the line. People thought it had effected its escape, but a mahout flung a missile at the rhino and it fortunately turned back. Still His Excellency did not fire, but at the repeated and urgent requests of General Bahadur (who feared the rhino might escape altogether) the Viceroy fired again and the rhino fell down. The Viceroy did not fire again, saying he was certain the rhino would die, as it was hit in the neck. Shortly after, the rhino was found dead, a very old one without teeth and a good horn”. The second rhino of the day was shot by Colonel Toogood.

The tigress shot after lunch also produced some thrills. She refused to be beaten out to the howdahs on the ring side, and threatened the
beater elephants. At last she charged Jaya Prasad, the big tusker, who gored her with his tusk and pressed her with his knees. Then Senior Commanding General Mohan and Commanding General Bahadur, departing from the usual practice for the Viceroy's shoot, requested His Excellency to advance into the ring and walk up the furious tigress and shoot her. So the Viceroy and Lady Linlithgow and the three daughters experienced the biggest and most dangerous thrill that tiger shooting provides, following up a fighting and cornered tiger in his lair! The tigress had apparently been hurt by Jaya Prasad, as she could not charge but menace the elephants with roars and threatening gestures. She was killed by two shots from Lady Linlithgow and measured 9 feet 3 inches.

And thus ended this wonderful shoot, which the Viceroy acknowledged in his farewell speech to the Maharaja that night as follows:—

"Nothing could have been more delightful than the setting which Your Highness has chosen for our camp. The memory of the amazing shikar which you have provided for our party will indeed be a lasting one, and I cannot be sufficiently grateful to you for having given me a chance to shoot rhinos. Let me take the opportunity to say how greatly we have enjoyed the activities of the wild tusker who stepped in occasionally to make his brief appearance on the stage in the river valley. I thank Your Highness once again most warmly on behalf of myself, Lady Linlithgow, my family and my staff for your unvarying kindness to us all, and for the immense trouble you have taken of every detail of this never-to-be-forgotten visit". The total bag in eight days included 14 tigers and 3 rhinos.

This year the chief of the staff was Senior Commanding General Mohan Shumshere J. B. R. who looked after all arrangements in connection with the Viceroy's tour and travelling.

THE MAHARAJA SHOOTS IN THORI—CHITAWAN.

After the departure of the Viceroy and party, the Maharaja stayed on at Thori for a few days to enjoy some shikar himself, and there occurred one of the most amazing incidents in shikar that has ever been recorded, and that must now be described.

THE DEATH OF RAM PRASAD.

On December 13, the wild tusker had been seen in the Tute-kholastram, not far from the camp, but had gone back into the forest. His Highness gave instructions that, if possible, the wild one should
be brought back into the stream bed below a high bluff, 50 feet high, from where an elephant fight could be watched in safety. Accordingly General Nara and Colonels Chet, Neer, Surendra and Shanta went off to make the necessary arrangements.

At 3-30 p.m. the wild elephant was seen approaching the stream, and the Maharaja, the Bara Maharani, Generals and staff, went and sat down on benches and seats on top of the bluff, below which it was hoped to stage the elephant fight. But the wild elephant would not come out into the stream bed of his own accord, and showed an indication of going back into the forest. So a number of female elephants went across to entice him out, and he rose to the occasion, and followed them into the open [see plate 13, photo (i)].

The big fighting tuskers, Bikram Prasad and Bahadur Prasad, were then brought out to attack him, but refused to advance, and in fact the latter, despite his name—(Bahadur means brave)—turned tail and ran away. But a comparatively small makna (a tuskless male) called Ram Prasad, with his mahout and pachwa (the man who stands behind), with incredible pluck on the part of man and beast alike crashed forward and began to fight. It must be realised that the wild elephant was of huge size and weight and had powerful sharp-pointed tusks. What a wonderful setting for a primeval titanic fight, with the Maharaja, the ladies and high officials of the court looking down on the jungle stream bed, and the dense high forest behind, watching a scene that civilised men have seldom seen—the wild elephant fighting in his jungle haunts for his life and freedom! To quote from the diary:—

"The tussle was a very thrilling one, and although his trunk was wounded by the tusk of the wild elephant, Ram Prasad knocked him about and the mahout wounded him with his lance. No other elephant would go forward to help him against the wild one. For four or five minutes the fight continued and the spectacle was most exciting and dramatic. Then our elephants made an encircling movement round the wild elephant at close quarters, who turned and bolted away along the stream banks, and Ram Prasad pursued his rival, striking him with his trunk, pulling his tail, and trying to entangle his back legs, while the mahout too made thrusts with his lance in an admirable manner, and the whole pack of tame elephants followed closely behind. It was a very fine sight to see the wild one being pursued by the domestics like a hawk is sometimes pursued by a flock of crows [see plate 14, photo (i)].

"Then a surprising reverse took place, as the wild elephant suddenly turned back and charged his rival Ram Prasad violently from a vantage ground which placed the smaller elephant at a disadvantage. Ram
(i) LADY LINLITHGOW PREPARES TO SHOOT.

(ii) THE VICE ROY WITH RHINO.
Prasatl retired, but the wild elephant turned him over and began to gore the prostrate body with his tusks at various points, sometimes on the head, sometimes on the limbs. For sometime he placed his feet upon the body and tried to crush it with his mighty weight. The pachwa jumped off Ram Prasad’s back at the first onset, but the mahout was seen going down with the falling makna, and all the beholders cried out in pity for the poor mahout, thinking it was all over with him. But God’s will is wonderful, and the impossible sometimes turns out to be possible. Jaghan Dhari, the mahout, was in imminent danger of being crushed by the weight of his own elephant, but in some miraculous way he was jerked off and fell behind the hind legs of the wild elephant, and crawled away into safety.

"The wild elephant was about to kill Ram Prasad, when Commanding General Bahadur and others, with a number of domestics, went forward and resorted to blank firing. This did not drive off the enfuriated elephant, but a bullet in the leg at last made it fly into the jungle. The pachwa, Ram Lotan, was almost unconscious with fright, and came running along the stream bed, and could not speak a single word when he came before His Highness.

"Ram Prasad was prostrate, and a large number of men were employed in giving him some relief when His Highness went down to inspect the daring fighter, who had earned for himself immortal renown by his unexampled bravery. Ram Prasad could not be moved at that time, and His Highness gave orders that a number of men should keep guard over him with guns and torches during the night, as a precaution against the almost certain return of the wild one to the scene of the fight.

"Doctors were engaged in dressing the wounds, which were terrible, and men with explosives, crackers and guns were ready against accidents, when the wild elephant returned again in the night, and although it was scared away for a time by the report of guns, it returned again. The prostrate Ram Prasad got its wind, and, with superb courage, staggered to his feet and advanced towards the jungle as if he wanted to have another bout. But a dozen female elephants were able to obstruct him, and he was taken to a more comfortable place about 300 yards away. The trunk, legs, neck, and thigh were injured very much severely, he could not raise his trunk, which was much swollen". This plucky fighting elephant died a few days later from his wounds. His equally heroic mahout escaped unhurt.

THE CAPTURE OF THE WILD TUSKER.

Two days later, on December 15, the wild tusker turned up again in the night and created some trouble in the hathisar. The news
being reported to His Highness, he gave orders to punish and if possible to capture him. A party of 10 or 15 female elephants, 8 or 10 tuskers, and 3 or 4 men with guns, accordingly set out to tackle the wild elephant. One is lost in admiration of the pluck of these Nepalese, who having seen for themselves two days before what this elephant could do when roused, set out again to try and capture him alive! The elephant was soon found, and this time Bahadur Prasad lived up to his name and reputation, and assisted by other tuskers, soon put the wild tusker to flight. Then followed the wild hunting shikar that has been described in chapter IV of this book. For mile after mile the great beasts went crashing through the forests, smashing down saplings and shrubbery, tearing through lianes and creepers. Whenever the wild elephant tried to turn or rest, Bahadur Prasad and Jaya Prasad, urged on by their mahouts, at once attacked with trunk and tusks. After three and half hours, the wild elephant was run to a standstill. Bahadur Prasad and Bikram Prasad, the two biggest tame tuskers, closed in, one on either flank, and pressed him firmly onward towards the bed of a nearby stream with flowing water. Here the elephants began to drink thirstily, and while the wild elephant was so engaged and prevented by side pressure from turning round, the other mahouts came up behind and quickly fastened nooses and strong ropes, tying the back legs together, and the great beast was captured!

One admires the combination of pluck and skill of the Nepalese which brought this exciting shikar to a successful conclusion.

For some time the elephant cooled itself by squirting water with its trunk over its body, and was then led away with strong ropes fastened to the tame tuskers. Thousands of people from the camp and villages stood in the stream bed and witnessed the triumphal procession [see plate 14, photo (ii)].

THORI—SIKARIBAS.

After the strenuous shoot of the Viceroy and the thrills of the great elephant fight, a period of comparative quiet and leisure intervened, but during the next four weeks, 5 tigers, 8 leopards and a bear were added to the bag, while 7 small tiger cubs were captured alive and successfully tamed.

During the course of those shikar notes many cases of magnificent shooting have been recorded both by the Maharaja and by his guests. It will be of interest for a change to record a case where the shooting was not so magnificent, which illustrates also how the Nepal ring method achieves its purpose even when a tiger has been missed a number of times. The incident is taken out of its time and place, and the sportsman's anonymity is further preserved under the sign of X.
To quote the official account:—“When the beating began, the tiger was started fairly easily and he took his stand at a short distance that was fairly visible to the howdah men. X fired six continuous shots but all of them were a miss and could not hit the target. The tiger turned back and went into shelter in the middle of the ring. It was beaten out again and X fired eight more shots, the last of which hit the animal and the other seven failed. Still the tiger was not dead and Y fired two shots and killed it. After the death of the tiger, X expressed his regret for not being able to hit the target aright even with so many bullets”. The point of this little anecdote is this—- in what other method of tiger shooting is it possible to miss a tiger thirteen consecutive times, and still be able to shoot at him and get him with the fourteenth?

At the close of the year (Christian era), the Vice-Consul of Japan visited His Highness and stayed several days, an interested spectator of a number of successful shoots. During January there were a number of other visitors whom the Maharaja, with his usual generosity, had invited to shoot tiger and rhino. These included:—from January 12, the British Minister to Nepal and several friends; from January 22, the Maharao of Kota and his son; the following day Lord John Hope (the Viceroy’s son); with all these guests, the shikar bandobast again became busy and for the next three weeks there was not a single blank day!

On the 13th, the British Minister and party were privileged to see an astonishing incident, which well illustrates the almost incredible pluck of the Nepalese.

A few miles from Thori camp a leopard had killed and dragged a padah, but when a ring was made a big (7-foot) tiger cub was seen. (A good photograph of this tiger, taken later, is shown in plate 28.) His Highness conjectured the mother tigress would be in the vicinity and asked the British Minister and his friends to go and shoot.

"When the Minister reached the place, he took a howdah, and the beater elephants were ordered to start the cub, in order to capture it. But as this cub was a full-fledged one it began to pursue the beater elephants for some distance. This went on for an hour or so, and when the cub was tired, the men were asked if they could capture it alive”. Tired or not, it seems a tall order to catch a 7-foot tiger alive, who has been cornered and has chased the elephants. To continue the official narrative:—“ As it was a full-fledged cub, the mahouts and pachiras would not venture to go forward to capture it. But an orderly named Dhan Bahadur got down from his elephant, approached the cub and tried to throw a blanket over it. The cub jumped over the blanket
towards the orderly, but fortunately his life was saved by his agility. Then a long patch of white cloth was thrown, which entangled the tiger, and as it was rolling about, the orderly with the help of a pachewa covered it with a blanket and began to press it. After this all the men gathered together and some tied up his legs and some secured his head, and thus the tiger was bound securely. He was later placed in a big pit covered with logs of wood, and was thus caged”. A photograph of the tiger in this pit is shown on plate 28, and this picture underlines the pluck of the orderly Dhan Bahadur to tackle it and capture it alive!

Next day, according to His Highness’s orders, this tiger was set free and departed unharmed. The same day a tiger was shot, and on the 15th, a leopard, which actually attacked the elephants and mauled one of them, a most unusual action for a leopard to take, as leopards usually trust to their powers of slinking out unobserved.

THE MAHARAJA’S GUESTS IN CHITAWAN.

With the arrival of the camps in this happy hunting ground for big game, the tempo of the sport accelerated. On January 16, there were eight kills in various directions and 3 tigers were shot, 2 of them by the British Minister. The 17th accounted for one tiger and 2 leopards. On the 18th, some bird beats were organised for the English guests which led to exciting episodes. In one beat a leopard attacked one of the shikari beaters and escaped, while in another a bear and large cub charged one of the sportsmen, who in self-defence fired at the cub at short range, and another shot finished it off, meanwhile the mother bear ran away.

And so the shoot went on, every day producing some new adventure and some new thrill for the Maharaja’s guests. Thus on the 21st, the bag was 4 tigers and one rhino by Mr. Kilburne; on 22nd and 23rd, 3 tigers and one rhino by the Maharao of Kota and one tiger by Mr. McQueen Grant; from 24th to 26th, a tiger and a rhino by Lord John Hope, and one tiger, one rhino and 2 leopards by other sportsmen. At this time also a lion and a lioness from the Nepal Zoo were released in the forests, possibly to add variety in future in this big game paradise! However a lion bred in a zoo would have no chance against a jungle tiger, and as recorded later in this chapter, this pair turned into atrocious cattle-killers and steps were taken to kill them.

January 27 was a busy day. The huge camps had to be dismantled, packed up and transported to the banks of the Narayani or Great Gandak river, and thence ferried across in country boats and dug-outs and pitched again on the further shore. A score or so of motors and lorries, a thousand or so camp followers, servants, and
THE VICE-ROY WAITS AT THE RING, CHITAWAN.
shikaris, the howdahs and gear of a few hundred elephants had similarly to be ferried across, while the elephants, of course, swam. It is a delightful sight to see a long string of elephants swimming across one of the bigger Himalayan rivers like the Gandak with a cold weather flow of about 10,000 cusecs. They are stripped bare, and a mahout or pachwa, clothed with only a loin cloth, stands on the back, holding on to a rope round the elephant’s throat.

One after the other the elephants wade into the river, and as they wade out of their depths, they commence swimming. They submerge completely except for the tip of their trunks which project from the surface like small periscopes, and the men standing on their backs are also submerged to their armpits.

