

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 Prince, a Viceroy. The writer, perhaps alone amongst Europeans, has been privileged to tour extensively throughout this lovely tract, and can thus give a first-hand 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

PLATE 22.



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, Annanpura, 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 Joodha 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

PLATE 23.



“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 Bhikna 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 unsuspicuous 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.

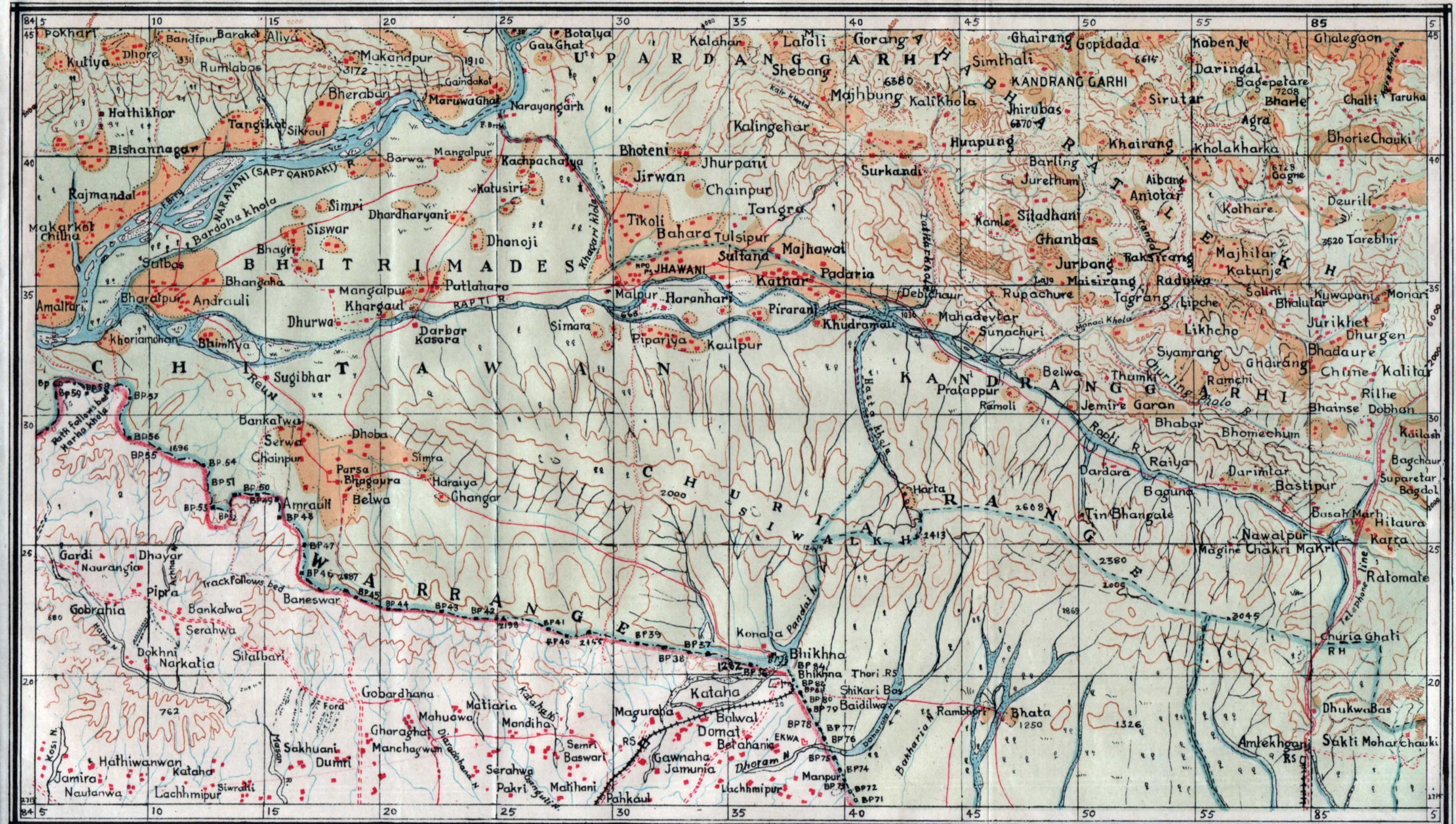
January 10.

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!*



RAILWAY DOUBLE SINGLE ROAD METALLED WITH MILE STONE UNMETALLED CAMEL TRACK MULE PATH WITH PASS SYMBOL FOOTPATH

LT. COL. GANESH BAHADUR H.C. OFFICER IN CHARGE OF NEPAL SURVEY SCHOOL

Scale 1 Inch to 4 Miles

5 4 3 2 1 5 10 Miles

BOUNDARY: INTERNATIONAL DITTO UNDEMARCATED PROVINCE OR STATE DITTO UNDEMARCATED TRIGONOMETRICAL STATION INTERSECTED POINT

1417 1442

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 Viceroys, 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 *gicala* (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.

PLATE 24.



(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, Annanpura 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

PLATE 25.



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 Shraddha 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”.

