

INDIAN MAGIC—THE CELEBRATED MANGO TREE TRICK.

This performance was given by a renowned South Indian juggler in the veranda of the large mess house in Colombo. Before the conjuror was worked up to perform this seeming miracle, he exhibited some sleight-of-hand marvels. His partner, with the gourd pipe, made a hideous spectacted "cobra" go through its feats. A woman of the troupe was put, tied up with cords, into a basket placed on the cement floor. She screamed as a sword stabbed through the sides of her prison. Yet when its lid was opened she had disappeared, to return and sit by its side.

At length the renowned conjuror, with due solemnity, proceeded to his most remarkable performance. He exhibited a dried mango seed to the spectators, and then planted and watered it in a mound of earth brought for the purpose. Aided by no sleeves, dress, or paraphernalia, he waved over and covered the small plot with a silk handkerchief. When he raised this for the first time a young shoot with leaves had appeared. Again the silk bandanna covered it; again it was lifted, and disclosed the crisp young plant putting forth a few more leaves and stalk. All the spectators were carefully watching and observing the movements of the great artist. He was himself tremendously excited, and when successively with more waves of the handkerchief the mango tree had grown in stature to a couple of feet high, with clean green leaves on a stalk which sprang from the interior of the stone that was firm with its roots in the undisturbed moistened earth, there was a tumultuous burst of applause. He then handed round leaves which he broke off the sturdy little tree. All the beholders declared this performance most wonderful, and all sorts of arguments and theories were started to explain how such a seeming impossibility could be effected.

The foregoing description and the drawing from which our engraving is taken are by Major-General H. G. Robley.—*The Graphic*.

PRIZE FIELD DOGS.

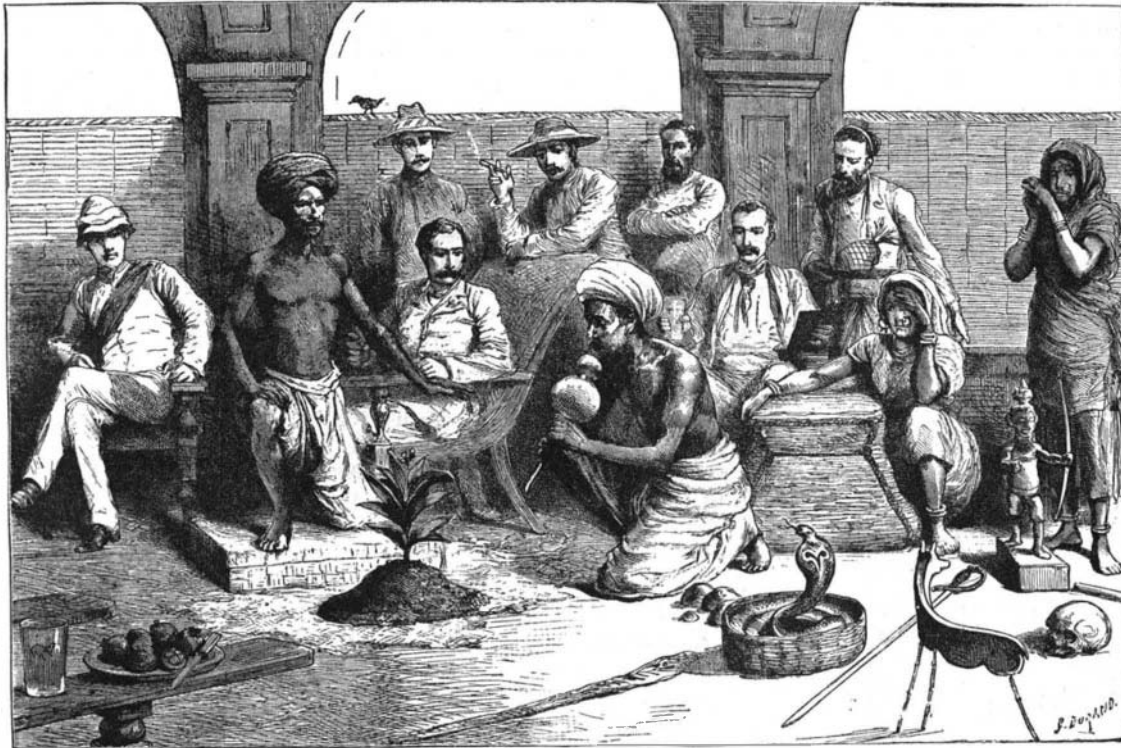
The accompanying cuts, taken from *L'Illustration*, are portraits of the conquerors in the field trials which took place at Esclimont, near Rambouillet, France, on the grounds of the Duke of Rochefoucault-Doudeauville. The first represents Prince Fred, a magnificent English setter, which belongs to Mr. A. Grassol, of the Mamers forests. This dog, which was born June 3, 1884, was entered by his owner in the contest of French and foreign dogs for the long trial. He won the first trial, run against Jubilee-Jalap, a pointer belonging to Mr. Margueritat, and was recalled with Tetsham Trip, English setter, entered by his owner, Mr. Frederic Lowe. After some remarkable work Prince Fred came off conqueror and gained the first prize, which is worth 810 francs.

