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THE HISTORICAL RECORD
OF THE IMPERIAL VISIT
TO INDIA

1911

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COMPILED FROM (THE OFFICIAL RECORDS UNDER THE
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XII—NEPAL AND RAJPUTANA

I—NEPAL

NEPAL is best known as the country of the gallant little Gurkha. It holds a peculiar position as a State lying between India and the Chinese frontier, with which only once has the British Government been at variance. This was in 1814, when the Governor-General, Lord Hastings, was obliged to send a military expedition into the country to put an end to frontier raids. The campaign was brought to a successful termination in the following year by Sir David Ochterlony, whose lofty monument is such a conspicuous object in Calcutta, and since then this hardy mountain State has been the closest ally of the British and has given many of its sons to fight the battles of the Empire.

When the King-Emperor made his tour in India as Prince of Wales, it had been arranged that he should pay a visit to the Maharaja of Nepal in His Highness's own territory and, as a relaxation from the severe strain of many months of travelling, enjoy some of the unequalled sport afforded by the well-stocked jungles of the Terai, the sub-montane portion of the State. A severe outbreak of cholera in the neighbourhood of the shooting camps, however, necessitated the sudden abandonment of the project. The disappointment in Nepal was acute, and was fully shared by His Royal Highness himself. In 1908, Major-General His Excellency Maharaja Sir Chandra Shamsheer Jang Bahadur Rana, Prime Minister and Marshal of Nepal, the actual ruler of the State, visited England as the highly honoured guest of His Majesty King Edward. In January 1911, as soon as it was known that the present King-Emperor would visit India, the Maharaja begged the Viceroy to lay before His Majesty the idea of a shoot in Nepal. His Majesty readily accepted the invitation. Great preparations were at once set on foot, and two standing camps, in ideal situations, were made



in the Chitawan valley. These were connected with each other and with the railway, thirty miles distant, by some fifty miles of roadway, which was newly cut through the dense forest and jungle.

It looked, however, as if the fates were once more unpropitious, for His Highness the Maharajadhiraja of Nepal, the titular ruler of the country, died on the 11th December 1911, after being seriously ill for some months. His Highness had, however, before he passed away, expressed a particular desire that his death should in no way interfere with the visit. The King-Emperor therefore, as the period of ceremonial mourning was over before the date decided on, and as great disappointment would otherwise have been caused, consented to adhere to his original plan.

Leaving Delhi on the 16th December, His Imperial Majesty reached Arrah, the headquarters of the British district of Shahabad, on the south bank of the Ganges, on the next morning, which was Sunday. Here the Commissioner of Patna, Mr. W. Maude, and the District Magistrate, Mr. J. Johnson, were presented, and the train waited while His Imperial Majesty attended Divine Service in the local church. At this the Most Rev. Dr. Copleston, Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India, officiated. After the service, the King-Emperor inspected the well-known volunteer corps of the Behar Light Horse, which was in camp there. The commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel Hickley, introduced his officers, His Majesty being particularly interested in Captain Apperley, who had been one of the Guard of Honour of the same corps on the occasion of King Edward's visit to India as Prince of Wales in 1875. The regiment had turned out in force, over eighty per cent. of its full strength being on parade, although many had travelled long distances in order to be present. His Majesty then went by motor to see the Judge's house, the famous "Little House" where, in 1857, Boyle with seven Englishmen and fifty Sikhs made his memorable stand against four regiments of mutineers. The District and Sessions Judge of Arrah, Mr. G. J. Monahan, was here presented, and a detachment of the 45th Sikhs was drawn up at the house under Major Rattray, a son of Colonel Rattray, who raised the regiment in 1856. Two Indians, of whom one had fought in the siege, while the other was a boy at the time, were also presented to His Majesty, from whom they received gifts of money according to their ages. The town of Arrah was profusely decorated and large crowds greeted the King-Emperor with great enthusiasm. During his drive through the town, His Majesty noticed that the barriers kept the people far back from the route, and commanded that they should be removed, thus allowing the spectators to approach quite close. After going through Bankipur in the early afternoon, the Imperial party travelled by steamer from Digha Ghat for four miles down the Ganges, the vessel being kept as close inshore as possible to give the many thousands of people on the bank a chance to see His Majesty.



The borders of Nepal were reached at ten o'clock on the morning of the 18th December, at Bikna Thori, a small station of the Bengal and North-Western Railway on a line originally made during construction for the transport of ballast, but temporarily transformed for the present occasion into a place of some importance, with a post and telegraph office and a considerable settlement of people. Here His Majesty was received by the Maharaja, the arrangements being entirely informal. The Resident in Nepal, Lieutenant-Colonel J. Manners-Smith, V.C., with Major Burden and Captain Orton of the Residency Staff, and Mr. H. C. Streatfield, Commissioner of Tirhut, with Mr. G. Rainy, Collector of Champaran, were presented to His Majesty by Sir Henry McMahon, and the Maharaja's suite, most of whom had accompanied him to England, including two of His Excellency's sons, General Mohan Shamsheer Jang and Lieutenant-General Kaiser Shamsheer Jang, were presented by the Resident.

