

SPORTING NOTES

IN THE

FAR EAST.

BY

LIEUTENANT C. CRADOCK, ROYAL NAVY.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS.

LONDON

GRIFFITH FARRAN OKEDEN & WELSH

(SUCCESSORS TO NEWBERRY AND HARRIS)

AND SYDNEY.

RICHMOND, YORKS., C. E. COOKES.

I am sorry to say that I visited this charnel establishment, and the spectacle of these gorged and disgusting birds, perched about in this loathsome yard, is not likely to be forgotten for many a long day.

We arrived at Bangkok just after the British occupation of Burmah ; and I wonder if it would be a great stretch of imagination to draw a simile between Siam and the Channel of old England, as boundaries between ourselves and our neighbours the French.

The first being a narrow strip of land, containing one of the richest and most fertile soils in the world ; and the other twenty-four miles of waste blue water.

I suppose that before many years have elapsed, this country will have passed into the hands of one of the two nations : and taking into consideration that Mossoo (always a bad colonizer) has the greatest difficulty in keeping his grasp on Tonquin ; I should feel tempted to foretell that those palms would belong to Britannia.

ISLAND OF BORNEO.

Herewith a Letter kindly written by my friend Lieut. D. D—, on the sport to be found on this Island.

DEAR CRADOCK,—The big game *fauna* of Borneo are not very numerous, elephant, rhinoceros, bison, (bos banteng) or *lissang* as they call them, abundance of pig and deer, and the crocodile proper, which often grows to a great size in these vast mangrove swamps.

Tiger and leopard there are none, though the former is very common on the neighbouring Islands of Java and Sumatra, and is very fond of the water (not generally a feline characteristic), and it has been known to swim great distances from Island to Island, in the closely packed Archipelagoes of Polynesia. To the South side of this Island Continent is found a small clouded tiger, and also the tapir which they call indigenous. Bears are not common, seldom run much larger than a Southdown sheep, and are very harmless fruit-eating specimens: noticeable for their long black hair and tremendous claws, with which they can climb as well almost, as their fruit-robbing companions the Orang-outang (*i.e.* old man of the woods). The Babi-rusa (pig-deer) with its curved ornamental tusks, (like the wart-hog of Africa), is also found *only* in the South, if there? And this I think concludes the list.

The elephant is located chiefly in the N. E. Promontory, about the Kinabatangan River and Quarmoti; we saw their tracks when we landed at Tanjong-Unsang, and again on the banks of a small river running into Siboku Bay, the British and Dutch Boundary. Originally descended from tame Asiatics, and imported for some old Sultan by perhaps an early East India Company.

A native armed with a Snider had killed four near Dewhurst Bay, but they generally follow and spear one animal if possible in the stomach, camping out, and taking up its tracks for days at a time: eventually the beast succumbs from loss of blood.

The present Governor of Labuan, A. Hamilton, Esq., (late Lieutenant R. N.) came for a six weeks' sporting trip with us on board the "Egeria": and we made several excursions together in ship's boats, houseboats, and canoes: visiting the famous Segama, Suan Lamba, and Segalind rivers from Elopura; but besides tracks, and numerous "cow-pat" droppings, and hearing them trumpet and break away thro' the forest, we got little or no reward for our labours.

Watching an old clearing at sunrise or sunset, is the only chance of sighting them. As many as forty to fifty elephants have been counted in one herd.

A double 8-bore, spherical ball, driven with four drams of No. 4 C. & H, would do the trick; and the ordinary 12-bore act as second gun: choke or no choke.—*c'est égal!* Personally, I prefer an Express, although in these thick coverts one never gets a shot much beyond thirty yards.

With reference to the rhinoceros I remember once landing abreast Pulo Gaya, on the mainland, and suddenly disturbing some large heavy animal hidden by the long sword grass, close down to the shore. It had been taking a mud-bath, and the impressions therein, and the impressions also of its spoor which I sketched. (after following it up in a hopeless attempt to get a shot), proved it to be a rhinoceros. To verify this, I collected a sample of the droppings, wrapped them in a dock leaf, and conveyed them on

board under my sun-hat. Later on the resident consul of the Pappa River, a clever naturalist, confirmed my belief that I had "flushed" a rhinoceros!

A rhinoceros was shot in the Straits of Malacca, by Lieut. King Harman, R.N., of the "Mosquito." He spent a night, or perhaps two, up on a *machan*, and fell fast asleep towards the morning, drowsy with heat and unrewarded watching. The Malay hunter woke him suddenly, and made signs to him to look and listen: presently he caught sight of something dark moving in the long grass, took a snap-shot and fired. After a heavy rush every thing was still, and the native cautiously descended from his perch and went to investigate. He found the brute lying down, and was charged furiously directly he was seen; overtaken in a few strides, the beast tossed him with his snout and ripped his stomach open to the chest, and itself fell dead a few yards further on. The native was killed outright, and a post-mortem on the rhinoceros discovered no external wound, he must have looked up at the *machan* while eating, for the ball had passed down the throat, and his last dying effort caused the death of his betrayer!

The *ghaur* or *lissang* as they call Bornean wild cattle, frequent river banks and any open spaces where the grass is most luxurious; Kinabatangan and Bengkoka Rivers are sure finds, but at the mouth of the latter which flows into Malludu Bay, they must not be mistaken for some herds of water-buffalo which have run wild.