Then the great beasts surge upwards until the men are standing well above the water, and the elephants’ heads and backs are fully visible. Again and again they alternately submerge and emerge, so that the whole line looks like a school of gigantic porpoises, ridden by naked glistening standing men, rolling and waving across the great river—a most fascinating sight.

Having crossed over, there was plenty of work awaiting them, and while the camps were being pitched and made ready, the Maharaja and his guests indulged in shikar. As the Maharaja crossed the river, news was received that Commanding General Bahadur had ringed a leopard in a field of cane near an adjoining village, and His Highness proceeded to shoot it. This leopard had created havoc amongst the village cattle, and all the villagers were overjoyed at its death.

Four of the padahs tied up overnight had been killed, and near one of these a big tiger and a tigress were successfully ringed. As Lord John Hope had not yet had a chance of shooting a big tiger, His Highness asked him to shoot the big one, while His Highness himself would shoot the tigress. The programme was carried out according to plan, the tiger measuring 10 feet 1 inch.

At the next ring the roars of the enclosed tiger disturbed and frightened a leopard, that was also in the ring, to such an extent that it was seen hastily climbing a tall tree. As the Viceroy’s son had not yet shot a leopard, His Highness asked him to take this chance, which he did and brought the leopard crashing to the ground, but did not kill it. It had however to be left for the present, as the tiger chose this moment to rush from cover and threaten to charge the howdah elephants. The Maharaja fired and wounded him badly, but he swerved aside and violently attacked another tusker, Jaya Prasad, inflicting a severe wound on his trunk. Shortly afterwards His Highness finished him off, and he measured 10 feet 1 inch.
After this the wounded leopard required attention. It came charging the beating elephants, and once it made a violent jump on the head of an elephant and clawed it before it was killed. It measured 7 feet 4 inches.

Meanwhile Commanding General Bahadur and the British Minister had been busy in another direction tackling another big tiger, which after sometime and much excitement the British Minister shot, and it measured just 10 feet. After this the whole party returned to camp, but on the way, when it was nearly dark, Commanding General Bahadur saw another leopard, which he succeeded in killing by the light of some flickering torches!

Thus ended this remarkable day, with a total bag of 3 10-foot tigers and 2 leopards. However this led to no rest for the hard worked elephants and hard working shikaris. The next morning’s reports indicated four kills and 7 rhinos located. With this plethora of big game, His Highness arranged for three shooting parties. Captain Prakat Man, with the British Minister and his American friend Mr. Grant, went after rhino. To quote the diary notes:—“A rhino was seen and it was pursued by them for a long time, and at last Mr. Grant fired a bullet that took it on its shoulder joint and it ran away with a trail of blood behind it. At a distance of 400 or 500 yards it was found dead. The horn was 17 inches in length. After the death of the animal, all the gentlemen were besides themselves with joy”.

In the second party, Commanding General Bahadur shot a 10-foot tiger.

In the third party the Maharaja was accompanied by his young son Babu Sahib Meena Shumshere. The Maharaja shot a tiger and, in the evening on the way home, the young Babu Sahib shot a rhino, killing it with two cartridges, a remarkable feat for a youngster, which highly delighted his father, who gave him a reward of Rs. 1,000 (£70). It should be recorded however that the Maharaja was equally generous to several other members of his entourage on this shoot when they successfully killed their first rhino.

On January 29, Lord John Hope’s week of delirious shikar was completed, and he left early after thanking His Highness for his wonderful time and his wonderful bag of 2 tigers, a rhino and a leopard. The British Minister and his friends departed four days later, taking with them some splendid shikar trophies, and memories of unforgettable days, glorious scenery, and wonderful forests. In those four days the bag was 4 tigers, 5 rhinos, and 2 leopards, while 4 tiger cubs and one rhino calf were captured alive.
THE MAHARAJA COMPLETES HIS TOUR IN CHITAWAN.

February 3 was a remarkable day for rhino. No less than a dozen had been located within a mile of the camp and His Highness sallied forth with a large number of other sportsmen of his court. The first rhino encountered was a huge old male, and it is mentioned in the records that he was musth. He seemed quite fearless and allowed the howdah elephant to approach within ten yards, at which range His Highness killed it with a bullet in the neck. "The horn that measured 20 inches was thick, glossy and beautiful".

After this the other Generals, Colonels, and Babu Sahibs (sons and grandsons of His Highness) were given permission to shoot one rhino each, and a number of different shikar parties were formed in different directions. As the beats began, the characteristic champing and grunting noises of rhinos were heard, and sport became fast and furious. In the end no less than 5 rhinos were successfully bagged, and this day made a unique record in that three generations on one day each shot a rhino, i.e., the Maharaja, his son Commanding General Bahadur and his grandson General Nara (see plate 33).

February 4.

A Gurkha officer (Major Thompson) who had been attached to the Legation in Nepal for a year, turned up in camp with his wife, to say farewell to His Highness. After the usual greetings, His Highness generously said—"You have taken so much trouble to come so far. A kill has been reported, and elephants have gone to make a ring. If news comes that the tiger has been successfully ringed, you go and kill it". Delighted with this unexpected honour and opportunity, Major and Mrs. Thompson went off with the liaison officer, Captain Prakat Man, and were soon at grips with a peculiarly vicious tigress. She started tearing round the ring, roaring fiercely and, finding no escape, made a violent jump on to the head of an elephant and started clawing it; shaken off, she then charged that valiant tusker Jaya Prasad, who, the record states, "lifted the tiger with his trunk and threw it away".

As the tigress refused to come out to Major Thompson, but instead was busy attacking the beater elephants in the middle, creating great uproar and confusion, Major Thompson had perforce to go to her. When he had an opportunity, he fired both barrels, one shot hitting her leg. Whereupon she turned and charged straight at the howdah, but Major Thompson, having quickly reloaded, successfully hit her again, killing her with a shot in the head at close range, before she could charge
home on to his elephant. Thus his last day in Nepal was also the most exciting!

And so this incredible and record-breaking shoot continued. Day after day the total of tigers, rhino, leopard, bear, etc., increased, and no days were altogether blank. Some of the outstanding days may be briefly mentioned.

**February 5.**

There were thirteen kills and 5 rhinos located, of which, during the day, 4 tigers and one rhino were shot.

**February 6.**

Three tigers, including an enormous one of 10 feet 8 inches.

**February 7.**

A record day with a family of 4 tigers, 2 other tigers (making six in all), one rhino and a crocodile.

**February 9.**

Six tiger cubs, previously captured, were let loose.

**February 12.**

Three tigers (including one of 10 feet 5 inches) and one rhino.

**February 16.**

Another record day around Jhawani camp, in the heart of Chitawan. The camp moved eight miles southward from Judapani, and on arrival at the Jhawani camp at 11-30, His Highness and party heard of a rhino a few hundred yards away. However an hour’s hunting proved abortive. Meanwhile *khabbar* came in of eleven kills, and while the elephants were being collected to go off another mounted messenger dashed up to say a leopard had just killed a calf in a banana grove near a village two miles away, and Commanding General Bahadur went off to kill the cattle-killer. There were in fact 2 leopards, one an enormous male nearly 8 feet long, and a smaller female.

On his return to camp, General Bahadur went off in one direction to make a ring with half the elephants, while General Nara went off in another. In the latter ring, a family of 4 tigers was successfully enclosed and, according to custom, shot.
His Highness then proceeded to another kill in the vicinity, where he shot a huge tigress measuring 9 feet 8 inches. This equalled his record tigress shot two years before in the Morang forests.

Meanwhile Commanding General Bahadur who was having a busy day, had successfully circled another "king of the jungle". To quote the diary:- "The beater elephants were pursued by the tiger, and he would not let them go near him. He growled and thundered and all the beater elephants ran away in panic to the outer ring. As the tiger would not come within sight of the howdah elephants, His Highness with Commanding General Bahadur advanced into the ring, and attacked him in his lair. One bullet struck him, and he fled into heavy grass cover in the centre, where His Highness killed him with two more bullets. This tiger had a big round head and was of a dreadful appearance". The measurement was 10 feet 8 inches, and it proved nearly equal to the record size shot by His Highness seven years earlier in the same Rapti valley. The diary naively remarks. "As it was getting late, His Highness had no time to bag other tigers to-day!" However the day had produced the amazing total of 6 tigers (including a record tiger and tigress) and 2 leopards. The next morning a photograph was taken of the big tigers (see plate 39).

It is impossible, and would be rather boring, to record in detail all the incidents of this amazing shoot, so we will skip a week and go on to February 23. Many reports had been coming from the villagers of damage and destruction to their herds of cattle by two new and ferocious animals, which, from the descriptions given, were clearly the two African lions that had been released in the valley a month before. His Highness therefore decided to kill them, or they might turn into man-eaters in future. He therefore asked Commanding General Bahadur to shoot them, and also to pay to the cattle owners the price of all cattle killed by them. General Bahadur killed the male with two shots, possibly the only occasion on record where African lions have been shot in Indian jungles. It measured 8 feet 4 inches, a relatively small beast compared to the mighty tigers of this tract. The lioness however escaped but was shot a few days later. She was naturally safe from the attacks of male tigers, and it would have been interesting to see if cross-bred "tigons" ever appeared in Chitawan, which have at times been born in Indian zoos. But it would have been a dangerous experiment, as she was clearly only fit to kill cattle. On the following day there occurred an extraordinary incident. When making a ring round a kill about a mile from the camp, it was noticed that a tiger and a big black himalayan bear were enclosed, and a messenger carried the news back to camp. Soon after the beating elephants started their operations, an appalling uproar suddenly started in the undergrowth in the middle of
the ring; the fierce growling of the tiger mingled with what the diary calls "khwak khwak" noises of the bear, and it was evident a furious fight was on! To quote the eye-witness account of the diary:--"After several minutes the tiger was seen running away towards the howdah elephant, closely accompanied by two bears which pursued the tiger with their hands striking at its hips, singing their 'khwak khwak' noise, and exhibiting a kind of circus". As the running fight between the tiger and the 2 bears went blindly forward, they approached His Highness's howdah, and His Highness fired at and killed the bigger bear, which fell dead. But the surviving antagonists appeared too occupied or excited to notice this, and went on quarrelling and fighting in the same manner as if nothing had occurred, and disappeared again in the heavy undergrowth in the ring. Presently they appeared to separate, and the hullabaloo died down in silence. When the beater elephants went in again, first the bear came out and then the tigress and were shot by General Hari and His Highness respectively. They measured 5 feet 6 inches and 9 feet 1 inch. The diary adds—"This sort of interesting and spectacular fight between a tiger and bears was never witnessed by any one in this shikar before, so the joy of the whole party knew no bounds".

The shoot went on for another week, but this was the last remarkable or outstanding incident to be recorded. In a period of three months, from the arrival of the Viceroy to the close of the shoot on March 3, the total bag of the Maharaja and his guests and entourage made the following record total:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animals</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tigers</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhinos</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leopards</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bears</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant</td>
<td>1 (captured)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocodiles</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was a record shikar indeed for we find no parallel in the shikar records of the world anywhere, in a single season, to equal it.

This admirable result was due to the indefatigable labour, the expert knowledge and the managing capacity of the Commanding General Bahadur, who was A.D.C., General as well as the Chief Officer for His Highness's shikar. Chief of the staff, that is the head for other arrangements, was Senior Commanding General Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.
CHAPTER VIII.
MAHOTARI—SARLAHI—CHITAWAN, 1935-36.
THE MAHARAJA STARTS A THREE MONTHS' TOUR.

Between Morang in the east and Chitawan in the west are the two important revenue-producing districts of Mahotari and Sarlahti, stretching for more than 50 miles in width (from west to east) between the Bagmati and the Kamla rivers, and averaging about 30 miles in depth (from north to south), or roughly a total area of 1,500 square miles. The northern zone consists of a huge expanse of the Churia range of outer hills, a wild, uninhabited, and almost impassable tract of broken unstable slopes covered with a poor dry type of forest, the home of sambar and the breeding ground of tiger.

Below this broken infertile belt comes a broad gently sloping zone of Bhabar, the "charkosya jhari", where enormous deposits of sand and pebbles have been washed down from the Churia hills, a dry expanse where for most of the year there is no surface water whatever and wells are impossible. Hence it is unculturable and practically uninhabited, but forms a great belt of potentially valuable sal forest and very fine shikar country.

Below this again comes the rich, well-watered and fertile Terai, thickly populated and intensively cultivated, part of the zone that produces the bulk of the revenue of Nepal.

Since Nepal had become a kingdom, no Prime Minister or Ruler had ever visited these rather inaccessible districts for ages. Reports had been received in Kathmandu of the depredations of man-eaters and cattle-killers, and of damage to crops by wild elephants. His Highness also wanted to see for himself the condition of the people and give them an opportunity of representing to their ruler their needs and grievances or disputes. He therefore decided on an extensive tour during the cold weather of 1935-36, a tour which in fact covered 300 miles.

December 1, 1935.

To quote the official diary: --"His Highness the Maharaja started at 1.45 p.m. The way was lined by a large number of people. The sawari
speedily reached Amlekhgunj within five hours, covering a distance of over 50 miles. At the age of 61, His Highness shows wonderful health and vigour”.

To those who have undertaken this laborious journey, a world of astonishing energy is concealed behind those simple words! Two years before, His Highness made the same journey leisurely in five days which he now covered in five hours. The route has been described in an earlier chapter (see chapter V, the Maharaja in Naya Muluk), where it is mentioned that it involves ascents totalling nearly 7,500 feet and descents totalling nearly 10,500 feet, and that 21 miles is a rough and mountainous bridle road. The average traveller, including such Europeans who have been privileged to do the journey, arrives stiff and weary at Chisapani Garhi after eight laborious hours of travel, where they are glad to spend the night before completing the journey. But His Highness after doing the climb of 2,500 feet from Thankot to Chandragiri pass in half an hour (!), reaches Chisapani Garhi in three hours and, without a pause for rest, goes on to catch his waiting motor at Bhimphedi far down in the valley below. Most emphatically does this illustrate His Highness’s “wonderful health and vigour”.

Five minutes after the Maharaja arrived at Amlekhgunj camp, “a wild tusker elephant came to the adjoining hathisar (the encampment of tame elephants) and created a great confusion there, but went away after sometime”.*

December 2.