After a few minutes' conversation, His Majesty left Bikna Thori in a motor-car for the first day's shooting ground, accompanied by the Maharaja and attended by Brigadier-General Grimston, the remainder of the suite in attendance following in four other cars. The rest of the party formed a long procession of thirty-five vehicles and thirty elephants, which went direct to the camp. The Nepal frontier was crossed a few hundred yards from the station in the middle of a river bed, on the far bank of which was a large triumphal arch decorated with trophies of the jungle. From this, parched rice and red powder were scattered on His Majesty's car, in token of an auspicious entry into Nepal. At the same time a salute of a hundred and one guns was fired by two Nepalese batteries which were stationed near. Thirteen miles farther on, in the valley of the Rui river, His Majesty was met by General Baber Shamsheer Jang, second son of the Maharaja, who brought news of tigers in the neighbourhood, whereupon the party mounted elephants and proceeded into the forest. The sport was most successful, the first tiger being shot by His Majesty in mid-air as it was leaping a small stream. On this, as on every occasion during the visit to Nepal, His Majesty displayed that remarkable skill with the rifle for which he has long been noted among sportsmen. Altogether before the evening four tigers and three rhinoceroses were secured. His Majesty reached the camp at Sukhibar soon after five o'clock, and expressed his great admiration of the beautiful surroundings. The camp was situated at the centre of a crescent-shaped bend on the river Rapti, and had thus a long vista of clear water on either hand in front, while behind it lay the dense and luxuriant forest of the Terai. The river flowed past the camp in a broad and placid stream, forming a splendid foreground to the open jungle on the other bank, while occasionally in the distance a view could be caught of the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas. In the camp itself a bungalow was built for His Majesty, most comfortably furnished and fitted with electric light. Besides His Majesty's private apartments the house contained a dining-room to seat twenty-four and a drawing-



Photo Brooks.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY GREETING THE MAHARAJA SIR CHANDRA SHAMSER JANG OF NEPAL.

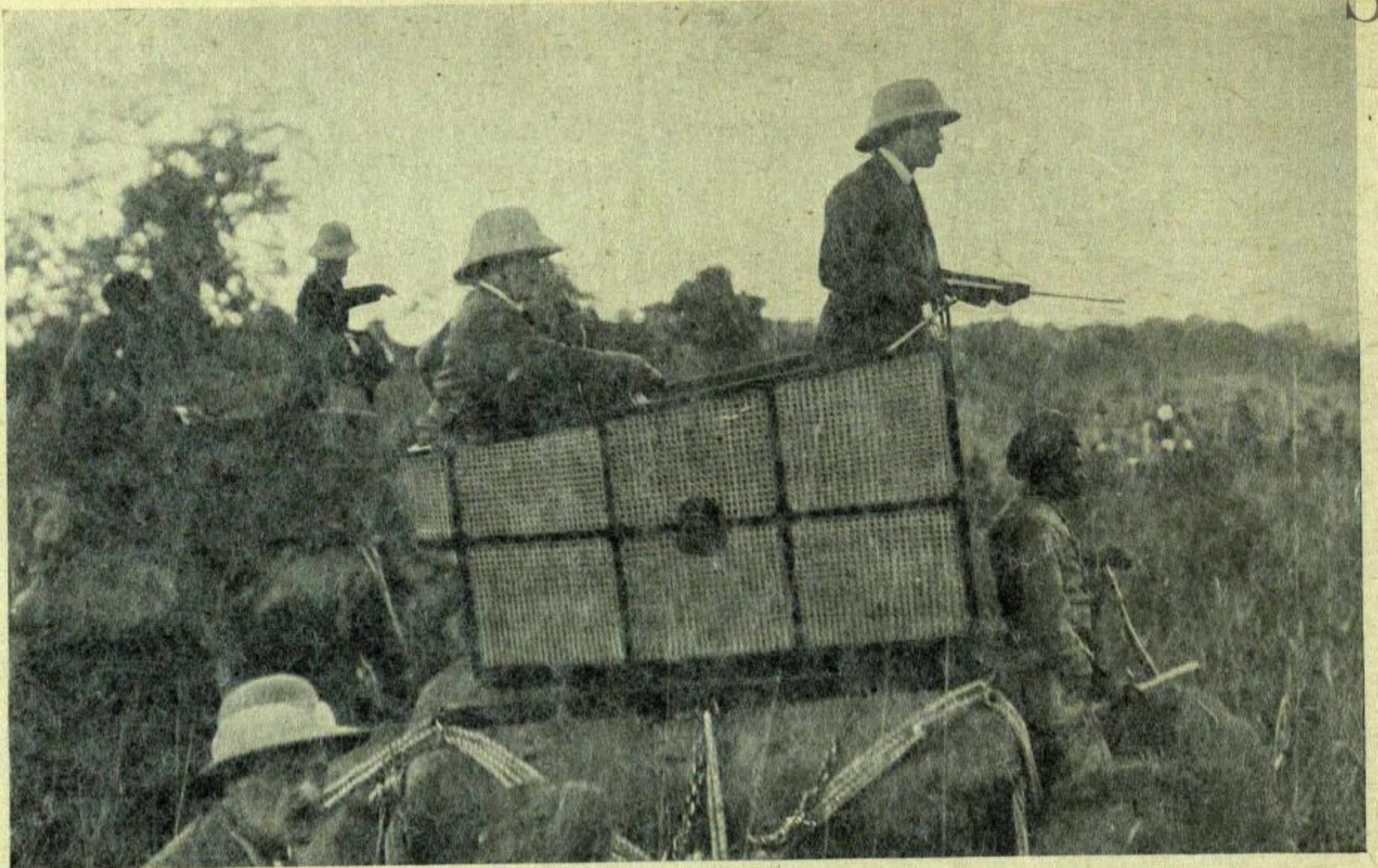


Photo Brooks.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY WAITING FOR A SHOT.