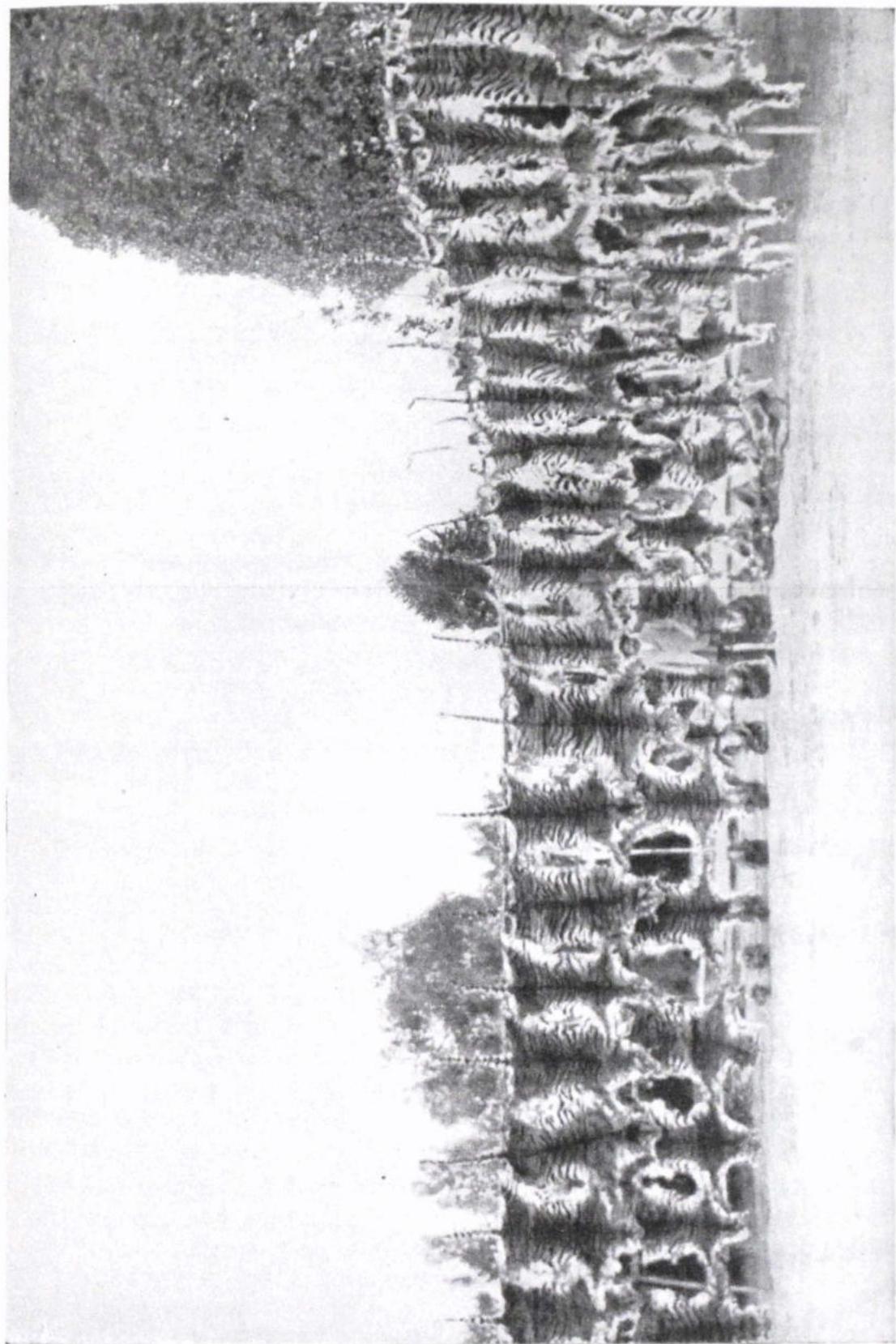
The next ring enclosed a tigress, 3 rhinos, and a big boar, which went rushing around the ring, “having a merry sport among themselves, with strange growls and grunts, a unique sight to see”.

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

PLATE 26.



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).

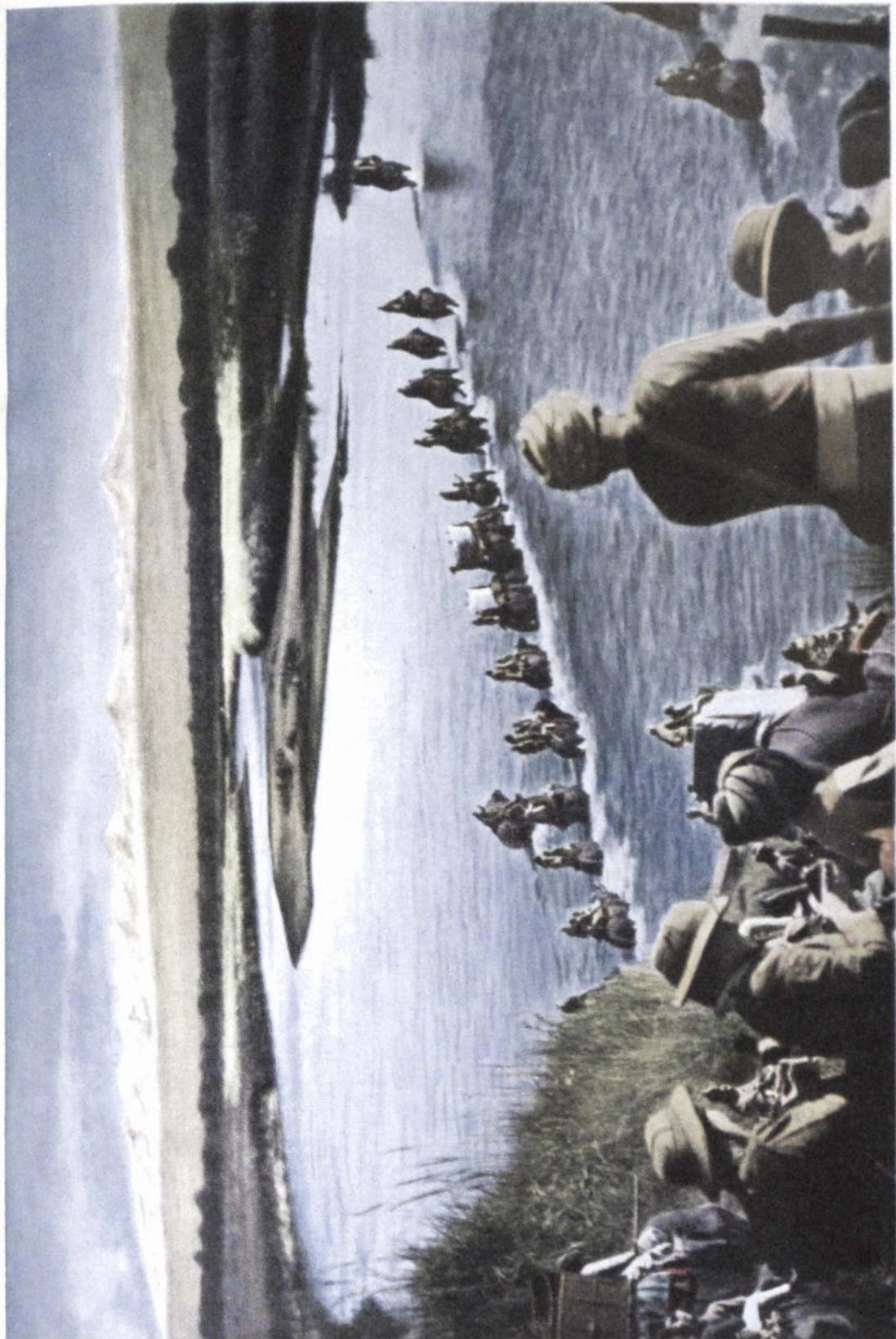
The Viceroy had unavoidably to postpone his arrival by one day, and came on the 3rd. As this is an account of the shikar, we can pass over the formal arrival, the inspection of the guard of honour, the official visits and introductions and so on, and proceed to the first shoot, which followed soon after 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.