A kill having been reported, His Highness himself led off the string of elephants to make the ring. “Some 10 or 15 elephants that were coming after the first string were frightened by a shout of “Jungli Hathi” (wild elephant), and they ran helter-skelter, and five or six riders were thrown from their seats. The danger in such cases is from overhanging branches and climbers, which sweep off the riders as the elephants crash along on a disorderly course. One of the injured was Brigadier-Colonel Makar Dhoj Kharka, whose head was bleeding profusely, and whose legs were swollen by an injury inflicted by the elephant’s kick.

“The reason for this incident is very interesting. A certain mahout (not a Nepali one) cried out that a wild elephant was coming towards them. The domestic elephants are accustomed to learn human words, and they seemed to understand his language. They naturally took

* In this chapter as elsewhere, inverted commas indicate verbatim extracts direct from the translation of the diary.
fright, as they were not the trained and staunch elephants of Nepal,
but borrowed from merchants or mahajans from the plains, where there
are no forests. An elephant, in spite of its bulk, is a very cowardly
fellow, and the very jungle which was its old home, becomes a place of
terror and mystery to it after a long period of domestication in villages
and towns. The elephants then scattered about in panic, throwing
their riders as they got entangled. But when they found there was no
cause for alarm, and no wild one about, they soon came to reason and
stopped short in their confused scampering.

It may be explained here that domestic elephants are at least as
sensitive, in some psychic sort of way, to the internal fears and
unexpressed thoughts of their mahouts as they are to the spoken word,
and no doubt the fears of the desi mahouts at the reported approach of
a wild tusker added to the temporary panic. Needless to say, the Nepali
Tharu mahouts and their elephants, accustomed to the jungles, would
not have behaved in this comic way.

Incidentally, when the ring was made, there was no tiger inside.

December 3.

Another kill and another ring, which again proved blank. The
lack of water in this tract might have something to do with the relatively
large proportion of blank days in the Amlekhgunj forests.

While His Highness was returning from this ring, the wild elephant
referred to above really did turn up this time, and again "some of the
domestics were panic-stricken. They created great confusion with
their nervous dispersal, and riders were put to great difficulties to save
their lives; some were entangled among thorns and creepers, and some
were swept off their seats by obstructive branches. But this time no
bad injuries were sustained ".

December 4.

Some of the tame tuskers, the big fighting elephants, were told
off for a "Hathi-pita" or a pursuit and beat-up of the wild elephant
that was creating such a nuisance. "The wild elephant had a bout
with Shyam Prasad and Badshah Prasad, two of the Maharaja's male
elephants, and ran away into the jungle west of the railway line".
Unfortunately this laconic description is all that is recorded of what
must have been a titanic and thrilling struggle, as the spot " was found
where the wild elephant and the domestic tuskers had had a terrible
tussle, which was evidenced by the uprooted trees and broken branches.
and the scattering of logs and boulders".
Meanwhile there were two kills and two drags to engage the energies of the shikar party. The first ring again proved a blank, but the second provided a tigress " that bounded up with a roar, and the first shot from His Highness was enough to end her career. She tapped 8 feet 6 inches".

**December 5.**

A tiger was reported to have dragged the previous day's kill, but when the elephants encircled the area, yet again there was no tiger in the ring. So His Highness decided to have a " jhoruwa shikar ". a beat through the forest with a long line of elephants, advancing towards the hills. A number of chital and pig were put up and were allowed to escape unscathed. Presently an elephant called Sidhikali " showed itself very loath to go forward, in spite of the mahout's goading commands, and beat her trunk against the ground, accompanied by the emission of a hissing sound. The mahout's efforts to drive her forward had the contrary effect of making her retreat with persistence ". Her conduct was suddenly explained by the sight of a small tiger cub. This naturally gave rise to the expectation of the youngster's dam in the neighbourhood, and His Highness swung the line of elephants round into a ring. However no tigress appeared, and the young cub had slipped off unnoticed. So Sidhikali, the "thwacking elephant", was used as a pointer or setter to locate the cub again, which she did quite successfully, and this time two mahouts caught it alive with a blanket and it was taken back to camp. To use an elephant to locate a tiger cub, as a setter locates a partridge, is quite a novel idea!

**December 6.**

His Highness shot a fine leopard measuring 7 feet 6 inches.

BAGARI CAMP.

**December 7.**

The camp was moved to-day to Bagari. After lunch there was a general shoot with a line of elephants, and a leopard was put up. This incident was a beautiful example of the unequalled skill with which the Nepalese manipulate their rings. This leopard sneaked unseen out of the first ring, and was again successfully ringed. It slipped out the second time and yet once more. However the swift clever marshalling of the elephants enclosed it for the fourth time, and " he now resorted to the last of his cunning tricks, namely the climbing of a tree. He was soon brought down from a height of 20 feet and measured 6 feet.
**December 9.**

Four kills reported, but in accordance with the aggravating custom of the tigers of the tract they were nowhere near their kills, and the day was a blank.

**December 10 and 11.**

Some nilgai (literally “blue cow”, but actually an antelope) were seen, but these of course, owing to their name, cannot be shot in a Hindu country! “The kills obtained continued to fail to locate the tigers, and all sorts of theories were put forward to account for the non-success. Some attributed the absence of tiger in a properly formed circle to the errors of the shikaris in ‘cutting the circle’. Others blamed the shikaris for tying baits at places near which there was no drinking water. A few superstitious people grounded their arguments upon folk-lore, and claimed that the tiger was a ‘Guran’ tiger, meaning a ghost-tiger, into which some wizard converted himself, so that during the kill he was a tiger but during the hunt he was a man again”. In this forest there is undoubtedly a very old, very enormous, and very cunning tiger, which goes by the local name of ‘Ajingare Bagh’, who, when he kills a padah, makes a meal of it and “betakes himself away to a distance of 14 or 15 miles from the place, and thus succeeds in baffling the shikaris”. His Highness still hopes one day to get him, and that he will be 11 feet.

**December 12.**

A Nepalese coolie caught a leopard cub to-day and brought it into the camp.

**KANT CAMP AND BAKAIYA KHOLA.**

**December 14.**

Camp was moved to-day. There were no kills, therefore a blank day.

**December 15.**

Again no kills, but late in the afternoon a carcass of a nilgai was found, from which two tigers bolted away without offering a shot.

**December 16.**

At daybreak, General Bahadur Shumshere went off to make a ring around the nilgai that was found by chance the previous evening, and successfully ringed two tigers, which fell to His Highness and measured 8 feet 3 inches and 8 feet 2 inches.
December 18.

Dr. Domenico, the Italian Consul-General in India, arrived to-day in camp, and was in time to see 3 tigers (a tigress and 2 large cubs) shot in a successful ring.

Here let us leave for a while the big game shikar and the hunting of tigers and leopards, and instead we will follow the adventures and love affairs of a wild elephant, that obtruded himself on the camp at intervals during the following week. A large and surly old beast, who had at sometime been driven from the mastery of a wild herd and forced to roam the jungles lone and solitary, without the companionship of his kind, and only dreams of past conquests to solace his ache and longings.

One evening, while idly picking a branch here and a tuft of grass there, he suddenly comes on the scent of a considerable herd of elephants that have passed that way, including many female elephants. Cautiously following the tainted trail, he comes in the night to a great encampment of elephants, dotted with little grass chappars (huts) and twinkling with many fires. A female elephant (Bardakali by name) on the edge of the hathisar (elephant encampment) sees him, and timidly signals a greeting. Her mahout also sees him however, and raises a panemonium, in which the chara-cuts and pachras (other elephant attendants) join in. Nervous of man, he retires again into the solitude of the wild, and peace descends once more on the encampment. But next morning certain activities occur around the hathisar, which are beyond the ken of the wild one.

(Entry in the diary "December 20. As a wild elephant gave some trouble to-night, three pits were dug to receive him next time.") The next night, feeling more morose than ever, he bethought him of the succulent rice fields, ripening to harvest on the edge of the forest, and when night had fallen, he headed for them. Here again he was greeted with shouts and yells and the clattering of tins tied on long ropes. However here was no great encampment with twinkling fires, but only a couple of lonely cultivators, sitting up to protect their crops from marauders of the jungle, on a little platform raised on four slim poles. Angered at the clamour, the great beast went up to the little platform and without an effort pushed it over, and in the ensuing silence continued his interrupted meal. The next morning, again, there was further activity near the rice fields, of which he knew nothing. (Entry in the diary "December 21. To-night the wild elephant pulled down two villagers from the chappars from which they were looking after their crops. They were not mortally injured. As the wild elephant went away safely to-night, it was decided to drive lance heads into the ground
on his way, with the sharp points up, to capture him when he would be limping ").

Brooding next day in the lonely wild, the great tusker felt the call of his kind rising ever stronger, and his desire for the beautiful Bardakali at last overcame his fear of man with his twinkling fires and his great encampment. In the depth of night, moving like a great shadow silently through the dark forest, he came swiftly to the hathisar, and to his bride elect, the beautiful Bardakali. Pandemonium and wild confusion broke out again, but even the firing of blank cartridges failed to drive him from the area. Later however, when the Maharaja arrived on the scene on an elephant, he had gone, but this time not alone. Bardakali his beloved had gone with him!

(Extract from the diary - "At about three in the night, the wild elephant came and created much confusion........ After this the wild one ran away into the jungle........ He was reported to have eloped with a female of our hathisar called Bardakali ").

Next morning - "A messenger who was galloping in with the message of a kill, was suddenly confronted with the wild fellow, and his horse took fright. He fell off, but managed to mount his horse again without suffering any serious injury ".

The jungle honeymoon was apparently not altogether blissful, for the next entry in the diary reads:--

"December 25. Bardakali, the eloped elephant, was found in company of the wild one at a distance of five miles from the camp. The female wanted to run away from him, but whenever she showed her intention, the wild one went round her and obstructed her ways ".

For the next few days, silence envelopes this jungle idyll. Toomai, the elephant boy, saw the dance of the wild elephants, but who has seen their mating? The little story ends with the following entry in the diary:--"Bardakali, the runaway she-elephant, was found and brought to her shed by the mahouts. The wild fellow had abandoned her this time, since, according to the version of the mahouts, she was now pregnant ".

After this interlude, we turn again to big game shikar.

LAMAH AND TORI-BARI CAMP.

December 27.

A kill was reported in a patch of thick khair forest, interspersed with heavy grass. This tree (Acacia catechu) springs up naturally on gravel and sand deposits on the edges of all the streams and rivers
in the Terai. Anything more unpleasant than to make and manipulate a ring in a thicket of young khair poles it is difficult to imagine, as the branches and twigs of this "cad of a tree" (as a distinguished shikari once called it) have the most dreadful thorns, which pierce clothes and skin and flesh with ease. Any hasty movement on an elephant's back in such thickets usually has unpleasant and painful consequences, and with a wounded tiger charging and roaring about the ring, hasty movements are sometimes highly probable! The official report notes that two hours were spent in beating the tiger out of the dense undergrowth, and an exciting film was taken of the episode. The tiger measured 8 feet 8 inches.

On the way back to the camp a leopard was shot.

December 28.

General Bahadur went with the string of elephants to the site of a kill six miles away to the north, but the circle cut by the shikaris proved a failure, as no tiger was enclosed. So General Bahadur made a second cast, around a piece of very dense jungle, and this time succeeded in circling the tiger, "of a fairly magnificent size, who broke cover and dashed about inside the ring". This was premature however, as His Highness was miles away, and the duty of the advance party was to keep the tiger in the ring for an hour or two until his arrival.

"At 2-30, His Highness reached the place and moved into the ring with some beating elephants on either side. The tiger bounded off towards the southern side, but a raging pandemonium of yells, whistles, nervous trumpeting, and throwing of missiles checked him successfully, and he retired into the dense undergrowth of mid-space". A bullet hit him in the leg and made him madder than ever. For more than two hours the thrilling battle raged, the tiger alternately trying to break through and again retreating into invisibility. He measured 9 feet 7 inches and had long been harrying neighbouring villages and killing their cattle. "The ryots were overjoyed to see their well-known cattle-lifter dangling dead on the back of a pad elephant".

December 29.

His Highness killed a tigress (8 feet 8 inches) with one shot, in a ring near the banks of a wide sandy nala. While she was being loaded on to an elephant, suddenly the harsh alarm call of a langur came ringing through the forest on the other side of the little river. The loud bellow of a sambhar is an almost certain indication that a tiger or leopard is within his view, the melodious treble call of a chital is not
PLATE 35.

THE TIGER MAKES FOR HEAVY COVER IN THE CENTRE OF THE RING.
so sure, the sharp bark of a karkar may mean anything or nothing, but the A'-a'-a'o' of the big grey ape is the most certain of all the jungle calls, and usually the direction of the tiger or leopard can be spotted by noticing which way the langur, high up in his eyrie, is facing. His Highness, of course, knew this very well, and immediately led off the line of elephants across the nala bed, to make a ring around the calling langur. This successfully added a leopard to the bag.

**December 31.**

The day was spent in shikaring a number of leopards which had been making havoc around the villages. Of one "people were complaining of his continual depredations even in the daytime, going round from shed to shed, from hamlet to hamlet". He proved to be a she of nearly 7 feet, and had 3 cubs which were captured alive and taken to camp.

In a nearby village, a pair of man-eating leopards were reported, which had quite recently killed and eaten four or five human beings. The male, measuring 7 feet 7 inches, was shot by His Highness and later when it was skinned, long human hair was found in its stomach, proving it was certainly a man-eater.

**January 2, 1936.**

A red-letter day, as two families of tiger, all full grown and totalling 5 tigers in all, were simultaneously enclosed in a single ring. The excitement that followed can be better imagined than described. The records states that "the jungle was so dense that the elephants could scarcely make headway, and two hours were taken in forming the ring". At 2 p.m. His Highness went into the ring, accompanied by General Baber. The area contained much canebrake, where the long trailing fronds, as well as the pliant stems and leaves, are armed with terrible thorns, so that canebrake is several degrees worse even than khair thicket. To hunt up and kill 5 tigers, e.g., 3 tigers and 2 tigresses, measuring from 8 feet to 9 feet 4 inches, in that hellish inferno, passes all power of the pen to describe. Those readers who know what canebrake is will require no description, while for those who do not, no written words could give a picture of the scene.