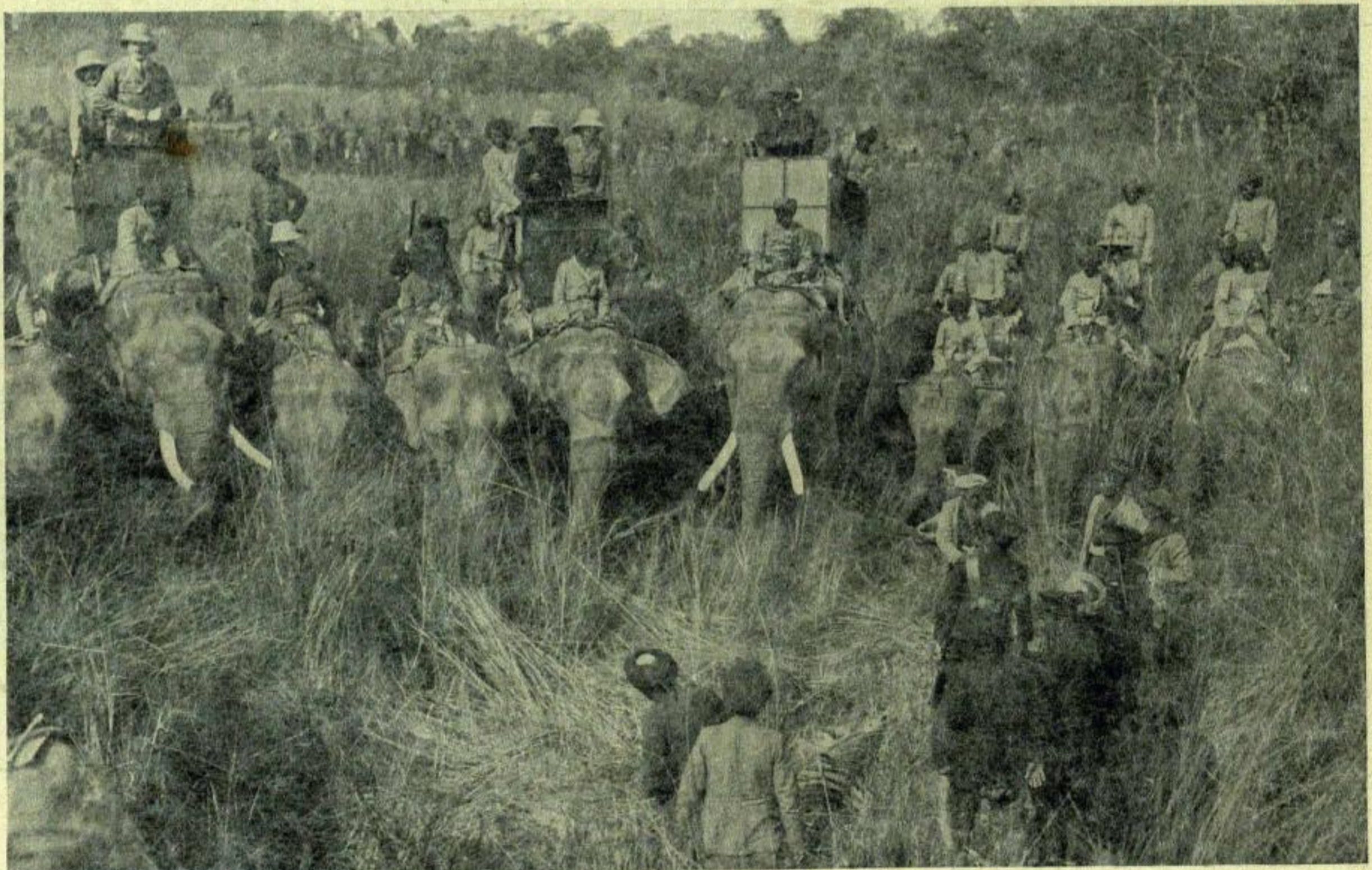


Photo Brooks.

A KILL.



room decorated with many objects of local interest. Around this, arranged in the form of a letter S, were the tents of His Majesty's suite, who numbered eighteen, and the Residency Staff of five. Outside the fencing of the camp were various smaller encampments for the Residency Escort, the motor-cars, stables, taxidermists, hospital, laundry, the post and telegraph offices, and other subsidiary services.

The camp of the Maharaja, who had with him some members of his family, as well as his staff and senior officers, was situated also on the river bank a little lower down, and behind it, hidden in the jungle, was the large encampment of His Excellency's followers, who numbered twelve thousand, besides six hundred elephants with two thousand attendants.

The King-Emperor resided at Sukhibar for five days. Each of these was spent in shooting, and splendid sport was obtained. On the sixth day a move was made to the second shooting camp at Kasra, eight miles farther up the river Rapti. The whole fourteen thousand men who formed the population of the first encampment changed their quarters, but the move was rendered easy by the fact that the second camp was practically a duplicate of the first. Here the sport was continued in the same way as before.