PLATE 27.



ELEPHANTS CROSSING RAPTI RIVER, CHITAWAN.

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 excitements. 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.

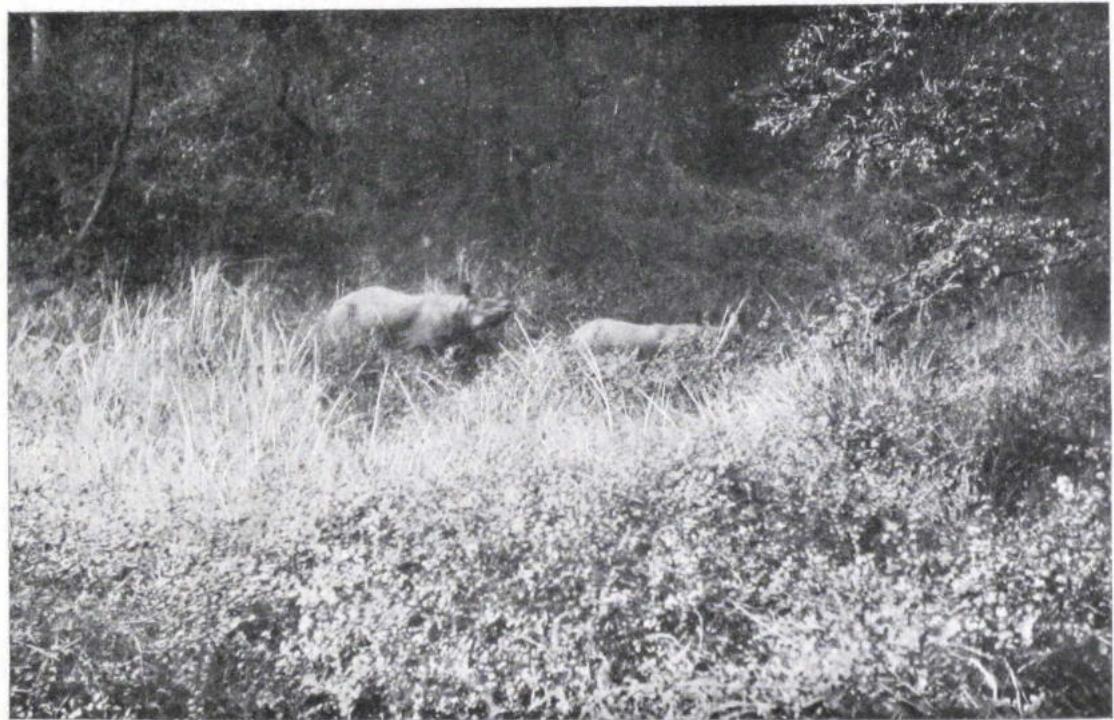
After some refreshment at Kasra, the Maharaja led the way to another ring nearby where a tiger was enclosed, and the Viceroy suggested that Lady Joan should shoot. The tiger was soon driven out of cover and came towards the howdah. Lady Joan took an admirable shot, and the tiger pitched backwards. The 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.

PLATE 28.



(i) TIGER CAUGHT ALIVE.



(ii) RHINOS BREAK COVER AND CHARGE.

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 Java 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

PLATE 29.



THE VICEROY'S FIRST TIGER IN CHITAWAN.

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-khola stream, 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:—