**January 3.**

Another remarkable ring to-day, which enclosed 5 chital, a boar, a leopard and a tiger! It is rather upsetting to one's ideas of jungle
life that such a collection of animals should be lying up in the daytime in an area of jungle a few hundred yards in diameter. The official account gives the following interesting details. "Five chital were seen scampering away. Then a big boar was started, he dashed round the circle two or three times and effected his escape. Then a leopard broke cover but retreated into deep shelter. The elephants took time to beat the bush. Then a tiger, with a mighty roar, charged the beating elephants as they were pushing through the undergrowth. At the roar, the leopard came out and climbed a large simal tree. When he was some 40 or 50 feet up the tree, he began to discharge urine through nervous fear of the tiger. His Highness fired two bullets and he fell dead out of the tree"—a big leopard measuring 7 feet 9 inches.

In the meanwhile the tigress had gone into cover again, and when routed out, charged the very elephant on which His Highness was taking aim. But a shot in a fatal spot laid her out dead. She measured 8 feet 7 inches.

Endless repetitions of the same theme are liable to become boring to the reader, however exciting they may be to the original actors, so we will pass over the next fortnight of shikar and moving camp, merely recording that this fortnight added 12 tigers, 4 leopards, and a python to the bag.

JALADH AND OTHER CAMPS.

January 20 to 22.

Nearly a quarter of a century earlier, when King George V visited Nepal for his great shoot, Maharaja Joodha had acted as Chief General of the staff to his brother Maharaja Chandra, and thus personally knew the King Emperor. It is typical of Maharaja Joodha that when the news was heard on the radio of the serious illness of King George there was no shikar, and when the news of his death came through the next two days were spent in visiting some holy Hindu shrines and places of pilgrimage in the vicinity. Those included a visit to the banks of the sacred Kumala river and to Dhanusha, where, during Sita's swayambara, Rama broke the bow of Rudra, as described in the ancient Hindu scriptures.

His Highness also visited Janakpur, a very sacred place of Hindu pilgrimage, the birthplace of Sita, and the site of the Naulakhi Sita Mandir erected by the Raja of Orchha State (Central India). Here he visited the shrines of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Janak, and Hanuman, and distributed clothes to the students of the Pathshala, gave Rs. 12,000 to the Mahant (Head Priest) and Rs. 40,000 for repairing and rebuilding
PLATE 36.

A WOUNDED TIGRESS ATTACKS AN ELEPHANT.
the damage caused in the great earthquake. He also opened a Middle English School.

From January 23 to February 3 the camp marched back most of the way covering the same ground, where, as might be expected, shooting and sport was comparatively poor, as the forests had already provided a good bag. However in this period, 4 tigers, a leopard, a bear and smaller game were added.

SHAKTIMUHAR KHOLA AND CHAUGHADAMODI CAMPS.

February 4 to 6.

Here the shikar party reached new territory, and again the shikar improved. On the first day there were two kills, one of which a very fine tiger was successfully ringed and shot, measuring just 10 feet. The next day was to provide yet another example of the unparalleled fierceness and pluck of a mother tigress with young cubs, examples of which have been recorded in earlier chapters. At 9 a.m. General Bahadur went in advance to make a ring round a kill, and at 11-30 a mounted messenger arrived in camp with the news that a tigress was already furiously charging and demonstrating round the ring! His Highness arrived on the scene an hour later. To quote the official record:—

“Bikram Prasad and other elephants were disposed on the right and left as His Highness advanced into the ring. When the beating elephants approached, the tigress came out with a bound, charging furiously. She dashed round with a furious ‘Ghang! Ghang! Ghung! Ghung!’ and her tail up in the air. Her 3 cubs also created a confused uproar, making the elephants very nervous, and threatening to throw the ring into confusion. But a great outburst of rending yells and a pelting shower of sharp missiles made the cubs momentarily retire. But the spirited mother was still bidding defiance to this raging pandemonium, and as she approached the howdah His Highness fired at her. The cubs then came bounding and dashing about everywhere. The howdah elephant then advanced towards the refuge of the furious tigress, who, from a point 10 yards ahead, charged straight at the Maharaja with all the force of her repressed fury. But Bikram Prasad, the noble tusker, intercepted the charge, as that very intelligent and brave animal has often done and is trained to do! The tigress first seized his tusks, and then clutched his hindleg with both her paws and clung to it like a limpet. At that Bikram Prasad ran off, dragging her along for a dozen yards. Then with a violent jerk of his leg, he dashed her off. The whole action had been too rapid to allow accurate shooting, but now His Highness had
a chance and killed her with a Winchester. Measurement 8 feet. The 3 cubs, which averaged about 5 feet, were secured alive and removed in a lorry to the camp”.

On the 7th, the camp moved by a very interesting route to the next camp. The Shakti Khola, a short river, rises in the Dun of the Upper Rapti basin and bursts through the rampart of the outer Churia range of hills. It winds its way through a wild and wonderful gorge, with the hills rising 700 feet on either side. “For a quarter of a mile there was a magnificent sheer cliff 300 feet high, through which the river cut its way, descending in fine waterfalls at points, overgrown with masses of maiden-hair fern and clusters of water-loving trees, alive with the warbling of innumerable birds, melodious with the rippling tinkle or dull roar of the crystal waters”.

Since the opening of the main road to Kathmandu, this pass through the outer mountain range had been closed, so that the passage of humans seldom disturbed its wild and lonely splendour. And then, one day, the great caravaneer breaks through its wildness with his train of elephants, the scores of ponies and hundreds of followers, the high-born ladies and the high officials. And with the passage of this great multitude, this lovely jungle gorge reverts once more to solitude and silence.

“They say that in the Hathi-kheda of previous times, a wild herd was driven into this region between walls of rocks, and bold elephants were posted on its southern and northern entrances, and thus the whole herd was trapped.

“There was no interesting sport to-day—except the capture of a fawn, which, starting with fright at the sight of an elephant, fell down and swooned, and was brought to its senses by Allopathic treatment”.

RAPTI VALLEY CAMP.

February 14.

The Maharaja shot another magnificent tiger to-day, measuring 10 feet 3 inches.

In the same vicinity a ring was made for a big leopard, but it managed to sneak through. A second ring was formed, but he escaped a second time. At the third ring, the animal escaped yet again, and “passed through a line of motors and buses parked near the jungle. The drivers were seen on the hoods with frightened faces”!

He was finally shot in a fourth ring and measured 7 feet 9 inches. This was another beautiful example of the cleverness and skill shown by the Nepalese in successfully re-enclosing an unwounded animal that has
HIS HIGHNESS SHOOTING IN THE RING.
escaped. In India, when tiger or leopard escape unwounded in a beat, they usually escape for good, and normally it is quite useless even to attempt to get them in a second beat. Such examples illustrate the superiority of the Nepal ring method to any ordinary big game shikar methods as practised elsewhere.

**February 17.**

A red-letter day, as a family of 5 full-grown tigers were killed in one ring, measuring from 7 feet 6 inches upwards; as such incidents have been described several times before in this book, it is not described in detail now. But a few days later, when again 5 tigers were enclosed in a ring, an amusing variation occurred. It is of course obvious that no one knows, or can know, how many tigers are enclosed in a ring, and in the excitement of numerous tigers dashing about in the ring, it is quite easy to overlook one or two. This is what actually happened!

After a tremendous shikar, 4 tigers were laid out, and everyone dismounted from the elephants to take measurements and photographs as usual. A pie-dog appeared on the scene, and started barking and yelling. To quote the record:—"The barking made another tiger, hitherto undiscovered, come growling, which made everyone so panic-stricken that the scene became really very interesting! The people on the ground hurried helter-skelter on the elephants' backs or swarmed up their tails. Some climbed up trees, some tottered down nervously while climbing, and the spectacle became theatrical, until His Highness killed it with two bullets and made everyone breathe safely ".

**February 18 and 19.**

Rhino and wild bees now take a part in the tiger shikar, adding variety and excitement. It may be mentioned in passing that there is nothing more dangerous in the Indian jungles, and nothing more detestable, than to disturb a large swarm of the big venomous wild bees when engaged in trying to finish off a wounded tiger. They come down in their thousands and start stinging every living thing in sight, and the elephants get wild and the tigers get wilder. Attempts to flee are futile, one might as well try to flee from a dive-bomber. However, the elephant and his driver very often do not appear to know this, and the possibility of one's elephant bolting through the forest adds further complications. In any case, whether the elephant flees or stays, it is quite certain that the shikari on its back will get stung, and may be badly stung, without the protection of a bee net—or a smoke screen. This indicates the atmosphere of the following incidents.
On the 18th the scene of a kill was ringed, and a rhino was also encircled in the ring. When the elephants moved in to drive off the rhino, "a swarm of bees flew about, creating confusion everywhere. The elephants were thrown into confusion, and a tiger, taking advantage of the situation, broke through. Another tiger remained in the ring however, and as the bees calmed down, His Highness advanced into the ring and shot a tiger measuring 9 feet 1 inch.

The next day was still more thrilling. Two tigers were ringed, and the Maharaja wounded one. Then—"the bees scattered about creating panic, furiously stinging each and every man in the ring. There was no escape from them. There was the omnipresent bee everywhere, with its ceaseless threatening hum about our ears. Everyone pulled off his coat and covered his face, but none were left unstung. Three or four settled on the Maharaja's face, and later General Baber pulled out the stings. Then a volume of smoke was sent against the invading bees, and they slowly settled down into quietude.

"His Highness advanced in spite of the bees (driving them about with his hands) lest the tiger should escape. Under cover of smoke he moved forward, and fired two shots at the tiger which fell dead. Measurement 9 feet 4 inches. The wounded tigress was also found and died with two shots from His Highness, measurement 9 feet 2 inches."

It is a remarkable tribute to His Highness that the two tigers were finished off, despite the furious bee attack without bee nets, and despite every soul suffering more or less from bee stings. It is also a remarkable tribute to the mahouts to have kept the ring unbroken, under a combination of tigers, bees, and fire and smoke! What ordinary shikar party would (or could) have accomplished this?

On the following day (February 20) His Highness shot the second biggest tiger he has ever shot, an enormous heavy brute measuring 10 feet 9 inches.

February 23.

His Highness decided to have a rhino hunt to-day, so solid bullets, big bore rifles, and instruments for "opening up" for the Khadga-rudhir (blood libation, as described elsewhere in this book) were taken. On the way to the rhino area, however, His Highness turned aside for a short while and shot a couple of tigers.

After this shikar, all the elephants went off to make a ring round the rhino. After some refreshment His Highness went off to the spot and as they advanced into the ring, it seemed alive with rhinos, at least
(i) BEATER ELEPHANT BOLTING FROM A TIGER.

(ii) TIGER BEING LOADED ON PAD.
ten or twelve becoming visible! Several shots at one big male were fired, and Generals Baber and Bahadur joined in.

When he dropped dead, the blood libation had to be performed, but the presence of 8 or 10 other (live) rhinos still in the ring made this very difficult! Elephants, as previously mentioned, hate the proximity of rhino, and refused to approach them close. They were goaded on a few steps forward with difficulty, and then retreated to their original positions, and “for a whole hour the scene became one of rhinos and elephants moving forward and backward”. A minuet of the pachyderms! Finally when the rhinos had retired in good order, “the dead rhino’s entrails were laid aside, giving the dead animal the appearance of a big canoe. The blood libation was then performed”.

Shortly after this, the return journey to Hetaura and Kathmandu commenced, during the course of which a few more tigers and leopards and a big bear were added to the bag.

On March 1, as there was no shikar, His Highness decided to have an elephant fight. Such fights are regarded as useful in training the fighting tuskers, and enabling them to defeat and capture wild ones.

“A vast multitude gathered to witness the interesting scene, and His Highness, accompanied by other Generals and Colonels, witnessed the scene. For more than half an hour the elephants wrestled and fought what is called Chaudanti, but because the fighters were domestics, the wrestle did not take a terrible aspect as it might with a wild one”.

On the March 4, the Maharaja and suite returned to Kathmandu, and reached Singha Durbar at 4 p.m., to the accompaniment of shouts of “Jaya! Jaya! Maharaj”, from a great concourse of people.

Thus ended a memorable tour and shoot in three districts, occupying three months. The total bag of big game constituted a record up to that time, and included 77 tigers, 24 leopards, 3 bears and one rhino, or total 105.
CHAPTER IX.

THE MAHARAJA IN MORANG.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF MORANG.

Morang, with the sub-division of Jhapa, is the most easterly district of Nepal, stretching for 70 miles along the foot of the hills from the mighty Kosi river to the Bengal (Darjeeling) border. This district is rich in legendary association with incidents described in the Mahabharat, the great Indian epic that dates from a few thousand years B.C. Thus Birat Pokhāri is a tank or lake supposed to have been dug in the time of Raja Birat before the battle of Kurukchatra; Gograha where the Kaurabs stole the cows of that king; Kichak Vadha where the great Indian Hercules Bhimsen killed the sensualist and robber Kichak; Dhanusha where the five Pandavas in exile concealed their arms.

Morang is supposed to have derived its name from Maya-ranya, Maya the Goddess or Mother-power of the universe, and Aranya the wilderness or forest. It is certainly true that within living memory the bulk of district was under dense sal forest, with here and there an island of cultivation, an occasional village lost in the forest, and surrounded by the creatures of the wild. In those days it was a sporting paradise, with wild buffalo, elephant, rhino, tiger, leopard and innumerable deer roaming where they would.

But since the days of Jung Bahadur, who was the only Prime Minister to visit Morang before the present Maharaja, huge tracts of forest have been cleared for extension of cultivation; within the last decade more than a hundred square miles have been and are being cleared and the glory of the wild has greatly shrunk. But along the northern border, adjoining the foothills, there still survives a fine belt of mostly virgin forest, from five to ten miles wide and 60 miles long, which His Highness has decreed shall be reserved as forest.

The decrease of forest area has naturally decreased the amount of big game. Elephants and rhino are now extinct, and the wild buffalo reduced to a small herd of a dozen or so, which are strictly protected. Tigers also have decreased in numbers, and deer are relatively scarce, but still survive in fair numbers in the Kosi Kadir.
This mighty river, the largest Himalayan river between the Brahmaputra and the Sutlej, drains more than one-third of Nepal, and a huge area (by its tributary the Arun) in Tibet. Within its basin lie the western slopes of Kanchenjunga and the southern precipices of Everest, the highest point of land on this globe. Where it finally debouches from the hills at Chatra in the north-west corner of the Morang district, it has a cold weather flow of nearly 20,000 cusecs, and no one has ever measured its maximum flood. The millions of tons of sand and silt brought down by this great river continually raise its bed, and in the Nepal Terai and Bihar it swings like a gigantic pendulum, a swing of 60 miles or more per century (from Purnea to Darbhanga), causing havoc and ruin in its course. Experts who have studied the problem can suggest no solution. Man is a helpless midge in his attempt to control such a river.