On Sunday, the 24th December, His Imperial Majesty attended Divine Service, which was conducted by the Rev. J. C. Godber, Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Calcutta, who had been summoned from India at His Majesty's request. On this day the ladies of the Residency party were invited to luncheon with the King-Emperor, and in the afternoon His Majesty, accompanied by General Kaisar Shamsheer, inspected with much interest the collection of animals indigenous to Nepal which the Maharaja had presented to him. This collection consisted of over seventy varieties, ranging from a young elephant and a rhinoceros calf to the wild ass of the Tibetan border, also the rare *shou*, which is now, with many others of the animals which survived the journey to England, in the gardens of the Zoological Society in London. His Majesty was also pleased to inspect the collection of beautiful specimens of Nepalese art which were similarly presented, and are now in the Victoria and Albert Museum at South Kensington. In the evening His Majesty held an informal reception in the drawing-room of the shooting-box, at which he personally invested the Maharaja Sir Chandra Shamsheer Jang with the insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Royal Victorian Order and handed him the gold Coronation Durbar medal. His Majesty also announced to the Maharaja the bestowal of a Knight Commandership of the same Order on His Excellency's brother, General Bhim Shamsheer Jang, Commander in Chief of the Nepalese Army, as well as the gift of two thousand rifles for his troops, with a large quantity of ammunition. After this, His Majesty received the Maharaja's brothers and his sons, with a few other near relations, giving to



each of them a personal souvenir. The officers concerned with the arrangements, and also the shikaris and mahouts, likewise received presents. The same evening His Majesty dispatched a telegram to the Officer Commanding the Abor Expeditionary Force as follows:

“**I** WISH to express to you and all ranks under your command my hearty good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I watch with interest the steady progress of your columns, and look for a successful and speedy termination of the expedition.”

The next day being Christmas, the King-Emperor attended Divine Service before continuing the shikar. The ring formed on this day was the largest during the whole visit, the number of elephants engaged being just under six hundred, and it was then that His Majesty obtained the largest tiger of the shoot.

On the 27th December, some fighting elephants were exhibited before His Majesty, who also received two Mutiny veterans of the Nepalese Army, one of whom had been presented with a claymore by King Edward on the occasion of his visit in 1876. In the evening the members of His Majesty's suite proceeded to the Maharaja's camp, where His Highness the Duke of Teck read a short speech of appreciation and thanks to His Excellency, which the others present confirmed with many expressions of goodwill. His Majesty later invested Colonel Manners-Smith, the Resident, as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, and presented him with the Delhi medal. Major Burden was next invested with the Companionship of the Indian Empire, and likewise given the Delhi medal. Other members of the Residency Staff received souvenirs.

The 28th December was the last day of the visit. In the morning, on his way to the shoot, His Majesty reviewed a Brigade of four Nepalese regiments that were drawn up in line beside the road. The troops were in full-dress uniform, and were commanded by Senior Commanding General Judha Shamsheer Jang Bahadur Rana. The railway station was reached, after a long day in the jungle, at half-past six in the evening, a salute of a hundred and one guns being fired as His Majesty crossed the frontier. On arrival, His Majesty entered his saloon with the Maharaja, but shortly afterwards returned to the platform and said good-bye to His Excellency and the members of his suite, as also to the Resident, and the Commissioner and the Collector, who had remained in camp at Bikna Thori during the visit. A large crowd had gathered even in this out-of-the-way place and loudly cheered the King-Emperor, running beside the train as far as possible.