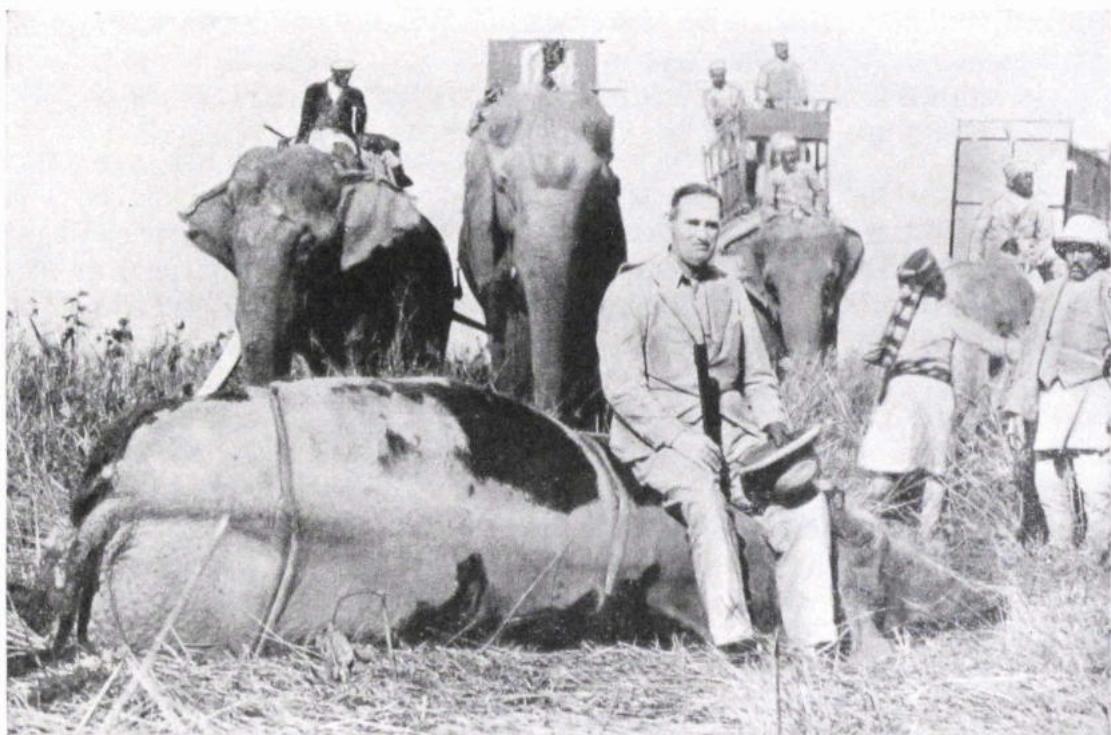
- “ The tussle was a very thrilling one, and although his trunk was wounded by the tusk of the wild elephant, Ram Prasad knocked him about and the mahout wounded him with his lance. No other elephant would go forward to help him against the wild one. For four or five minutes the fight continued and the 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

PLATE 30.



(i) LADY LINLITHGOW PREPARES TO SHOOT.



(ii) THE VICEROY WITH RHINO.

Prasad 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 infuriated 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 *pachwas* 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 *pachwa* 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.

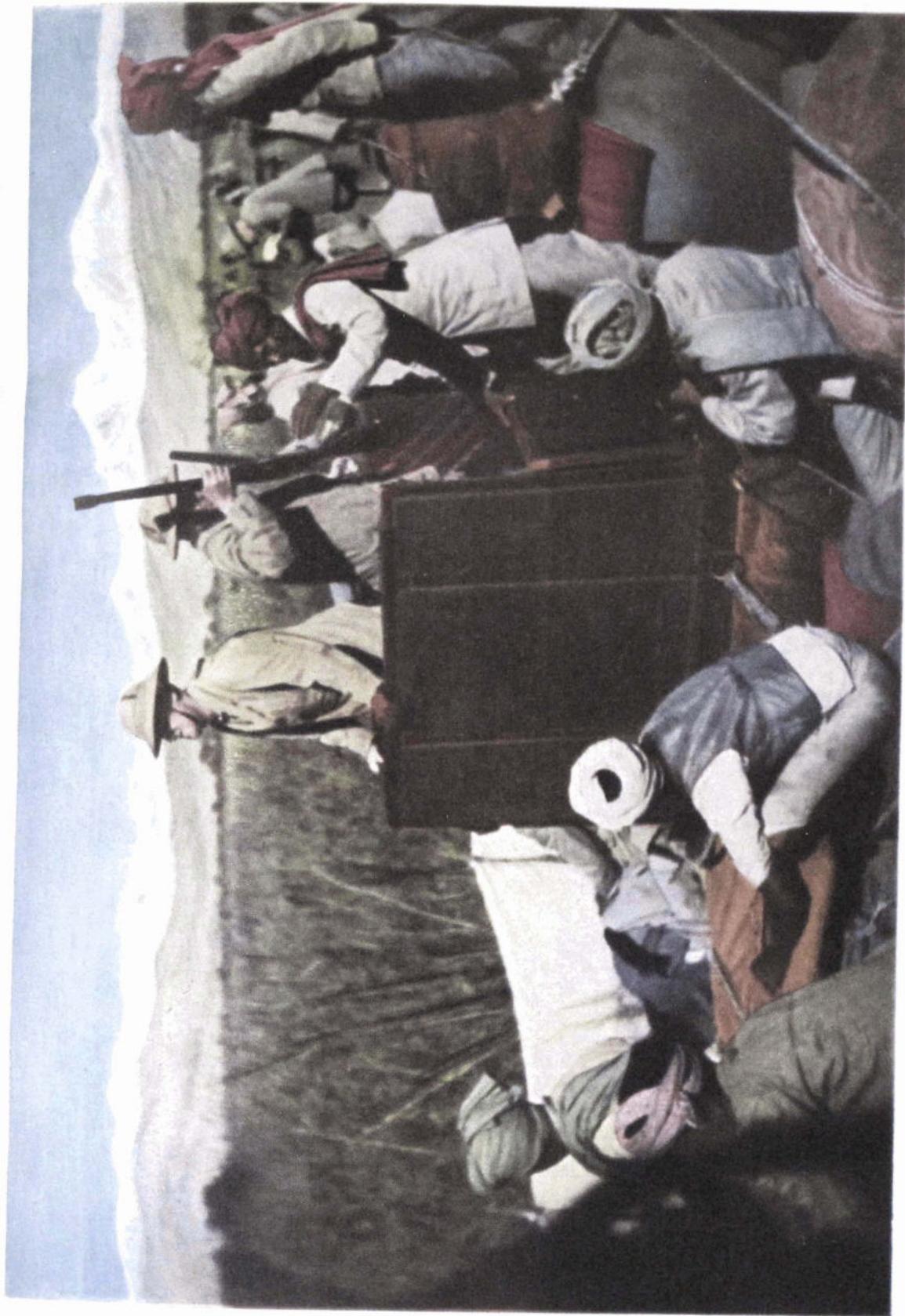
THE MAHARAJA'S GUESTS IN CHITAWAN.

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

PLATE 31.



THE VICEROY 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.

PLATE 32.



THE VICEROY'S PARTY WITH 4 TIGERS.

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. Thonipson went off with the liason 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.