The capital of the district is Biratnagar, a town two miles from the terminus station of Jogbani on the B. & A. Railway. Here we find an up-to-date jute mill, the erection of which has made the cultivation of jute profitable for the nearby villages. From Biratnagar also in the early cold weather a marvellous panorama of the Himalayas is obtained, with Kanchenjunga, Makalu, Everest, and other great peaks clearly visible. When the Marquis of Clydesdale's aeroplanes flew over Everest, they also passed over Biratnagar on their way.

Ethnologically, the district contains an astonishing medley of different tribes and races; high caste Brahmins and Marwari traders in the town; Desi (plainsmen from Bihar), Karantis, Mushahir ("Rat-eaters"), Sonthals (a Dravidian race), Dhimals, Tharus, etc., in the Terai; Bhotes, Limbus, Rais in the adjoining hills; Tibetans, Lepchas, and many other winter visitors from the higher hill districts. At the weekly or periodical fairs and markets (ḥāt), where the hill people bring their produce of oranges and other fruits, chillis and turmeric, borax and wool, jungle roots and medicinal herbs, to be bartered for the goods of the plains, salt and oil, cloth and matches, brass and copper vessels, etc., this astonishing medley leads to a wonderful babel.

There is, naturally, a corresponding medley of religions, pure Hinduism, Buddhism, animism and worship of the tribal or household godling of the jungle tribes. The Morang district has one of the most sacred places of pilgrimage of the Hindus. Buried in the midst of the northern forest belt, up the gorge of the Kosi river, is Varahakshetra, the place of the third incarnation of the Lord Vishnu. It may be mentioned that previously it was extremely difficult, sometimes almost impossible, for the pilgrims to reach the temple at Varahakshetra; particularly in the monsoon. His Highness, after inquiries, sanctioned a large sum of money to make a motorable road for 26 miles to Chatra,
and to blast a pathroad for a further six miles through the precipitous gorge of the great Kosi river. Another famous Hindu shrine is Ramdhuni, where a fire, lit by a Mahatma many hundreds of years ago, is kept continually burning. This also is buried in the depth of the forest.

Tibetans, Lepchas, and others are Buddhists from the higher Himalayas and beyond, where (as explained in another chapter) Buddhism has now largely retreated. The jungle tribes, although nominally Hindus, seem to pay far more attention to their own local little tribal and family gods than to the great Hindu trinity. Going along some forest road or path one comes suddenly on a little clearing, with a small *chappar*, thatched, open at the sides, fenced in. On the clean floor are crowded and jumbled together a considerable number of little clay or wood figures, chiefly horses and elephants. There is a very unpopular jungle god or spirit (*bhoot*), who spends his time wandering about from one jungle village to another. The simple-minded villagers provide this large assortment of riding animals, to place no impediment to his early departure to some other locality, and to hasten him on his way!

Mention must be made of an extraordinary phenomenon, characteristic of this district, which also occurs in parts of the adjoining Bihar district of Purnea, and is mentioned in the official Gazetteer. The writer, who can claim a fair knowledge of science, experienced this phenomenon several times in various parts of the district, but can suggest no scientific explanation of it.

The first experience was at night. Suddenly and without warning a loud clap of thunder was heard, shortly followed by another. Going out of the tent to see the approaching storm, it was astonishing to find a brilliant starlight night, without a cloud above the horizon! Once more the noise of near thunder, with no flash to light up the darkness! Next morning it was heard again in a cloudless sunny sky. The following night came the real thunder, with a tropical burst of rain and vivid lightning. On two other occasions in different parts of the district this weird mysterious noise was heard, sometimes loud, sometimes distant, and usually the precursor of rain or squally weather. The phenomenon is heard all over the district, and is frequent at the advent of the winter rains, and more particularly before the break of the monsoon.

The Maharaja and all in camp heard it once or twice, and the suggestion was made that it might be guns of poachers, but investigation proved this was not the reason. Many ideas have been put forward to explain this puzzling phenomenon, for example—(i) the twang of a
mighty bow of the gods, (ii) underground or volcanic rumblings (but there are no earthquakes or volcanoes!), (iii) echoes of the crash of glaciers or great ice-falls on the precipices of Everest and Kanchenjunga (which is impossible 60 or 70 miles away and at night!), (iv) bombs of wedding feasts (in the depth of the forest, and at the wrong seasons!), (v) some mysterious meteorological or electric phenomenon, like atmospherics in a wireless set. (Can Nature make a whole district into a glorified receiving set to amplify unheard thunder?) Whatever may be the explanation, there is no denying the phenomenon itself, which is thoroughly authenticated.

**THE MAHARAJA LEAVES FOR MORANG.**

In January 1935, His Highness decided to visit this long neglected district of mixed races, weird noises, and big game shikar. For more than half a century no administrative ruler of the State had visited it, and a visit by the Maharaja would give facilities to the inhabitants of the Morang district, and of the adjoining districts of Bhojpur, Ilam, and Dhankuta, to present their petitions for His Highness’s impartial consideration. It was also reported that man-eating tigers (and cattle-killers) were on the increase, that pest of the Indian jungles which humanity demands should be destroyed as soon as possible.

**January 16, 1935.**

His Highness and court left Kathmandu with the usual ceremonies of farewell and “bon voyage” which have been described in an earlier chapter, and arrived next day at Anilekhgunj, where a halt was made for three days for some preliminary shikar.

**January 18.**

Four kills were reported, but as the number of elephants available was totally inadequate to attempt a ring, the Maharaja decided to try another method, the method employed by most sportsmen all over India, who have no elephant, beaters or other alternative, of sitting up quietly in a machan over the kill. This method is too well known to require detailed description, and any way a delightful description was published years ago in Mason’s “No Other Tiger”, which is available to any reader who desires to appreciate the thrills and tension of the silent sit-up.

At 1 p.m. His Highness climbed into the well-concealed and commodious machan, accompanied by General Singha Shumshere (now Nepalese envoy at the Court of St. James) and Colonel Indra Bahadur
Karki. For four full hours he waited motionless and in patience, and as "the golden evening lightened in the west", General Singha made a whispered suggestion to return to the camp. But His Highness was confident the tiger would come, and as there was still enough light to shoot he whispered he would wait another 15 minutes. Five minutes had scarcely elapsed before a tigress was seen boldly approaching her kill. When she was still ten paces from the kill, His Highness fired; she staggered and turned a somersault, then rolled down a bank to the brink of a nearby stream, where she was found stone dead beneath a large leafed *bhora lahara* (creeperv). She measured 8 feet 4 inches, and was the first that the Maharaja had ever shot from a machan!

**January 20.**

Another tigress was shot to-day, measuring 8 feet 8 inches, in a small "Purdah Ring" of elephants supplemented by white cloth.

After this brief holiday at Amlekhgunj, the Maharaja paid a visit to Delhi, in response to the Viceroy's (Lord Willingdon) invitation and desire for personal acquaintance. But the splendours of this visit are not within the scope of this book.

**February 11.**

The Maharaja arrived at Jogbani station, and proceeded through the gorgeously decorated bazaar and town of Biratnagar to the first camp at Baklauri.

**BAKLAURI CAMP.**

**February 12.**

The first day in Morang was to prove as successful as it was thrilling. Early in the morning a mounted messenger galloped into the camp with news of a kill in the Kosi Kadir, about nine miles away. The elephants were at once sent off to form the ring and at 10 a.m. the shooting party, which included His Highness and two of his younger sons, besides the Senior Commanding General Mohan Shumshere and many others, started off, part of the way in cars and part on pad-elephants.

When the Maharaja and howdah elephants had entered the ring and were moving through the heavy grass, it became evident that a number of tigers were enclosed. (As proved later, it was a large family, a tiger, a tigress, and 4 nearly full-grown cubs.) A big tigress first broke cover and began bounding round the circle, seeking an outlet for escape, to the usual accompaniment of yells of men and trumpeting of elephants. The first shot hit her badly, but in her fury she leaped in
a flash on the elephant which carried Sir Mohan Shumshere, who thus unexpectedly found himself within a few feet of the enfuriated animal as she bit and tore at the elephant's head! The mahout pluckily joined in the fray and attacked her with his kukri at short-arm range, and very soon the elephant shook her off. She was struggling on the ground, preparing to repeat her attack, when the Maharaja fired again and finished her off. She measured 8 feet 10 inches.

A tiger now appeared and fell stone dead at a single well-placed shot at a range of some 40 yards. He was characterised with a peculiarly large head and exceptionally small tail, and measured 9 feet 3 inches, but was a heavy and old animal.

The big cubs then created uproarious confusion and excitement, charging at the circle of elephants and all about the ring simultaneously. His Highness had with him two of his younger sons, Babu Saheb Ravi Shumshere (aged eight years) and Babu Saheb Meena Shumshere (aged nine years). He wanted those boys to win their spurs and show their nerve and prowess as young sportsmen. So they were in turn put in front of the howdah with a rifle, and it speaks volumes for their pluck and (perhaps inherited) skill, that in all the excitement and turmoil of tigers charging about the ring, they each succeeded in killing one, the elder with three shots and the younger with five shots.

The Maharaja finished off the remaining two, thus bringing the total bag to 6 tigers in one ring! This illustrates the deadly efficiency of the Nepal ring method, and it is safe to say that by beating or any other methods of tiger shooting it would be practically impossible to kill all 6 tigers in an area of such heavy grass.

SUNDER GUNDER CAMP.

February 13 and 14.

The camp was moved to Sunder Gunder, a delightful spot under the shelter of sal trees on a high bank overlooking the broad expanse of the Kosi Kadir. This kadir country is liable to be flooded in the monsoon and consists of vast stretches of grass and jhau (Tamarix), with occasional swamps and backwaters, sporadic single trees and clumps of such riverain species as khair, sissu, simal, parke siris, jamun. Like all kadir country, it is a paradise for animals, chital and parha, pig, peafowl and partridge. In the cold weather great herds of cows and buffaloes are driven in from adjoining cultivated lands and villages. This concentration of animals naturally attracts the carnivora, and tiger and leopard are relatively abundant. From the camp site a lovely view stretches across this kadir to the low foot-hills.
of Mahotri district, to the Mahabharat range, and on clear winter evenings the pink glow on Everest lingers, reflecting, high in the sky, the last rays of the sunlight, sometime after the sun has set on the lower hills and Terai. As one stands on the high bluff admiring the golden sunset, the hush of the evening is broken by the calls of roosting peafowl, the sawing noise of a leopard in the distance, or perhaps, if one is lucky, the Aouw of a wandering tiger, heard faintly over a mile of grassy plain; such sounds make very real the expression, "Call of the Wild."

On the 14th 3 tigers were ringed in a locality called "Athara nala," a terrible bit of jungle which, as its name indicates, is a maze of gullies or ravines, 18 in number, with patches of impenetrable thorny canebrake and gigantic nurkal grass; in brief an area which gave the tigers every chance of escape. Two of the tigers did in fact escape altogether, but the third, a tigress, although she escaped from the first ring, was successfully but with great difficulty enclosed in a second ring, one side of which was a sheer bank 40 feet high, a continuation of the bluff on which the camp was placed. This high bank was a grand stand for the villagers to see and share in the thrills of a tiger shoot, and the bank was lined by scores, who brought a touch of comedy on the scene. A roar or threatening growl caused a hurried scamper for safety, a rifle shot produced a wave of confidence, and so the simple villagers spent sometime alternately advancing and retreating until the tigress was finally despatched.

February 16.

A ring for a leopard to-day encircled a remarkable collection of animals, including (besides the leopard) a bear, a boar, and 8 or 9 deer. The bear was the first to decamp, followed by the boar. The leopard showed his cunning by climbing a tree, where His Highness shot it. This leopard was 6 feet 5 inches in size, and peculiarly marked. It was a clouded leopard.

Leopards are very arboreal, in marked contrast to tigers, and when disturbed, not infrequently rapidly climb up a tree, either for concealment or to see what is coming. They have been seen attempting the difficult feat of catching a monkey, or hunting a troupe of monkeys up a cluster of trees, and quite often they carry their kill and fix it high up in the fork or among the branches of a tree, especially if wild dogs are about, or if their kill is otherwise likely to be disturbed. There is a lovely and authentic story of a lady sportswoman who tied a machan over a natural leopard kill in a thick kusum tree, and later, when she was alone in the dusk, found to her astonishment that she had been sitting for an hour with the leopard higher up in the same tree!
February 18.

The Kosi, like all the big rivers of the Gangetic basin, swarms with gharial, the long-snouted fish-eating crocodile, and in favourable spots they love to come out on sand banks and spend the day basking in the sun. They are very wide awake (despite their sleepy appearance) to noise and movement and it is impossible to approach them closely, as, when alarmed, they immediately jump into the deep water alongside and vanish from view. In a huge river like the Kosi, a long shot is inevitable. At the same time it has to be a very accurate shot—preferably in the brain or neck—to paralyse the reptile instantaneously and prevent even one spasmodic movement down the bank. So the shooting and successful recovery of a crocodile is always the test of fine marksmanship.

To-day His Highness varied his sport by going out after crocodile, and successfully bagged one of 7 feet 6 inches. In the evening he shot a leopard.

February 20.

The Terai forests near Haraicha are of a type peculiar to Morang. Owing to the heavy rainfall and damp soil they are practically immune from fire, and in consequence the tall and valuable sal trees have been eliminated by miscellaneous evergreen species of trees too numerous to mention. These are inextricably bound together by huge climbers and creepers of a luxuriance which is scarcely believable. These climbers*, debre lahara, bhorla gauj and the diabolical thorny arari, swamp whole acres, and in the dark gloomy labyrinth their loops and trailing branches form an almost impenetrable tangle.

In this nightmare of a forest for ring operations, a big tiger killed and dragged. A ring here was a very different proposition to the usual heavy grass savannah with an occasional tree dotted about, where, if an elephant bolts, no great harm is done. But here with a bolting elephant, the howdah and mahout and everything on the elephant’s back would be swept off in the matter of yards!