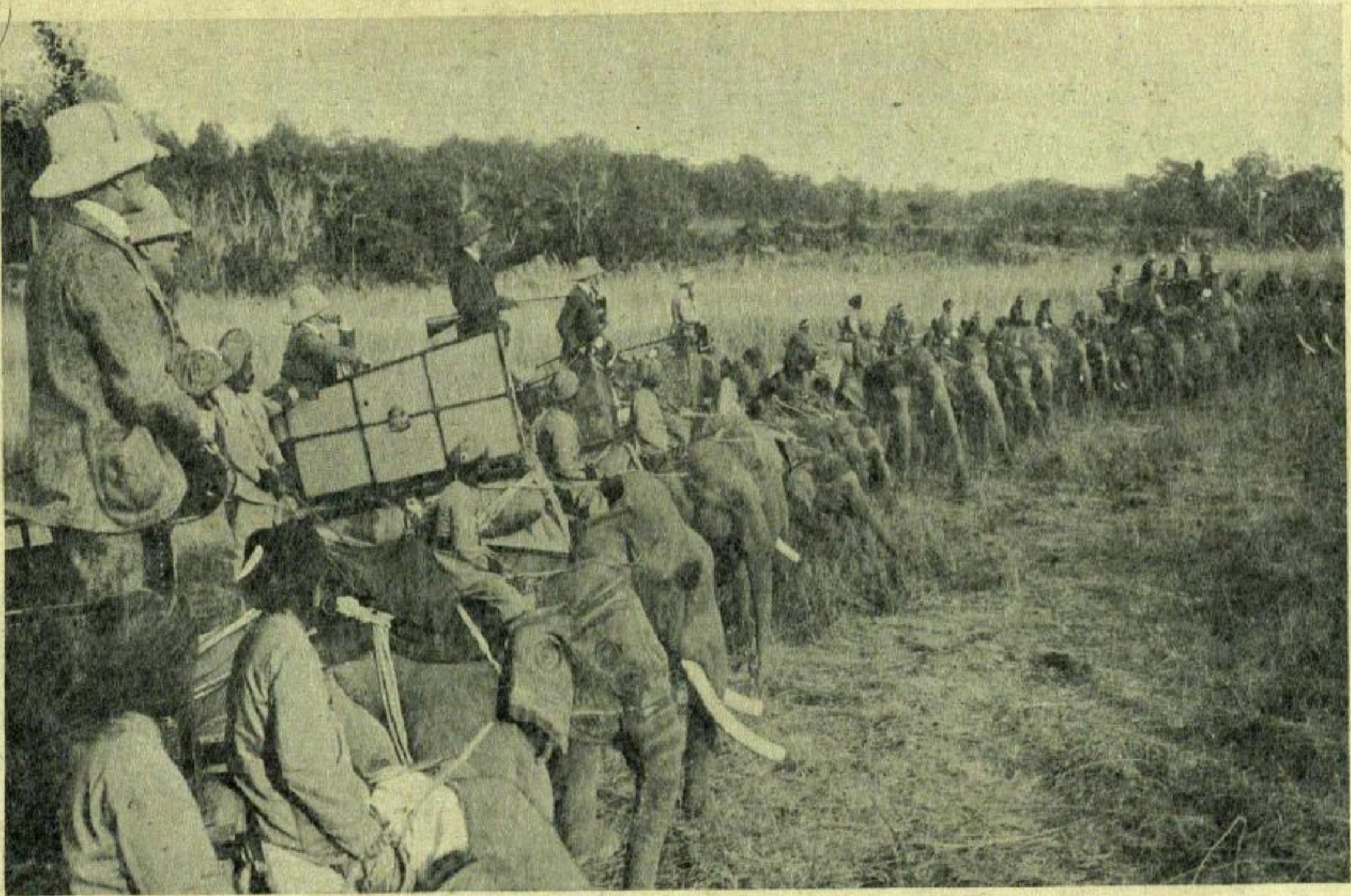


Photo Brooks.

A SHOOTING RING.

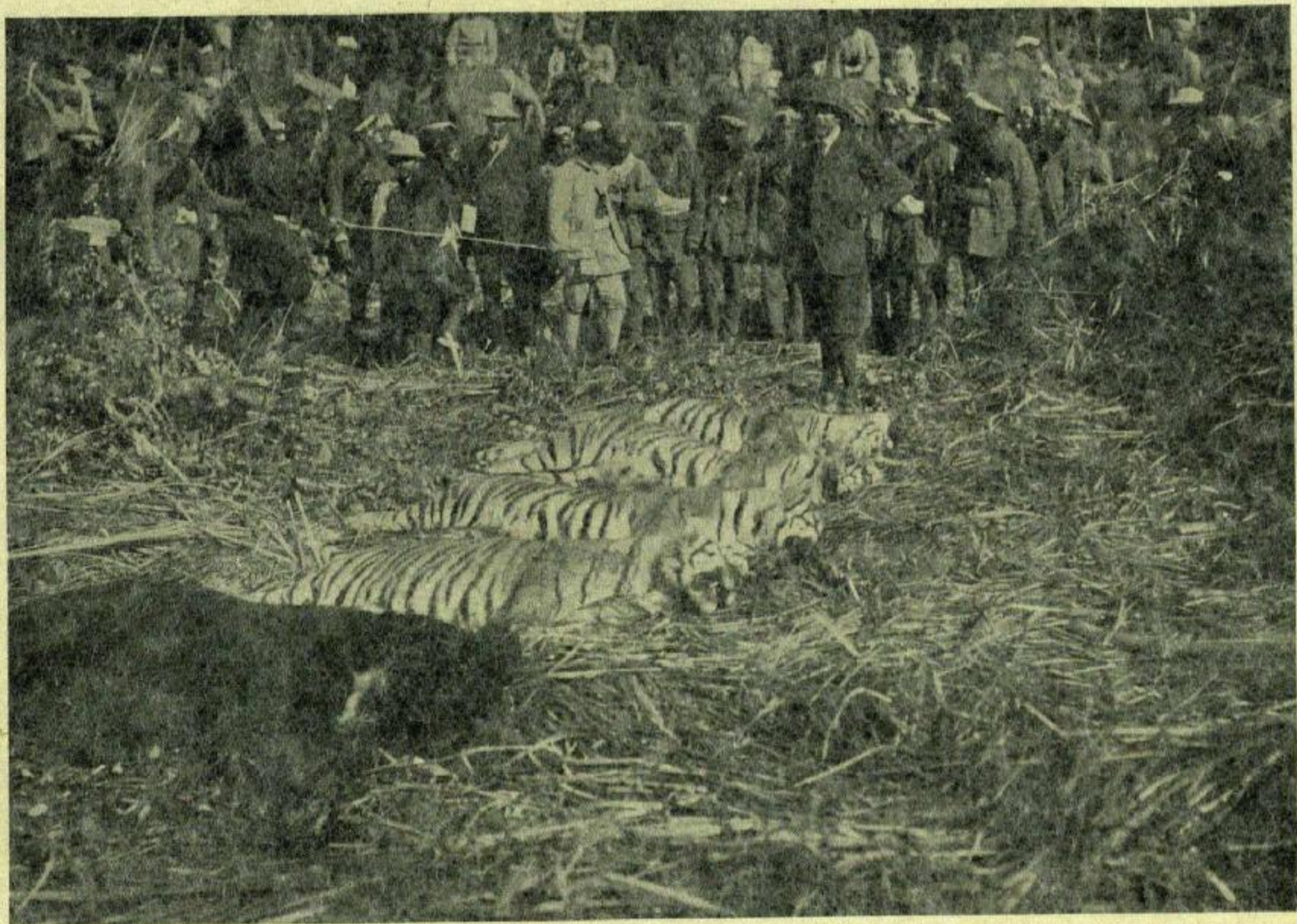


Photo Brooks.