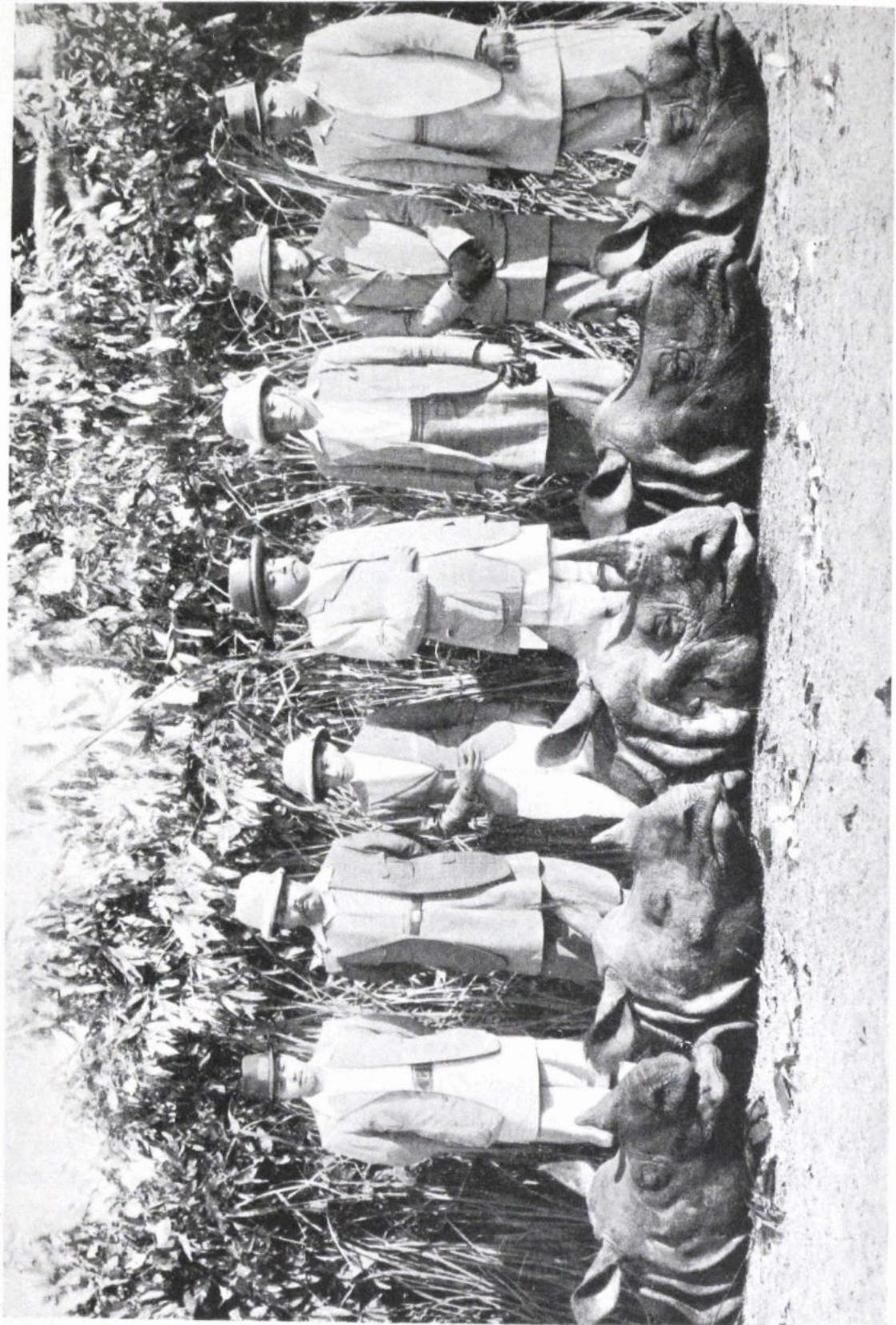
Three tigers (including one of 10 feet 5 inches) and one rhino.

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.

PLATE 33.



"THREE GENERATIONS SHOOT RHINO IN ONE DAY".

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 : .

Tigers	..	..	..	120
Rhinos	..	..	..	38
Leopards	..	..	..	27
Bears	..	..	..	15
Elephant	..	..	..	1 (captured).
Lions	..	..	..	2
Crocodiles	..	..	..	10 and about 70 deers, boars, etc.

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 Sarlahi, stretching for more than 50 miles in width (from west to east) between the Bagmati and the Kama 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 sambhar 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 Bhimpedhi 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 taped 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 pandemonium, in which the *chara-cuts* and *pachwas* (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

PLATE 34.



THE TIGER BREAKS COVER IN THE RING.

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 *hathishar* 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.

