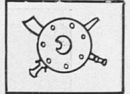
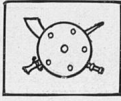


# THE EMPEROR OF INDIA'S GREAT SHIKAR IN NEPAL



For which the King Sets Out To-day (Saturday),  
December 16.

Already the first Durbar held by a British sovereign in person in India is passing into history, and the end of this week sees the departure of their Majesties from the imperial city of Delhi, the King-Emperor for ten days' shooting in the Nepal Terai and the Queen-Empress for a quiet tour among the picturesque capitals of the Rajputana states.

King George travels by the narrow-gauge Bengal and North-Western Railway to Bhikna Thoree, a small station on our frontier from which our political officers and the other favoured Britishers who have been admitted to this

jealously-guarded country have made their way to Katmandu, the capital. The Terai, or lowland, at the foot of the Himalayan hills stretches along the whole 500 miles of the Nepalese border, but its width is never more than thirty and sometimes only ten miles. Part of this tract like the adjacent British territory is open cultivated ground, but it is mostly primæval jungle consisting chiefly of dense forest.

These are in places quite impenetrable owing to the luxuriant undergrowth and tangle of giant creepers which swing from tree to tree. Here and there the forest is interrupted by stretches of prairie land, the grass of which often reaches to a height of 10 to 15 ft. Where the ground is low-lying and swampy there are tracts of *markat* or "elephant grass" so dense that not even the wild elephants of the Terai can work their way through. Sportsmen have to be careful to avoid the quicksands and the bogs which are frequently met with. The latter are waterlogged narrow channels containing a mass of decaying vegetation. On the surface they appear fordable, but have been known to engulf both men and animals.

The forests contain valuable timber trees. The valleys are inhabited by numerous different hill tribes, partly aboriginal, partly

Mongolian or Chinese descent, but the dominant race are the Goorkhas.

Obviously the Emperor of India could not spend ten days in so wild a region without most careful preparations being made. Under the personal supervision of the Nepalese Prime Minister these preparations have been brought to completion. Shooting-boxes ordered from England have been set up at Bhikna Thoree and at Nartatiaganj further in the heart of the jungle, and they have been connected both by a cart track and by a motor road. Though the numbers of wild animals in this region are

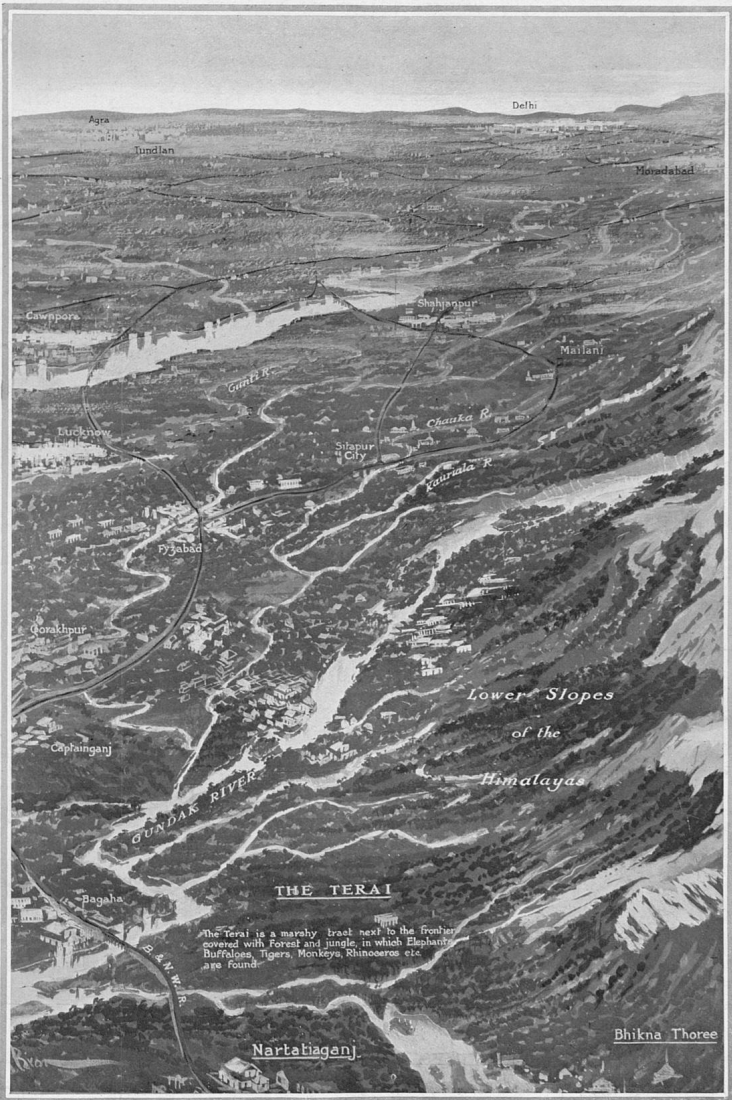
probably decreasing, owing to the encroachments of cultivation and the increasing admission of sportsmen, the King-Emperor may expect sport in no respect inferior to that enjoyed by his august father thirty-five years ago when as Prince of Wales he shot in these jungles in company with the great Sir Jung Bahadur, the Prime Minister, who was one of our staunchest friends in the Mutiny. Sir Jung was succeeded on his death in 1877 by his son, who was slain and supplanted by the head of a rival faction in 1885.

The rhinoceros the tiger, the leopard, and the

sloth bear are plentiful; the wild buffalo is occasionally seen. In certain grassy tracts hog deer and hog abound, while in the forests and lower hills the sambar (the deer *Rusa aristotelis*) and chital (the spotted deer) find shelter.

And should the royal party tire of shooting it is probable that arrangements can be made for the King and his suite to witness the capture of wild elephants, which is one of the great sports of Nepal as well as a source of revenue. By means of tame elephants and an army of beaters the wild herd is driven into some well-known narrow valley. The big tuskers are singled out, and each is separately chased by tame elephants until it is eventually brought to bay, when special fighting elephants are brought up. A furious battle of Titans ensues, and when the wild animal can no longer offer resistance his hind legs are securely bound together with ropes and he is hustled into camp or secured to some large tree close by. The females and young are lassoed.

The climate of Nepal varies greatly according to the altitude; the principal valley, in which stands the capital, Khatmandu, has a climate like that of southern Europe. The soil is very fertile, in some districts yielding three crops a year. The hillsides are terraced and the land irrigated.



Where the Emperor of India will Hunt in the Terai  
The Terai country is shown in the foreground. The spectator is looking southward towards Delhi, which the King leaves to-day (Saturday) for Nepal  
DRAWN BY G. BRON