A MORNING'S SPORT.

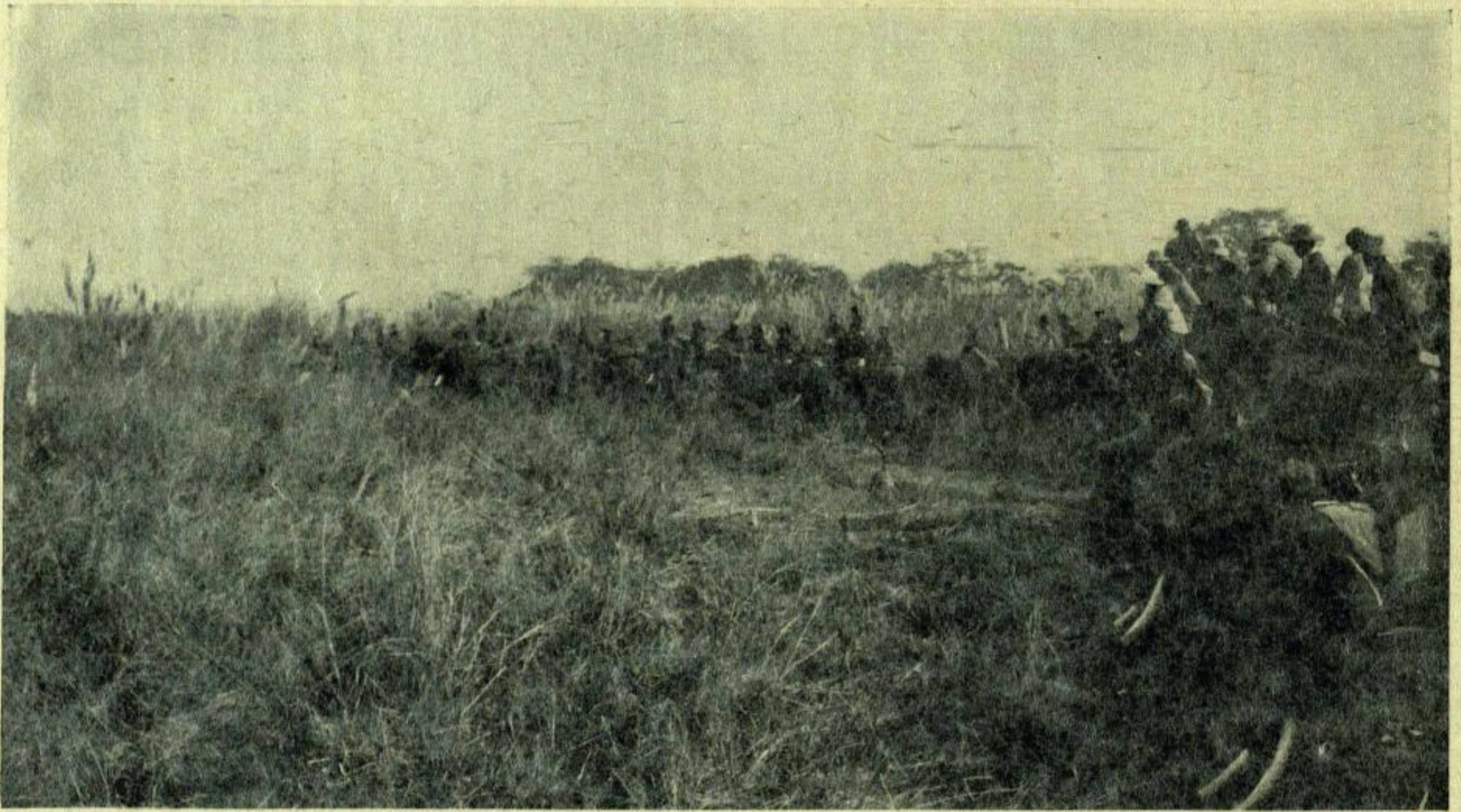


Photo Brooks.

SHOOTING IN NEPAL.