Undaunted by consideration of such possibilities, the Maharaja advanced boldly, but of necessity slowly, into the ring, while the mahout with his kukri busily cut the entangling loops of climbers. Suddenly the tiger bounded off, heard but unseen, in the dense undergrowth and a tremendous commotion ensued on the east side of the ring. The

* For scientific names see Appendix.
tiger was checked and turned, slinking back into more impenetrable
gloom, where his growls could be heard but he himself was quite
invisible. Emphatically not the most favourable conditions for killing
a tiger! His Highness fired two shots at the growls and the second
seemed to hit the tiger, as with a tremendous roar he half charged
and then retreated still deeper into the undergrowth. Imagine trying
to shoot a furious and possibly slightly wounded tiger in the tropical
rain forests of the Amazon, and one gets some idea of the situation. It
is no flattery to say that only a sportsman of unparalleled nerve would
attempt it.

As His Highness advanced further, the tiger came out again roaring,
and at the second shot was hit in the elbow. Blind with fury, he charged
straight at the howdah with a tremendous leap, when dramatically
a trailing climber ensnared his neck in a loop and stopped him with a
jerk in mid career! As he struggled to get free, His Highness quickly
and neatly shot him through the brain, and he dropped dead. This
tiger measured 10 feet.

February 21 and 22.

These days were occupied in shooting leopards. Colonel Neera
Shumshere shot one on the first day and General Narayan Shumshere
got one in a ring on the second day. With the leopards killed, the
shooting party dismounted and some clearing of undergrowth was made
preparatory to taking photographs and taping the animals. All of a
sudden the startling knowledge of another leopard, very
much alive, still being enclosed in the ring led to wild but momentary confusion,
as everyone simultaneously and hurriedly tried to scramble back on their
elephants. This leopard was also successfully killed and measured
7 feet 1 inch.

February 23.

The shoot to-day illustrated the amazing pluck and unbridled
ferocity of a tigress with young cubs. Overnight she had attacked or
threatened the shikaris who went to tie up the padahs, but they managed
to escape unhurt, and were attacked again the next morning when they
pluckily went to release the padah.

When the ring was formed, she appeared almost at once, bounding
round and round roaring and threatening, trying to intimidate and
drive back the elephants rather than to escape herself. With the
permission of His Highness, General Hari Shumshere fired thrice at
her; one of the shots was a miss, but two grazed the surface of the skin
which only infuriated her all the more. At last she leapt on the Raja of Banaili's tusker, Moti Prasad, and hung for a time on his trunk. The staunch tusker jerked her off, and Mr. Musselwhite (the photographer) obtained a lovely cine film of the episode, showing the tigress hurled off and high in the air. The elephant attempted to trample her under foot, but again she charged him and tore great gashes in his forehead. Finally she was finished off by His Highness, a big tigress measuring 9 feet 1 inch. The translation of the official records adds—"Mr. Musselwhite was exceedingly exultant to-day over the fine and rare pictures he could take of the elephant jerking the tigress off his trunk, and seeking to trample her".

With the tigress dead, some young cubs indicated their presence, and a number of mahouts slipped off their elephants with blankets in their hands, to capture them alive. To quote again from the translation of the records:—"There were 4 cubs. When one of them was captured, a brother cub from a distance called Awu Awu, as if he wanted him to come back. When the second was taken prisoner, the third from afar repeated the same sympathetic cry". When all had been caught, they were neatly tucked in blankets and bags and taken back to the camp. There was no time left to make a ring around another tiger, who had killed and dragged a straggling cow from the village herd.

**February 24.**

To-day a tiger that had killed and eaten two *padahs* the night before was not found in the ring. But the day was not blank, as on the way back to camp two separate and very fine leopards were shot. Both measured exactly 7 feet 8 inches. Meanwhile in the camp, the 4 tiger cubs had made an attempt to escape. One had got out of the tent which enclosed them and was caught in the act of trying to leap over the boundary screen, while the remaining 3 were running about. However all were safely recaptured.

A tiger cub very soon becomes quite tame and makes a delightful pet. This is in marked contrast to cubs of leopards, which are difficult to tame, and of wild dogs, which cannot be tamed at all.

**BAIRBANA CAMP.**

**February 25.**

Some villagers brought the news that a small herd of wild buffalo had been seen about 14 miles away, at a place called "Arna Niwas", which means "The home of the wild buffalo". (Arna is the
Nepali word for wild buffalo.) His Highness motored to the place and then mounted an elephant. The herd was seen at a distance of 250 yards, but it was impossible to fire at this range, owing to the risk of hitting a female or calf, and when the elephant approached nearer, the herd took fright and lumbered away.

SUN-PAKWA CAMP.

February 27.

A busy day, in which three good tigers were accounted for in three rings in different directions, the largest being 9 feet 11 inches. In the third tiger an iron spear or lance head was found lodged under the skin by the belly. The Satar or Santhal tribe (of Dravidian origin) who live in this neighbourhood use long spears (and also bows and arrows), and this evidence proved they are not afraid even of attacking a tiger with their somewhat primitive weapons.

February 28.

Mr. Musselwhite, the official photographer, had another grand opportunity to-day to film a charging tiger, as the tiger in the ring charged home on the elephant carrying Commanding General Kaiser Shumshere and Mr. Musselwhite himself! To quote the delightful translation of the official records:—“The tiger hung by the trunk of his elephant, and Mr. Musselwhite became very red indeed and sat back on his haunches upon the howdah, which rocked to and fro like a cradle containing a baby in fright”.

(It may be mentioned in parenthesis that the official record notes a few days later that Mr. Musselwhite preferred a tree to an elephant, as giving “a steadier platform for photographing!” It was rather unfortunate that on this occasion the ring should have provided a tree-climbing leopard! After that Mr. Musselwhite returned to the elephant.)

March 1.

Another tiger was killed to-day.

March 2.

To-day there were no kills anywhere.

His Highness went out in search of wild buffaloes and came on a tal (or little lake). The local villagers complained of a snub-nosed mugger who lived here and took toll of their goats. So a close line of
elephants was put through the *tal* from one side to the other, a quite novel idea of using elephants for beating crocodile! However, whether the crocodile was there or not, he failed to appear.

On the return journey in the evening, once again 2 leopards appeared, to save the day from being blank. The first to be shot was a small one 6 feet 3 inches, but the second proved to be the biggest of the year, 7 feet 10 inches, and gave some fine sport. When he was spotted, a ring was quickly formed, which however he succeeded in breaking by charging a timid elephant. Quickly he was ringed again and bounded around with lithe quick movements, presenting several difficult snapshots which were missed.

Then he resorted to tree climbing as a last means of escape and concealed himself almost completely in the thick crown of a large tree. However His Highness had a snap at a glimpse of him, which wounded him, and he fell down to the next branch, snapping and scratching the tree in his rage. Here he stuck for a few moments before slipping down to the next lower branch. Finally he fell to the ground and was soon finished off.

The photographer fortunately took this opportunity of getting some good photographs of a tree-climbing leopard (*see* plate 41).

**CHANJU CAMP AND RAJGHAT CAMP.**

**March 3 to 6.**

These days were mostly spent in hunting tigers in various directions with varying success. Two tigers were shot.

**March 7.**

Rajghat camp and village are near the home of the surviving wild buffalo and a short account of this rare animal will be of interest. At one time the wild buffalo was fairly plentiful in Morang and spread into the adjoining jungles of Darbhanga in Bihar, but although very little shot it has now decreased to one small herd. The reasons for this decrease are not altogether clear, although reduction of forest area, due to extended cultivation, is no doubt a contributory factor. His absence of fear of local villagers does not suggest poaching. The local villagers, who are quite familiar with his habits and characteristics, do not regard him with any awe, nor does the buffalo take fright at the sight of them, since he is accustomed to seeing them frequently everywhere. He is sometimes seen grazing with the village herds and domestic buffaloes in the village grazing grounds, and wild buffalo
bulls have been known to breed with the domestic she-buffaloes. He does a certain amount of damage grazing on the growing crops at certain times of the year, but the damage done is no more than that of a Brahmini bull, which is tolerated all over India.

Although comparatively harmless to the local half-naked villagers, his reactions to a well-dressed stranger are very different. To quote again from the translation of the records:—"The wild buffalo seems to dislike modernity in dress, and is fanatically opposed to coats and trousers. He charges at sight of one or two products of twentieth century fashions".

This foible of the Arna makes him a difficult animal to shoot. In addition to trousers, he is also nervous of elephants, and it is quite impossible to bring him into a ring and keep him there. He cannot be driven to a machan, nor can he easily be shot on foot, as a large party encourages him to flight, while a small party on the other hand encourages him to fight. To dress (or undress) as a half-naked Satar would possibly enable one to fire a shot, but this would be an undignified and unsporting method of shooting so magnificent a quarry!

At any rate, the Maharaja tried other methods. At 10 a.m. he left camp in a car for the Thak-thake forest, where a machan had been erected, in the hope that wild buffalo would pass that way. After an hour His Highness found this tame and descended. At noon a Satar brought news that a big bull had left his own herd and was grazing with the domestic herd a short way off. The Maharaja quickly mounted his howdah elephant and a score or more of pad elephants were sent off a long way beyond where the buffalo was reported, taking every precaution not to alarm him. When His Highness was 200 yards from the buffalo he stopped the elephant to mark its habits and movements. The buffalo looked up and gazed long in suspicion at the elephant before turning round and running off at full speed. His Highness went off in hot pursuit with his elephant all out, and showered ‘465 and ‘475 bullets at the galloping animal. But any one who has ever tried to fire from a howdah on an elephant which is going all out will realise the impossibility of killing a moving target 200 yards away, and the exciting chase went on for more than 2 miles. The nearest approach to this mild hunt through the forest is the hunting kheddar of elephants (described elsewhere).

Meanwhile the score of pad elephants were following along behind but the rest of the elephants were lost and out of the hunt. The buffalo meanwhile disappeared from view and for a time appeared to be lost. Nearby was a swampy patch with a strong growth of the moisture-loving pater grass. The hunt checked, and His Highness, using his
PLATE 41.
His Highness shoots a leopard in a tree.

(i) HIS HIGHNESS AIMING.

(ii) THE LEOPARD FALLING.
jungle knowledge, suspected the buffalo had concealed himself here and ordered a ring to be made with the score of elephants immediately available. This manœuvre proved very successful, and as the howdah elephant moved into the ring, the buffalo arose and prepared to bolt off again. Rapid fire from His Highness and from General Singha Shumshere who was accompanying him, brought the great brute toppling over. The shikaris dismounted from the pad elephants, and some of them approached very close. "But"—as the translation reads—"his last moment had not yet come. He summoned his last strength to bring himself on to his legs and turn round to face His Highness’s elephant once more, and this movement sent his inspectors off in wild terror to their mounts to clamber up with their hearts going pit-a-pat".

After the coup de grâce the measurements of this great and gallant buffalo were recorded as follows:—

- Length of one horn . . . . . . . . . 3 feet.
- Distance round the curve between horn tips . . 6 feet 9 inches.
- Length of body (nose to tail) . . . . . 14 feet.
- Height at shoulder . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6 feet.

This is the only wild buffalo His Highness has ever shot, and this limitation is due to his desire to preserve this rare animal from extinction.

THE RETURN JOURNEY.

March 9.

At 10 to-day His Highness began his return journey to Kathmandu. On the march to Haraicha, the elephants, mostly engaged in transport, found leisure to make a ring near a kill which, curiously enough, enclosed both a tigress and a small leopard! It is unusual for these two species to be so close together, as the leopard usually keeps his distance from a tiger.

To quote once more from the official records translated:—"Mr. Musselwhite, the film photographer, insisted on climbing a tree* against the clear-sighted advice of His Highness. He wanted to take good pictures with his camera steadied upon a tree. An elephant, he thought, was not quite a good mount for a cameraman. The leopard followed his example, fortunately for him, not on the same tree but on a neighbouring one. Mr. Musselwhite could not steady himself as he would wish. We suspected he was in danger of falling down from his high perch. So a howdah elephant was kept against the tree trunk to ensure the softness of his fall"!

* See entry against the date February 28.
The leopard, however, after being hit twice had a sheer fall of 60 feet and fell dead, while the tigress danced furiously round the ring several times before being killed.

This was the last shoot of the season and brought up the total bag to—

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During the Maharaja's first visit to Morang, three years earlier, he had only been able to see part of the district, and was anxious to see the most easterly portion (Jhapa) adjoining Bengal. He also wished to see the jute mill which he had previously sanctioned, the working of which was expected to increase the prosperity of the tenants of the district by creating a good market for their raw jute. The repairs and reconstruction of many famous temples, Varahakshetra, Chetra, Duni, Pindeswara and others, destroyed in the great earthquake of 1934, for which he had sanctioned many lacs of rupees, also required inspection. Another urgent matter requiring His Highness's personal attention was the damage and destruction caused by the erosion and deposition of infertile sand by the Kankai river.

On December 8, 1937, the Maharaja left Singha Durbar for his tour. As usual, all sorts and kinds of his subjects collected to bid him farewell, some at Singha Durbar, some at Tundikhel parade ground according to their cadre and status, and a multitude bordered all the road to Thankot. As the diary records:—"His Highness left with his retinue at 8:40 a.m., nodding smiles to each and everybody on his way and the multitude then dispersed to their homes".

On December 10 the camp moved to Amlekhgunj, where Commanding General Bahadur was already waiting with a ringed tiger. On arrival at Amlekhgunj camp, His Highness heard that Lady Halifax (wife of the ex-Viceroy of India) and a friend had just arrived at Amlekhgunj station en route for Kathmandu where she was visiting the British Minister. His Highness could not lose this opportunity of meeting Lady Halifax and personally welcoming her to his country, so he sent his car and his invitation to the station. As he was talking to the ladies in his drawing-room tent, news of the tiger in the ring arrived and, characteristically, he at once invited the ladies to come and witness the shoot—an unexpected opportunity that Lady Halifax was delighted
to accept. In due course a tiger (9 feet 7 inches) was killed. His Highness returned with his guests to camp at 3-30 p.m., where the ladies thanked him for the wonderful entertainment and departed on their journey.