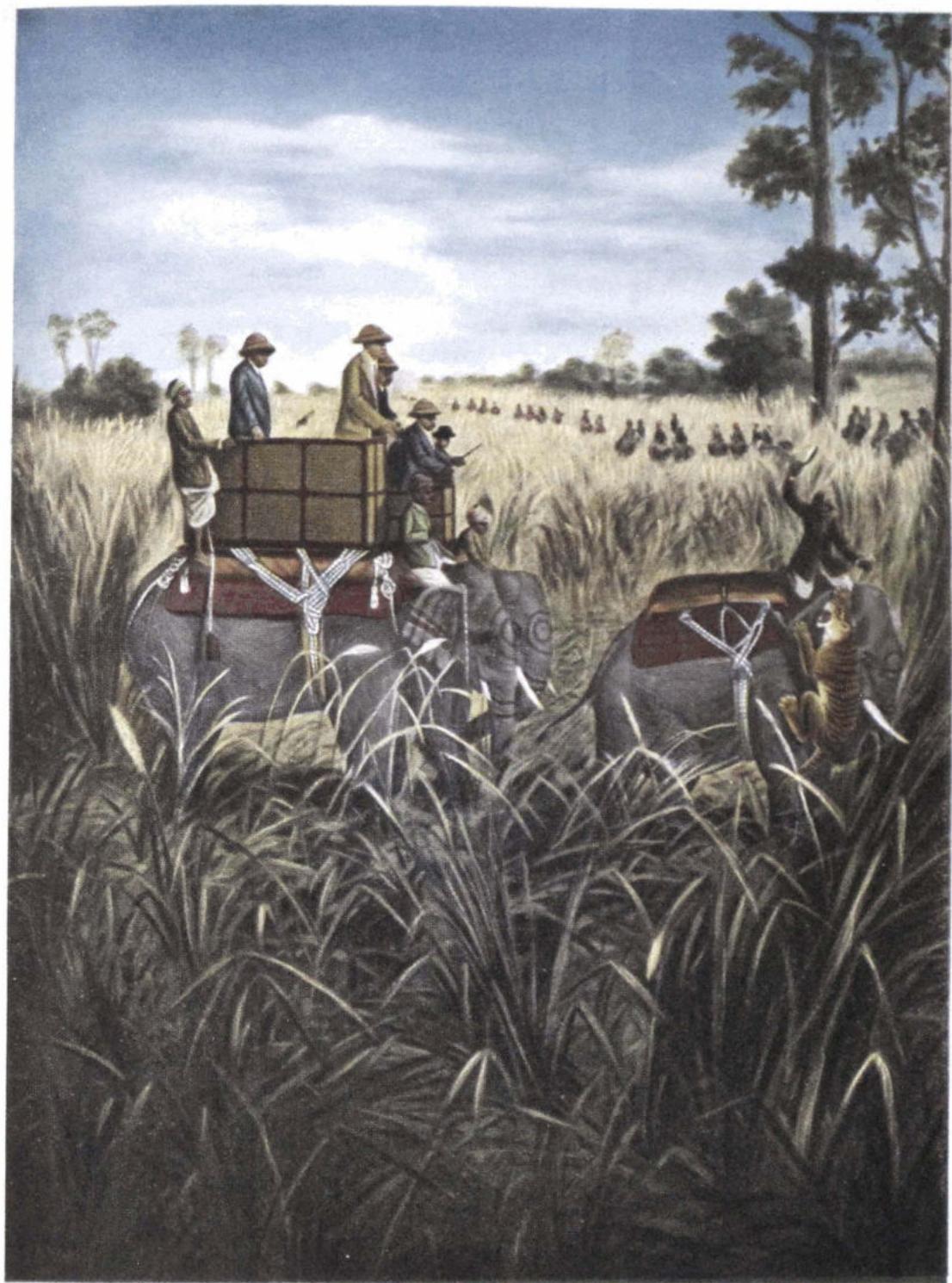
JALADH AND OTHER CAMPS.

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! 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

PLATE 37.



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

PLATE 38.



(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 Pokhari 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 (*hāt*), 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 *Gazeteer*. 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 Anlekhgunj, 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 *bhorla lahara* (creeper). 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 infuriated 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 A-ouw 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 nukal 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!*

ITAHARI CAMP.

February 18.

The Kosi, like all the big rivers of the Gangetic basin, swarms with garial, 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.

HARAICHA CAMP.

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

PLATE 39.



S, BG

10

HIS HIGHNESS WITH TIGER 10' 8" AND RECORD TIGRESS 9' 8".

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.

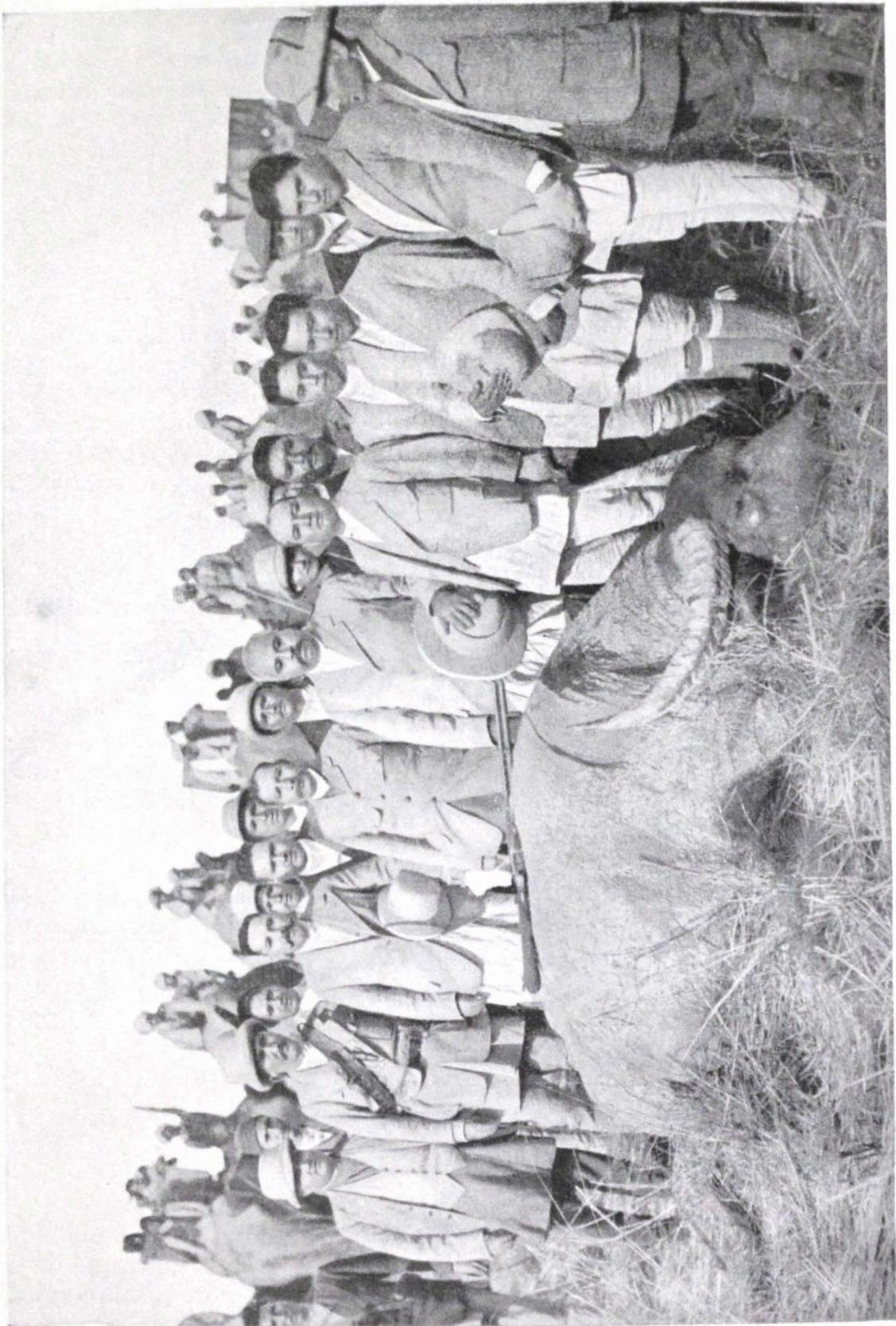
Another tiger was killed to-day.