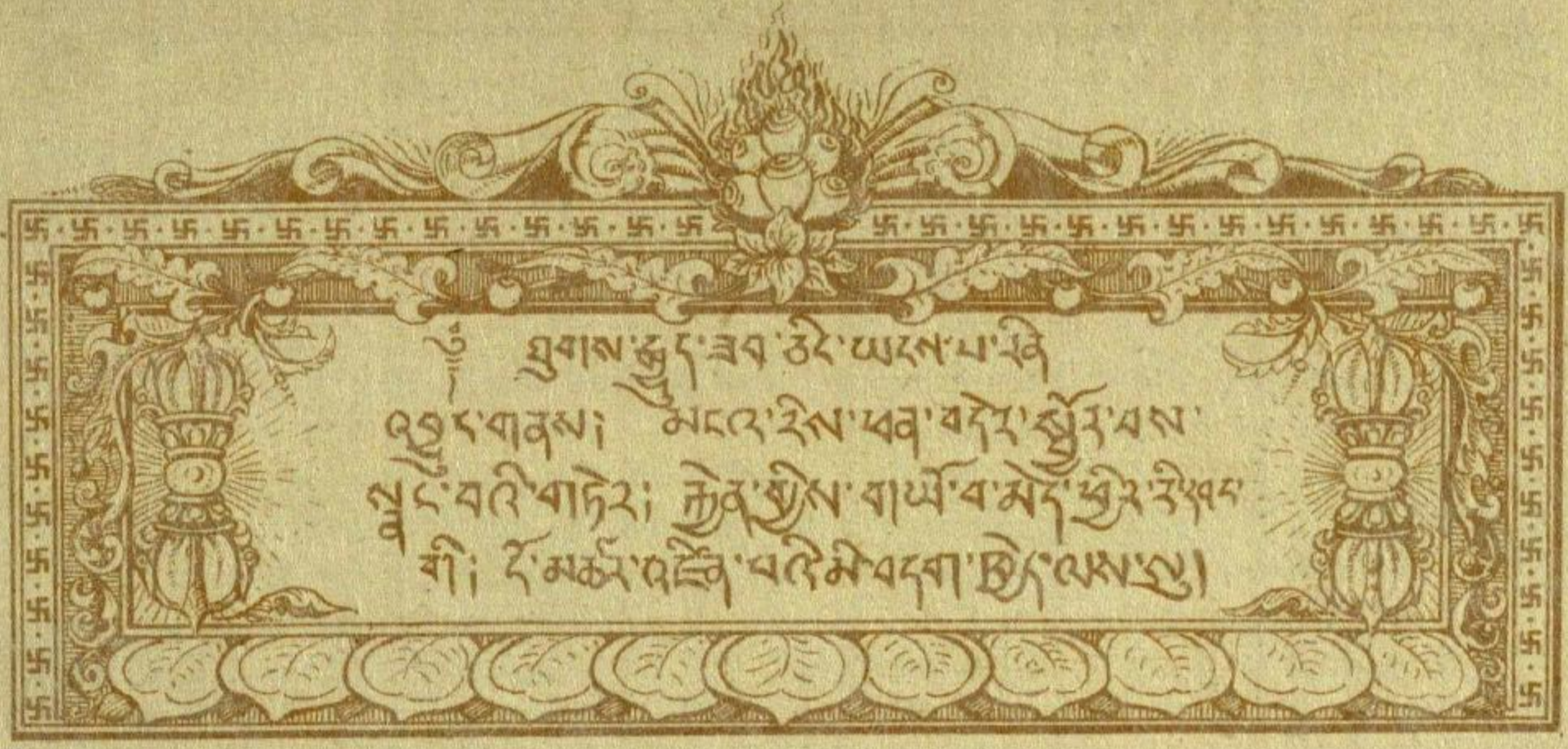


Photo Brooks.

THE RETURN TO CAMP.



Thus ended a most successful visit, not only from the point of view of sport, but also from the opportunity which it gave to His Majesty to establish still more firmly the cordial relations already subsisting between himself and his distinguished host, and between the Governments of Great Britain and Nepal. The total bag had been thirty-nine tigers, eighteen rhinoceroses, and four bears. The Maharaja's hospitality and his labours for the comfort of his guests had been unbounded and were fully appreciated by His Majesty.





napal Singh of Awagarh, Kanwar Pratab Bikram Shah of Khairigarh, Kanwar Bhawan Pal of Kotla, Kanwar Lokendra Pal of Kotla.

(d) OTHER STATES.—*Nepal*.—Kanwar Hem Shamsheer Jang, Kanwar Totra Shamsheer Jang, Kanwar Baber Shamsheer Jang, Kanwar Bahadur Shamsheer Jang, Kanwar Jagat Shamsheer Jang, Kanwar Prakash Shamsheer Jang.

Mourbhanj.—Maharajkumar Purnachandra Bhunjdeo, Maharajkumar Pratapchandra Bhunjdeo, Kanwar Saratchandra Bhunjdeo.

Danta.—Kanwar Bhawani Singh.

Idar.—Maharaj Kumar Himmat Singh.

Hyderabad.—Nawab Iqbal Ali Beg.

Kashmir.—Raj Kumar Hari Singh.

Vizianagram.—Raj Kumar Alakhnarayan Gajpati Raj.

Baroda.—Raj Kumar Dhairyashil Rao Gaekwar.

(XV) COURT CIRCULAR, QUEEN-EMPRESS'S CAMP, AJMER, 22ND DECEMBER

The Queen-Empress, attended by her Suite, visited the village of Pushkar by motor this morning, returning to the Residency in time for luncheon. In the afternoon Her Imperial Majesty drove out to visit the Dargah and Arhai din ke Jhonpra, attended by the Duchess of Devonshire, the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury, the Hon. Venetia Baring, Sir Elliot and Lady Colvin, Lieutenant-Colonel Bannerman, Lieutenant-Colonel Bird, and the Hon. John Fortescue. Major Money and Captain Hill were in attendance on horseback. The cadet corps of the Mayo College furnished an escort under command of Thakur Bahadur Singh of Khera.