The next day (11th) a tigress was shot without incident. The following day a herd of wild elephants was reported from one direction, while a family of tigers had killed in another. So 20 elephants were told off to carry out a hunting kheddar, while the rest of the elephants went off to make a ring. The kheddar party had no luck, as the wild elephants had gone off and over Churia range of hills. The tiger party, on the other hand, had plenty of thrills, with two tigers and a big cub. To quote part of the diary—"His Highness fired twice with his .375 but the shots missed. The tiger became more and more enraged and charged the circle of elephants and roared furiously. This made many nervous elephants to run away helter-skelter, and the ring at places was almost blank. During this pandemonium a mahout on a fleeing elephant was thrown off by an overhanging branch, while the pachwa saved himself by lying flat on his belly on the pad, clinging tenaciously to a rope. Finally he managed to crawl on the neck of the elephant and successfully brought it back. The tiger meanwhile was continuing his tempo inside the ring, but was finally despatched by a shot in the head ".

A week or so later a wild tusker turned up in the camp and for many days caused endless trouble and confusion. He started off on the 18th by trying to rape a tame female elephant, Madankali. With a total lack of chivalry (to quote from the diary) "he hit her on her hind part with his tusk and made a big gash on her behind. His Highness sent a doctor for her treatment and gave orders for a Pitta to catch and then to give the wild tusker a lesson. So at 1 p.m. His Highness led the party of Pittawalas, like the Master of Sports in a fox-hunt, with a string of brave tuskers to work as pointers ". (The metaphor is a little mixed.) To continue the quotation:—"While following the trail of this four-footed swain, it was observed where he had played in the waterpools, and where he had rubbed his huge bulk on a tree. After tracking more than 12 miles, the beast was seen running away in the high grass. The spoor was followed for another mile or two, but as it was getting late to cover the distance back to camp, His Highness gave up the chase and ordered the party to return ".

However the wild elephant was back again next day, and molested another female, Pankali, when she was proceeding from her stable to the camp, loaded with a howdah. Pankali fled, shedding howdah and mahout and all, and later one of the big fighting tuskers, Shyam Prasad, had a furious duel with the rogue and put him to flight. The persistent brute, however, returned and caused more trouble on the 20th, 21st,
22nd, 24th and 26th, after which most of the female elephants left for Morang and there was peace.

Reverting to the 20th, a peculiarly vicious man-eater (tigress) was tackled. In the recent past she had killed eight humans from the nearby jungle villages, creating a reign of terror. Her last victim was an old man with a grey beard. Sometime after the beating had started "all of a sudden the tigress charged on Bishnu Prasad, one of the beater elephants, and was in no time seen clinging with her teeth on the elephant’s ear. This was too much for the elephant to endure, and he kneeled down, placing the inspector of mahouts, who was on his neck, in great danger from the infuriated man-killer. However he stood up again and took to his heels as best he could, tearing cloth screen and everything in his way". At this stage His Highness entered the ring to find out where the tigress was, and what she was doing, and successfully killed her with one shot from his Paradox. "Later, back in camp, grey human hairs were found in her stomach, and her reign of terror was over".

From December 26 to January 4, elephants, advance parties, tents, etc., were being sent off periodically to Morang, 150 miles away.

**December 31.**

An advance party left for Birgunj and another advance party left for Morang.

**January 4.**

A third batch left in advance for Morang (Biratnagar).

On this day, His Highness successfully carried out an interesting variation of the usual Nepal ring. As a leopard had been located and all but one elephant had gone, a human ring was formed with 250 men from nearby villages. His Highness mounted the elephant after a time and shot the leopard, a small one measuring 6 feet 7 inches.

On January 6, the Maharaja left by special train for Biratnagar, the capital of Morang district, where a tremendous welcome awaited him. His Highness's subjects had collected in their thousands; many huge triumphal arches, decorated with festoons of bunting, presented a gay reception. The diary notes:—"Everywhere in the plains where His Highness has travelled, he has received a hearty welcome, but none of the districts or divisions could excel the grand gala reception which the officials and people of Biratnagar had organised. His Highness's car passed slowly through the wildly cheering streets of Biratnagar,
but even then many people were deprived of a glimpse of His Highness, due to the immense crowds.

The next six weeks was a period of intensive shikar, packed with thrills. It is impossible to describe them all in detail, so this account will be limited to some of the red-letter days and more exciting incidents.

The 8th was one such day with a bag of 4 tigers. This was followed on 10th by an outstanding day, with 6 tigers and a crocodile. One of these tigers attacked the elephant on which General Samar Shumshere was mounted. General Samar is an expert photographer (he has supplied the bulk of the photographs illustrating this book) and attends these shoots of the Maharaja armed only with a camera. To quote the diary:—“The tiger succeeded in climbing up the head of the elephant, and was staring maliciously at General Samar, who repeatedly hit him on the head with the leather case of his camera.”. What a wonderful photograph this would have made from another elephant nearby!

January 15 provided a record, in that His Highness on the same day shot a tiger, a leopard and a bear! Never before or since has this “treble” been achieved in Nepal. The tiger and bear were shot in the same ring, and it is a notable fact that on this shoot this unusual and rare combination happened three times. On the very next day enormous confusion was caused in a ring containing one large tiger and two large bears. One of the latter, when wounded, broke through the ring, tearing down the white cloth, and Colonel Kiran immediately left the ring with 8 elephants and successfully finished him off after an exciting chase. The bear measured 6 feet 6 inches. Meanwhile His Highness was busy with the tiger and remaining bear. The former attacked an elephant belonging to the Raja of Banaili, “leapt on his hips, and remained clinging there for about 20 yards even while the elephant was running swiftly”. The total bag for this day was 2 tigers and 2 bears.

January 18 was another red-letter day, when a family of 4 big tigers—all fighters—provided one of the most exciting rings in His Highness’s long experience. It was an area of very heavy swamp grass that provided splendid cover for tigers, and the shikaris reported only 2 tigers in the ring. His Highness entered the ring at 4 p.m. on his favourite elephant Bhimgaj, with Vikram Prasad on his right and the Senior Commanding General on his left. Within a few moments a huge tigress was seen charging straight at His Highness’s howdah, and when His Highness fired, he had a misfire! The tigress was on the point of mauling Bhimgaj, when Vikram Prasad, true to his reputation,
surged forward and knocked the tigress away with his tusks. Then—“he kicked the tigress like a great football with both his forelegs for about 20 feet, and crushed her with one of his legs on her body, breaking her ribs. After this, Vikram returned to his place”. This is not the first time in these annals of shikar that His Highness’s elephant was protected by the magnificent tusker Vikram Prasad, but who has ever heard of an elephant playing football with a live and furious tiger!

His Highness asked General Bahadur to finish off the damaged tigress, which measured 9 feet 8 inches, a record size for a tigress. Shortly afterwards His Highness shot the father of the family, another splendid tiger measuring 10 feet 5 inches. The 2 cubs measured about 8 feet.

There was an amusing epilogue to this ring. “A throng of village people had gathered round the ring, on top of trees, to enjoy the fun of the shikar, and when asked to see the dead tigers at close quarters, fifty or sixty came down and gloated over them, as this family had killed many of their buffaloes and cows. Suddenly there was an uproar and a shout of yet another tiger in the ring, which made them run helter-skelter for the trees. However this was a false alarm, someone had seen a wild cat and in his nervous excitement had much exaggerated its size”!

A few days later a ring was formed round a kill under the most appalling conditions imaginable. It was round a patch of soggy ground where the Terai springs ooze out. The growth of vegetation in such areas in Eastern Nepal must be seen to be believed. Groups of tall dark trees of jamun and bischofia and other water-loving species, locked together by gigantic creepers, project above dark impenetrable evergreen shrubs, with occasional gaps of dense swamp grasses; a clump or two of thorny cane added to the horrors of the place, and—worst of all—there were patches of the fatal fasan (quicksands) in which the ponderous weight of elephants cause them to become hopelessly bogged. In this nightmare for shikar operations 2 tigers and (once again) a bear were enclosed.

The bear first broke cover and, when fired at, retreated again into the impenetrable undergrowth. Then a tiger charged the tusker Jaya Prasad, and started mauling his rump. The elephant became hopelessly stuck in the quicksand, while the tiger was biting and clawing his back, and “this made the elephant to cry out in agony. The mahout had a hair-breadth escape, and only saved himself by jumping down from the elephant and running for his life. The tiger then jumped to the ground and made for the bushes, in an area of lowland, covered by swamps and bogs, where beating by elephants was almost impossible.
PLATE 43.

(i) HIS HIGHNESS'S LAST TIGERS.

(ii) HIS HIGHNESS'S LAST LEOPARD.
The tiger, nevertheless, was forced out on the eastern side, and charged Moti Prasad, the Banaili elephant, clinging to his tusk, when the elephantboldly threw him towards heaven, and the tiger took over again.

For two solid hours (4 p.m. to 6 p.m.) everything possible was done to get the tigers and bear out of their retreat but without success; during this period the noises of a fight between the bear and a tiger were clearly heard. Even the letting off of squibs and crackers had no effect. Finally in the gloom of the forest, when complete and utter darkness had set in, His Highness called the shoot off, and all returned to camp by the light of torches. The white cloth screen was however left, on the off-chance that it might retain the tigers or the bear.

Early next morning General Bahadur went off to examine the spot, and by studying tracks, it appeared that the bear had cleared out during the night, but the tigers were still in the area. Accordingly the elephants again made the ring around the cloth screen, and news was sent to His Highness, who reached the spot at 11-50.

"The beating started again with the same zeal as yesterday, if not more so. The elephants threw broken branches with their trunks where the tigers were concealed, uprooted and pushed down trees towards them, pistols and revolvers were fired, and even fires were lit to provoke the hiding tigers to break cover. After all this, the attempt was at last successful, and a tigress, magnificent for her size and colour, came into view of His Highness, who chose an opportune moment and fired two shots. She fell stone dead with shots through the chest and backbone; to the great satisfaction of His Highness, she measured 9 feet 8 inches, equal to the record size for a tigress in Nepal. One thing peculiar was noted on the body of the tigress; there was fresh wound on her back the size and shape of a human hand, which was explained by the fight with the bear that had been heard overnight.”

General Bahadur had a glimpse of the other tiger slinking in the undergrowth. Once more every kind of attempt to drive him out was employed, breaking trees, firing crackers and revolvers, lighting bonfires, etc., but all in vain. Then His Highness suggested the smaller elephants might be able to pass through the swamp and bog, and offered a good reward if the tiger was driven out. These tactics succeeded to some extent, as the tiger charged the smaller elephants, causing them to stampede in all directions, but again the tiger retreated into impenetrable cover and could not be seen.

At 2-20 p.m., that is two hours after His Highness's arrival, General Bahadur once again had a glimpse of the slinking tiger, and called out
to His Highness. But His Highness could not see it and told General Bahadur to fire, which he did successfully, and with a finishing shot by His Highness the exciting incident was over.

Thus ended one of the most incredible and astounding beats that have ever occurred in all the great shoots in Nepal. The terribly unfavourable terrain made long odds against a successful result; the intrusion of night and the removal of all the elephants and shikaris made non-success practically certain, and yet success was achieved by bagging a fine tiger and a record tigress!

The shoot went on for another fortnight, and on several days 3 and 4 tigers were shot, but after this any detailed description would be rather an anticlimax. But there is one more remarkable incident to record, on February 4. It has been mentioned earlier in this book that tigers are not arboreal, and cases of them climbing trees are almost unknown. But in one ring this is actually what happened! "When His Highness entered the ring, he saw a tigress perched on a Gayo tree (Eleocarpus sp.), the trunk of which was somewhat inclined, and covered with a thick mass of climbers and foliage. So she had discovered a nice camouflage to hide herself! His Highness fired a shot, which hit her, when she climbed further up to the next branch, while yet another shot made her climb still higher up. It was the third bullet which made her fall down from her high perch of about 20 or 30 feet." On February 13, the Maharaja decided to conclude the shikar of the season, and further tying of padahs was stopped.

The total bag during the shoot of three months included 57 tigers, 13 leopards, 4 bears, and numerous crocodiles, sambhar, chital, boars, etc., etc. The shikar arrangements this year were under Commanding General Bahadur, to whose untiring efforts, from early morning to late at night and day after day, the success of the shikar was entirely due. Anyone who has run the usual big game Indian shoot (with elephants) for the usual period of ten days or a fortnight (as the author has done on various occasions) can best appreciate the strain and physical energy of a non-stop shoot running into months, and the skill and meticulous attention to details necessary for success.

It may briefly be mentioned that during the cold weather of 1939-1940 His Highness the Maharaja paid a visit to Calcutta at the invitation of His Excellency the Viceroy, but the splendours of this visit are not within the scope of this book. This occupied a good deal of the cold weather, but on his return to Nepal in January, the Maharaja had a short shoot around Amlekhgunj, and the bag included 7 tigers and 4 leopards.
All things come to an end in time and, although the Maharaja’s shikar goes on, this account of it to date is now completed. Within the scope of one book, it has been impossible to record and describe all the thrilling shikar incidents given in the Maharaja’s sporting diaries; this would have taken several volumes! But sufficient of such adventures have been described to show how terribly exciting big game shikar in Nepal can be. The excitement—and danger—is increased very largely by His Highness’s method, as has been mentioned before, of following wounded and furious tigers straightaway into their lair under thick cover inside the ring; the increased excitement is what appeals to His Highness, while the increased danger he ignores. This explains how it is that the Maharaja’s sporting diaries are so crammed with nerve-racking, and frequently unique, experiences.

Organised by such experts as Commanding Generals Kaiser and Bahadur and General Surya, whose exertions are supplemented by His Highness’s own vast experience and jungle knowledge, with unlimited resources of elephants and men in the huge virgin forests of Nepal, this big game shikar is on a scale, and achieves results, altogether unparalleled elsewhere. The previous pages will have given some idea of this, as well as some idea of the pluck and skill of the Nepalese and their wonderful organisation in big game shikar. It is hoped they will have given something more, a picture of His Highness the Maharaja as a thorough sportsman, fearless and with an iron nerve in the crises that continually arise in the hunting of big game; eager to invite and welcome his guests and show them glorious sport, and, as host, rejoicing in their success and pleasure.

Maharaja ke jai!
APPENDIX I.

SUMMARY OF THE MAHARAJA'S SPORTING DIARY.

CHITAWAN.

1933—January and February (3 weeks).