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

PLATE 40.



HIS HIGHNESS AND PARTY WITH WILD BUFFALO.

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 wild 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 horntips ..	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—

Tigers	..	..	..	..	25
Leopards	..	..	..	..	12
Arna (wild buffalo)	..	..	..	..	1
Crocodile	..	..	..	..	1

THE MAHARAJA RE-VISITS MORANG, 1937-38.

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 Amlekgunj, where Commanding General Bahadur was already waiting with a ringed tiger. On arrival at Amlekgunj camp, His Highness heard that Lady Halifax (wife of the ex-Viceroy of India) and a friend had just arrived at Amlekgunj 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,

PLATE 42.



(i)



(ii)

(i) & (ii) FERRY BOATS.

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 elephant boldly 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 back-bone; 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).

<i>Chief of staff</i>	.. 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.
<i>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.
<i>A.D.C. General</i>	.. Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Surya Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.
<i>Total bag</i> ..	.. 41 tigers, 14 rhinos, 2 leopards.

NAYA MULUK.

1933-34 (December to February).

<i>Chief of staff</i>	.. 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.
<i>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.
<i>A.D.C. General</i>	.. 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.
<i>Total bag</i> ..	.. 47 tigers, 5 leopards.

MORANG.

1935 (January to March).

<i>Chief of staff</i>	.. 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.
<i>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.
<i>A.D.C. General</i>	.. Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Sinha Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.
<i>Total bag</i> ..	.. 25 tigers, 12 leopards, one wild buffalo.

MAHOTARI—SARLAHI—CHITAWAN.

1935-36 (December to February).

<i>Chief of staff</i>	.. 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.
<i>In charge shikar</i>	.. (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.
<i>A.D.C. General</i>	.. 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.
<i>Total bag</i> ..	.. 77 tigers, 24 leopards, 3 bears, one rhino.

NAYA MULUK.

1936-37 (December to February).

Chief of staff	.. His Excellency Supradipta Manyabara Nepala Tara Subikhyat Trisaktipatta Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu Commander-in-Chief General Sir Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, G.B.E., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., S.T.B.K., Nepal Pratap Bardhak.
In charge shikar	.. }
A.D.C. General	.. } Suprasidhaprabala Gurkhadakshinabahu General Surya Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.
Total bag ..	.. 59 tigers, 6 leopards, 2 crocodiles.

MORANG.

1937-38 (December to February).

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	.. }
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 ..	.. 57 tigers, 13 leopards, 4 bears.

CHITAWAN.

1938-39 (December 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	.. }
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 ..	.. 120 tigers, 38 rhinos, 27 leopards, 15 bears, 2 lions.

AMLEKHGUNJ.

1940 (January).

<i>Chief of staff</i>	..	Suprasidhaprabala	Gurkhadakshinabahu	General
		Krishna	Shumshere Jung Babadur Rana.	
<i>In charge shikar</i>	..	}	Suprasidhaprabala	Gurkhadakshinabahu
<i>A.D.C. General</i>	..		Shumshere Jung	General Surya
<i>Total bag</i> ..	..	7 tigers, 4 leopards.	Bahadur Rana.	

APPENDIX II.

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

Large trees.

Serial number.	Nepali name.	Hindusthani name.	Botanical name.
1	Barro ..	Bahera ..	<i>Terminalia belerica.</i>
2	Bhalayo ..	Bhilawa ..	<i>Semecarpus anacardium.</i>
3	Bot dhangero (Banjhi)	Dhauri ..	<i>Lagerstræmia parriflora.</i>
4	Chilaune ..	....	<i>Schima wallichii.</i>
5	Chhatiun ..	Chhatiun ..	<i>Alstonia scholaris.</i>
6	Dabdabe ..	Kharpat ..	<i>Garuga pinnata.</i>
7	Dhauri ..	Aggai ..	<i>Dillenia pentagyna.</i>
8	Gayo ..	....	<i>Eleocarpus sp.</i>
9	Hallunre ..	Jhingan ..	<i>Lannea grandis.</i>
10	Harre ..	Bhakli, Dhau ..	<i>Anogeissus latifolia.</i>
11	Harro ..	Harra ..	<i>Terminalia chebula.</i>
12	Jamun ..	Jaman ..	<i>Eugenia jambolana.</i>
13	Kadam ..	Kadam ..	<i>Anthocephalus cadamba.</i>
14	Karma ..	Haldu ..	<i>Adina cordifolia.</i>
15	Khamari ..	Gumhar ..	<i>Gmelina arborea.</i>
16	Kharane ..	Kanju ..	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia.</i>
17	Kumbhi ..	Kumbhi ..	<i>Careya arborea.</i>
18	Kusum ..	Kusum ..	<i>Schleichera trijuga.</i>
19	Kyamun ..	Piaman ..	<i>Eugenia operculata.</i>
20	Lampate ..	....	<i>Dubanga sonneratioides.</i>
21	Latikaram (Bhurkul) ..	Baurang ..	<i>Hymenodictyon excelsum.</i>

Large trees—concl.