(XVI) COURT CIRCULAR, KING-EMPEROR'S CAMP, KASRA, NEPAL, 24TH DECEMBER

The King-Emperor arrived at Kasra Camp last night. His Imperial Majesty attended Divine Service in camp this morning. The sermon was preached by the Rev. John Godber. Sir Henry and Lady McMahan, Miss McMahan, and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Manners-Smith had the honour of being invited to luncheon with His Imperial Majesty.

Christmas Day.—The King-Emperor attended Divine Service in camp this morning. His Imperial Majesty was attended by the whole of his Suite.

(XVII) COURT CIRCULAR, QUEEN-EMPRESS'S CAMP, BUNDI, 24TH DECEMBER

The Queen-Empress, attended by her Suite, left Ajmer yesterday morning by motor for Bundi. On the way Her Imperial Majesty visited the sites of the memorial to King-Emperor Edward, and of the monument to Sir Curzon Wylie, stopping also before the grounds of the Mayo College, where the students were assembled to make their salutation of farewell. Upon her arrival at Deoli at 1 P.M. Her Imperial Majesty was received by the Political Agent, Major Peacock and Miss Peacock at the Agency, where she remained for luncheon. A Guard of Honour was mounted at the Agency by the 42nd Deoli Regiment. Resuming her journey, Her Imperial Majesty was received at the Satur gateway, six miles from Bundi, by the Maharao Raja of Bundi and by Major Peacock, both of whom attended her to the Imperial camp. In the evening Her Imperial Majesty gave a dinner party, to which Major and Miss Peacock and Major and Mrs. Condon had the honour to be invited. This morning the Queen-Empress drove with her Suite in attendance to the Fort and Palace of Bundi, through which the Maharao Raja had the honour of conducting Her Imperial Majesty. Thence she proceeded by motor, still attended by the Maharao Raja, to the Sar Bagh, Shikar Burj, and Phul Sagar, returning to the camp for luncheon. At 2.30 P.M. the Maharao Raja came to take leave of Her Imperial Majesty, who afterwards left Bundi by motor for Kota. At the border of the State



of Kota, some six miles from the city, Her Imperial Majesty was received by the Maharao of Kota at the head of a body of his troops, and by the Political Agent, Colonel Berkeley, both of whom attended her to the Agency, which had been prepared for her reception. Guards of Honour were mounted by the 42nd Deoli Regiment and of the state troops at Kota. Her Imperial Majesty attended Divine Service in camp at 6 P.M., the service being conducted and the sermon preached by the Rev. W. Tudhope.

(XVIII) COURT CIRCULAR, QUEEN-EMPRESS'S CAMP, KOTA, 25TH DECEMBER

The Queen-Empress this morning attended Divine Service, which was conducted in camp by the Rev. W. Tudhope.

26th December.—This morning the Queen-Empress drove to the fort and palace, escorted by the state troops of Kota under the personal command of the Maharao. The Maharao had then the honour of conducting Her Imperial Majesty over the buildings. In the afternoon Her Imperial Majesty visited Abhera under the personal guidance of the Maharao.

In the evening Her Imperial Majesty gave a dinner party, to which the following ladies and gentlemen had the honour to be invited: Colonel and Mrs. Mathews, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Carr White, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Devon, and Mr. Sutton.

After dinner she witnessed the illuminations of the city and the river in her honour. The Maharao had then the honour to offer the Peshkash, consisting of elephants, horses, jewels, and rich fabrics, which Her Imperial Majesty was graciously pleased to inspect and to remit.

(XIX) COURT CIRCULAR, KING-EMPEROR'S CAMP, NARKATIAGANJ, 28TH DECEMBER

The King-Emperor, attended by the whole of his Suite, left Kasra Camp this morning.

His Imperial Majesty was accompanied to Bikna Thori Station by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Nepal. After His Excellency, with his sons (General Mohan Shamsher Jung Rana Bahadur, Lieutenant-General Baber Shamsher Jung Rana Bahadur, and Lieutenant-General Kaiser Shamsher Jung Rana Bahadur), had taken leave of His Imperial Majesty, the Royal special train left Bikna Thori Station at 6 P.M. Lieutenant-Colonel Manners-Smith and Mr. H. C. Streatfield were in attendance on the platform.

(XX) COURT CIRCULAR, QUEEN-EMPRESS'S CAMP, KOTA, 28TH DECEMBER

The Queen-Empress, with her Suite in attendance, went yesterday to a picnic which had been arranged for Her Imperial Majesty by the Maharao.

Her Imperial Majesty, attended by the whole of her Suite, left Kota by train for Calcutta to-day at noon. The Escort and the Guard of Honour were furnished by the Kota State troops, and the Maharao with his principal sardars was in attendance at the station to take leave of Her Imperial Majesty.

During the stay of the train at Goona, the 38th Central India Horse had the honour to pass in review mounted before the Queen-Empress, after which the officers of the regiment had the honour to entertain Her Imperial Majesty at tea.

(XXI) COURT CIRCULAR, KING-EMPEROR'S CAMP, BANKIPUR, 29TH DECEMBER

The King-Emperor arrived at Paleza Ghat at 3.30 this afternoon. His Imperial Majesty, after taking a trip down the Ganges in the Bengal and North-Western Railway steamship *Benares*, landed at Digha Ghat and proceeded thence by the Royal special train to Bankipur. Her Imperial Majesty the Queen-Empress arrived at Bankipur shortly afterwards by special train from Kota, and Their Imperial Majesties left Bankipur for Calcutta at 6.50 P.M.