Chief of staff 

In charge shikar 

A.D.C. General 
Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Surya Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

Total bag 
41 tigers, 14 rhinos, 2 leopards.

NAYA MULUK.

1933-34 (December to February).

Chief of staff 

In charge shikar 

A.D.C. General 

Total bag 
47 tigers, 5 leopards.

(163)
MORANG.

1935 (January to March).

Chief of staff .. Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Subikhyat Trisaktipatta Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu Senior Commanding General Sir Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, g.b.e., k.c.i.e., Sainik Dirghasewapatta.

In charge shikar .. Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu Commanding General Sir Kaiser Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, g.b.e., g.o.l.h.

A.D.C. General .. Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Sinha Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

Total bag .. 25 tigers, 12 leopards, one wild buffalo.

MAHOTARI—SARLAHI—CHITAWAN.

1935-36 (December to February).

Chief of staff .. Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Subikhyat Trisaktipatta Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu Commanding General Sir Baber Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, g.b.e., k.c.s.i., k.c.i.e., Nepal Pratap Bardhak, Honorary Colonel British Army.

In charge shikar .. (i) Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu Commanding General Sir Kaiser Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, g.b.e., g.o.l.h.

(ii) Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Subikhyat Trisaktipatta Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu Commanding General Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, g.b.e., g.c.c.i., g.o.l.h.

A.D.C. General .. Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Subikhyat Trisaktipatta Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu Commanding General Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, g.b.e., g.c.c.i., g.o.l.h.

Total bag .. 77 tigers, 24 leopards, 3 bears, one rhino.
NAYA MULUK.

1936-37 (December to February).


In charge shikar .} Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Surya
A.D.C. General .} Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

Total bag .. .. 59 tigers, 6 leopards, 2 crocodiles.

MORANG.

1937-38 (December to February).


Total bag .. .. 57 tigers, 13 leopards, 4 bears.

CHITAWAN.

1938-39 (December to March).


Total bag .. .. 120 tigers, 38 rhinos, 27 leopards, 15 bears, 2 lions.
AMLEKHGUNJ.

1940 (January).

Chief of staff . . Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Krishna Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

In charge shikar . . | Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Surya

Total bag . . . . 7 tigers, 4 leopards.
## APPENDIX II.

### LIST OF 75 COMMON TREES, CLIMBERS AND SHRUBS IN THE TERAI AND SUB-MONTANE FORESTS, NEPAL.

**Large trees.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial number</th>
<th>Nepali name</th>
<th>Hindusthani name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Barro</td>
<td>Bahera</td>
<td><em>Terminalia beberica.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bhalayo</td>
<td>Bhalawa</td>
<td><em>Semecarpus anacardium.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bot dhangero (Banjhi)</td>
<td>Dhauri</td>
<td><em>Lagerstroemia parviflora.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chilaune</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Schima wallichii.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chhatiun</td>
<td>Chhatiun</td>
<td><em>Alstonia scholaris.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dabdabe</td>
<td>Kharpat</td>
<td><em>Garuga pinnata.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dhauri</td>
<td>Aggai</td>
<td><em>Dillenia pentagyna.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Gayo</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Eleocarpus sp.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hallunre</td>
<td>Jhinga</td>
<td><em>Lannea grandis.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Harre</td>
<td>Bhakli, Dhauli</td>
<td><em>Anogeissus latifolia.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Harro</td>
<td>Harra</td>
<td><em>Terminalia chebula.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jamun</td>
<td>Jaman</td>
<td><em>Eugenia jambolana.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kadam</td>
<td>Kadam</td>
<td><em>Anochephalus cadamba.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Karma</td>
<td>Haldu</td>
<td><em>Adina cordifolia.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Khamari</td>
<td>Gumhar</td>
<td><em>Gmelina arborea.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kharane</td>
<td>Kanju</td>
<td><em>Holoptelea integrifolia.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Kumbhi</td>
<td>Kumbhi</td>
<td><em>Careya arborea.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Kusum</td>
<td>Kusum</td>
<td><em>Schleichera trijuga.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Kyamun</td>
<td>Piaman</td>
<td><em>Eugenia operculata.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Lampate</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Duabanga sonneratiodes.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Latikaram (Bhurkul)</td>
<td>Baurang</td>
<td><em>Hymenedictyon excelsum.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Large trees—concl.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial number</th>
<th>Nepali name</th>
<th>Hindusthani name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Odal</td>
<td>Udal</td>
<td>Sterculia villosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Parani</td>
<td>Padal</td>
<td>Stereospermum suaveolens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Phirphire</td>
<td>Bodal</td>
<td>Sterculia pallena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pithari</td>
<td>Gutel</td>
<td>Trewia nudiflora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Pulthe</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chisoscheton paniculatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Putlikath</td>
<td>Dhebri</td>
<td>Eleodendron glaucum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Ranibel</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tetrameles nudiflora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Saj (Asan)</td>
<td>Sain, Asna</td>
<td>Terminalia tomentosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sal (Shakua)</td>
<td>Sakhu, Sal</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Satisal</td>
<td>Saksal (rose wood)</td>
<td>Dalbergia latifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Simal</td>
<td>Semal</td>
<td>Bombax malabaricum</td>
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<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Siris (Parke)</td>
<td>Sufaid siris</td>
<td>Albizza procera</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Siris (Thanka)</td>
<td>Kala siris</td>
<td>Albizza odoratissima</td>
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<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Sissau</td>
<td>Sissu, Shisham</td>
<td>Dalbergia sissoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Tooni</td>
<td>Tun</td>
<td>Cedrela toona</td>
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### Medium and small trees.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Hindusthani name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
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<td>Amlit</td>
<td>Bauhinia malabaricum</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Xylosma longifolium</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Aulia</td>
<td></td>
<td>Croton oblongifolius</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bel</td>
<td>Bel</td>
<td>Aegle marmelos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chillikath</td>
<td></td>
<td>Putranjiva roburghii</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chiuri</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meliosma simplicifolia</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Datrung</td>
<td>Chamror</td>
<td>Ehretia levis</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dori</td>
<td>Chilla</td>
<td>Casearia tomentosa</td>
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</table>
## Appendix II.

### Medium and small trees—concl.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Serial number</th>
<th>Nepali name</th>
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<th>Botanical name</th>
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<td>Halado</td>
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<td>Kaindal</td>
<td>Kain</td>
<td><em>Bischofia javanica.</em></td>
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<td>Kalabhogate</td>
<td>....</td>
<td><em>Baccaurea sapida.</em></td>
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<td>Kalikath</td>
<td>Dom sal</td>
<td><em>Miliusa velutina.</em></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Khsir</td>
<td><em>Acacia catechu.</em></td>
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<td>Khaur</td>
<td>....</td>
<td><em>Acacia lenticularis.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Khirro</td>
<td>Dudhi</td>
<td><em>Holarrhena antidysenterica.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Koirala</td>
<td>Guiral</td>
<td><em>Bauhinia purpurea.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Kuvinde</td>
<td>Pula</td>
<td><em>Kydia calycina.</em></td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Laha</td>
<td>....</td>
<td><em>Albizia lucida.</em></td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Masinpate</td>
<td>....</td>
<td><em>Albizia gamblei.</em></td>
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<td>Palans</td>
<td>Dhak, Palas</td>
<td><em>Butea frondosa.</em></td>
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<td>Panjan (Sandan)</td>
<td>Panan, Sandan</td>
<td><em>Ougenia dalbergioides.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Patmiro</td>
<td>....</td>
<td><em>Litsaea sp. (?)</em>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Phaledo</td>
<td>Dhauldhak</td>
<td><em>Erythrina suberosa.</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Rajbrichhe (Amaltas)</td>
<td>Amaltas</td>
<td><em>Cassia fistula.</em></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sahora</td>
<td>Sahora</td>
<td><em>Streblus asper.</em></td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Shyal phusre</td>
<td>Phalsa, Dhaman</td>
<td><em>Grewia asiatica.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Sindhure</td>
<td>Rohini</td>
<td><em>Mallotus philippinensis.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Tilko</td>
<td>....</td>
<td><em>Wendlandia sp. (?) tinctoria.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Climbers.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial number</th>
<th>Nepali name</th>
<th>Hindusthani name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arari</td>
<td>Aila</td>
<td><em>Acacia pennata (or ceasia).</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bhorla</td>
<td>Maljan</td>
<td><em>Bauhinia vahlia.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Debrelahara (Paraslatti)</td>
<td>Maula</td>
<td><em>Spatholobus roxburghii.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gaujo</td>
<td>Gauj</td>
<td><em>Milletia auriculata.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Laharo Siris</td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td><em>Dalbergia stipulacea.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Shrubs.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial number</th>
<th>Nepali name</th>
<th>Hindusthani name</th>
<th>Botanical name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Asuro</td>
<td>Bansa, Barsing</td>
<td><em>Adhatoda vasica.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bhant</td>
<td>Bhant</td>
<td><em>Clerodendron infortumatum.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dhursul</td>
<td>Bindu</td>
<td><em>Colebrookia oppositifolia.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rudhilo</td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td><em>Pogostemon plectranthoides.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX III.

GLOSSARY OF NEPALI WORDS.

(1) Nepali names for 30 wild animals.

Carnivora—

(1) Tiger बाघ bagh. पाट्याघ i.e., "striped" for tiger.
uchsलेबाघ “spotted” for leopard.
Smaller variety being called झिङले nicalay.
Bigger variety being called खून ghoongi.

(2) Leopard चितुवा chitua.
Bear भालू bhaloo.
Hyena हुड़ार hoodar.
Wild dog वनकुकुर bunkootta.
Wild cat वनविरालो bunbiralo.
Fox फ़ियाउरो phiauro.
Jackal खाल syal.

Deer—

(3) Sambhar जरायो jarayo, smaller variety being called sooray,
bigger variety being called मीन gone.
Chital चित्तल (spotted deer) chittal.
Karkor राते or रतुवा (barking deer) ratay or ratua.
Gond (swamp deer) वारसिङ्गी barasinga.
Parha (hog deer) लगुना ramgai.
Musk deer कसुरि kasturi.
Tibetan stag शाहर shahur.

(1) The word bagh is also used for leopard, hence the further distinction, i.e., pate bagh—striped bagh, thopale bagh—spotted bagh.

(2) While chitua is the general name for leopard or panther, a further distinction is made in Nepal between ghoongi, the larger and more heavily built variety (leopard), and nicalay, the smaller variety (panther).

(3) In Nepal, two varieties of sambhar are recognised and named, i.e., a smaller variety called sooray and a larger variety called gone.
(1) Nepali names for 30 wild animals—concl.

Goats and Sheep—

(4) Serow खार tahr.
   Tahr भारल jharal.
   Gural गोरल ghoral.
   Burhel बर्नेडा also बरवाल bunbheda and barwal.

Antelopes—

(5) Nilgai (blue bull) निलगाड़ nilgai.
   Blackbuck वरांथ or क्रिष्णसारस्त्र बराथ ; also Krishnasar mriga.
   Four-horned antelope चौका chowka.

Miscellaneous—

   Elephant हाथि hathi.
   Rhinoceros गैंडा gainda.
   Wild buffalo भारी arna.
   Porcupine दुमस्त doomsii.
   Hare खारायो kharayo.

(6) Crocodile मोढ़ि gohi for both.
    गडियाल ghadial (long-snouted).
    मगर magar (short-snouted).

(2) Glossary of Nepali and shikar words.

Awal .. .. Malignant Terai malaria.
Bandobast .. .. Arrangements.
Bhabar .. .. The waterless zone at the foot of the hills.
Chaitya .. .. Dome of a Buddhist temple.
Chaudanti .. .. A fight between tuskers.
Chara-cut .. .. An elephant attendant who looks after the fodder.
Charkosya jhari .. .. The forests within 4 kos (8 miles) of the foot of the hills.

(4) There is a curious confusion in English and Nepali names amongst the goats and goat-antelopes. Thus while serow is tahr in Nepalese, tahr is jharal, and gural is ghoral.

(5) The alternate name for blackbuck, i.e., krishnasar mriga means "deer of Krishna". mriga being the Nepali name for deer generally.

(6) In English, crocodile is used indiscriminately for mugger (snub-nosed) and gavial (long-snouted), similarly in Nepalese gohi is used for both mugger and ghadial.
### Appendix III.

(2) **Glossary of Nepali and shikar words—contd.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charpoy</td>
<td>A native bed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dacoits</td>
<td>Armed robbers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desi</td>
<td>Plains or plainsmen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dun</td>
<td>A broad valley between the outer and inner Himalayan ranges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fasan</td>
<td>Quicksand or bog.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathi-pita</td>
<td>Hunting and beating a wild elephant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hathisar</td>
<td>Elephant encampment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hát</td>
<td>Weekly market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jhuruwa shikar</td>
<td>Beating with a line of elephants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jungli hathi</td>
<td>Wild elephant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadir</td>
<td>Riverain land flooded in the monsoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katha</td>
<td>A valuable forest product made from khair trees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khabbar</td>
<td>News, information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khadga-rudhir tarpan</td>
<td>A religious ceremony performed with the blood of a killed rhinoceros.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kheda or kheddah</td>
<td>Hunting or catching wild elephants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khola</td>
<td>River or stream.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kos</td>
<td>Rather over 2 miles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lam pugyo</td>
<td>The ring is complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lam than</td>
<td>Halt the line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Langur</td>
<td>The big grey ape.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machan</td>
<td>A shikar platform in a tree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madesh</td>
<td>The plains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahajan</td>
<td>An Indian merchant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahout</td>
<td>The driver of an elephant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makna</td>
<td>A tuskless male elephant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudi plura</td>
<td>Right or left turn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musth</td>
<td>A sexual condition in males of elephants and rhino, in rut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nala</td>
<td>A ravine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nazar</td>
<td>Ceremonial presentation of a coin as token of respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pachwa</td>
<td>An elephant attendant who sits on the &quot;rump&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Padah</td>
<td>Bait for tiger.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pahar</td>
<td>A hill, or the hills.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandava</td>
<td>The five sons of King Pandu, heroes of the Mahabharat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(2) *Glossary of Nepali and shikar words—concl.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathshala</td>
<td>School where the students are fed free.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdah</td>
<td>Screen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryot</td>
<td>Tenant or cultivator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamasha</td>
<td>A show.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terai</td>
<td>The swampy zone (below the Bhabar) at the foot of the hills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>