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

Medium and small trees.

Serial number.	Nepali name.	Hindusthani name.	Botanical name.
1	Achal (Archal) .. ..	....	<i>Rhus nepalensis.</i>
2	Amala	Aonla	<i>Phyllanthus emblica.</i>
3	Amili	Amli	<i>Bauhinia malabaricum.</i>
4	Asare .. ..	....	<i>Xylosma longifolium.</i>
5	Aulia .. ..	....	<i>Croton oblongifolius.</i>
6	Bel	Bet	<i>Aegle marmelos.</i>
7	Chillikath .. ..	....	<i>Putranjiva roxburghii.</i>
8	Chiuri .. ..	....	<i>Meliosma simplicifolia.</i>
9	Datrung	Chamror	<i>Ehretia levis.</i>
10	Dori	Chilla	<i>Casearia tomentosa.</i>

Medium and small trees—concl.

Serial number.	Nepali name.	Hindusthani name.	Botanical name.
11	Halado	Khinna ..	<i>Sapium insigne.</i>
12	Kaindal	Kain	<i>Bischofia javanica.</i>
13	Kalabhogate .. ..	....	<i>Baccaurea sapida.</i>
14	Kalikath	Dom sal ..	<i>Miliusa velutina.</i>
15	Khair	Khair	<i>Acacia catechu.</i>
16	Khaur .. ..	....	<i>Acacia lenticularis.</i>
17	Khirro	Dudhi	<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica.</i>
18	Koirala	Guiral	<i>Bauhinia purpurea.</i>
19	Kuvinde	Pula	<i>Kydia calycina.</i>
20	Laha .. ..	....	<i>Albizzia lucida.</i>
21	Masinpate .. ..	....	<i>Albizzia gamblei.</i>
22	Palans	Dhak, Palas ..	<i>Butea frondosa.</i>
23	Panjan (Sandan) ..	Panan, Sandan ..	<i>Ougenia dalbergioides.</i>
24	Patmiro .. ..	....	<i>Litsaea sp. (?).</i>
25	Phaledo	Dhauldhak ..	<i>Erythrina suberosa.</i>
26	Rajbrichhe (Amaltas) ..	Amaltas ..	<i>Cassia fistula.</i>
27	Sahora	Sahora ..	<i>Streblus asper.</i>
28	Shyal phuare ..	Phalsa, Dhaman ..	<i>Grewia asiatica.</i>
29	Sindhure	Robini ..	<i>Mallotus philippinensis.</i>
30	Tilko .. ..	....	<i>Wendlandia sp. (? tinctoria).</i>

Climbers.

Serial number.	Nepali name.	Hindusthani name.	Botanical name.
1	Arari	Aila	<i>Acacia pennata</i> (or <i>cæsia</i>).
2	Bhorla	Maljan	<i>Bauhinia vahlii</i> .
3	Debrelahara (Paraslatti)	Maula	<i>Spatholobus roxburghii</i> .
4	Gaujo	Gauj	<i>Milletia auriculata</i> .
5	Laharo Siris .. ..	....	<i>Dalbergia stipulacea</i> .

Shrubs.

Serial number.	Nepali name.	Hindusthani name.	Botanical name.
1	Asuro	Bansa, Barsing ..	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> .
2	Bhant	Bhant	<i>Clerodendron infortunatum</i> .
3	Dhursul	Bindu	<i>Colebrookia oppositifolia</i> .
4	Rudhilo .. ..	....	<i>Pogostemnom plectranthoides</i> .

APPENDIX III.

GLOSSARY OF NEPALI WORDS.

(1) *Nepali names for 30 wild animals.*

Carnivora—

(1) Tiger बाघ bagh. पाटेबाघ i.e., " striped " for tiger.
 थोपलेबाघ "spotted" for leopard.
 Smaller variety being called निगाले nigalay.
 Bigger variety being called झुगि ghoongi.

(2) Leopard चितुआ chitua.
 Bear भालू bhaloo.
 Hyena हुँडार hoodar.
 Wild dog बनकुकुर bunkootta.
 Wild cat बनबिरालो bunbiralo.
 Fox फ्याउरो phiauro.
 Jackal स्याल syal.

Deer—

(3) Sambhar जरायो jarayo, smaller variety being called sooeray,
bigger variety being called गोन gone.
Chital चित्तल (spotted deer) chittal.
Karkor राते or रतुवा (barking deer) ratay or ratua.
Gond (swamp deer) बारसिङ्गी barasinga.
Parha (hog deer) लगुना ramgai.
Musk deer कस्तुरि 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 *nigalay*, the smaller variety (panther).
- (3) In Nepal, two varieties of *sambhar* are recognised and named, i.e., a smaller variety called *sooperay* and a larger variety called *gome*.

(1) *Nepali names for 30 wild animals—concl.**Goats and Sheep—*

(4) Serow थार tahr.

Tahr झारल jharal.

Gural घोरल ghoral.

Burhel बनभेडा also बहवाल bunbheda and barwal.

Antelopes—

(5) Nilgai (blue bull) निलगाई nilgai.

Blackbuck बराथ or कृष्णसारस्त्रग barath ; also Krishnasar mriga.

Four-horned antelope चौका chowka.

Miscellaneous—

Elephant हात्ति hathi.

Rhinoceros गैडा gainda.

Wild buffalo अर्ना arna.

Porcupine दुमसि doonisi.

Hare खारायो kharayo.

(6) Crocodile गोहि gohi for both.

घडियाल 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.

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

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

(2) Glossary of Nepali and shikar words—concl'd.

Pathshala	..	.. School where the students are fed free.
Purdah	..	.. Screen.
Ryot	..	.. Tenant or cultivator.
Tamasha	..	.. A show.
Terai	..	.. The swampy zone (below the Bhabar) at the foot of the hills.