In the competition for dogs for the short trial the prize was won in the first trial, no dog having been re-

called, by Sacquine, a stiff haired griffon, entered by her owner, Mr. Guerlain, against Dick, a St. Germain hound belonging to Mr. A. Thierree. The value of the first prize for the short trials was 835 francs.

Rings as Evidence of Age in Trees.

An agent of the United States Forestry Department, Mr. R. W. Furras, who has given much study to rings in timber as indicating the age of trees, has reached the following interesting conclusion: "Concentric or annual rings, which were once accepted as good legal



MAGIC IN INDIA—THE CELEBRATED MANGO TREE TRICK.

evidence, fail, except where climate, soil, temperature, humidity, and all other surroundings are regular and well balanced. Otherwise they are mere guesswork. The only region, within my knowledge, where either rings or measurements were reliable indications are in the secluded, even, and regularly tempered valleys of the Southern Pacific coast. Annual measurements of white elm, catalpa, soft maple, sycamore, pig hickory, cottonwood, chestnut, box elder, honey locust, coffee tree, burr and white oak, black walnut, osage, orange, white pine, red cedar, mulberry, and yellow willow (nineteen species) made in southeastern Nebraska show that an 'annual growth is very irregular, sometimes scarcely perceptible, and again quite large,' and this he attributes to the difference in seasons. As trees increase in age inner rings decrease in size, sometimes almost disappearing. Diminished rate in growth after a certain age is a rule. Of four great beeches mentioned in London, there were three, each about 17 feet in girth, whose ages were respectively 60, 102, and 200 years. Mr. Furras found twelve rings in a black locust six years old, twenty-one rings in a shell bark hickory of twelve years, ten rings in a pig hickory of six years, eleven rings in a wild crab apple of five years, and only twenty rings in a chestnut oak of twenty-four years. An American chestnut of only four years had nine rings, while a peach of eight years had only five rings."

In a gallon of sea water there are 1890 grains of salt, besides some magnesia, iodine, and bromine.

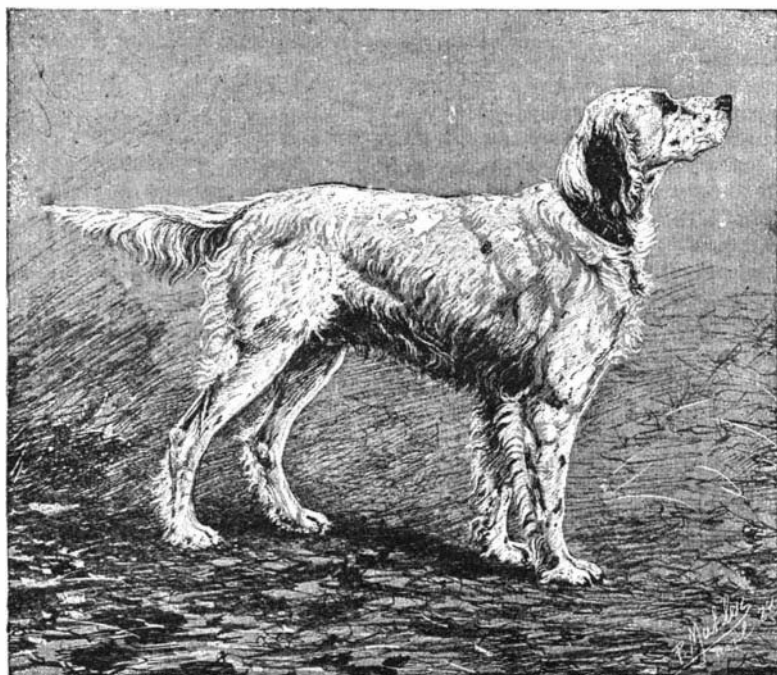
Mining Trust Schemes.

Is it becoming necessary for capital to combine, not against labor, but to compete successfully with other capital? Are small investors to be crowded out unless their interests are bound up in corporate organizations, and are the latter, unless unusually strong, to be mere satellites of the numerous pools, syndicates, trusts, etc., which have had such an influence on commerce, finance, and manufactures during the past few years? The tendency seems to be entirely in this direction, and on some accounts and to a very limited extent the policy is not a bad one. For example, we have trust companies which are as safe as laws and charters can make them, which pay a small regular interest on deposits and make their profit by loaning on mortgage or other security at higher rates, acting simply as agents when conservatively managed. Such institutions are a convenience in handling estates, bequests, annuities, and for small capitalists who, for the sake of greater security and the avoidance of worry about the choice of investments, are willing to accept reduced returns. The trust companies have also the advantage of being managed by expert financiers, whose judgment and opportunities are of course better than is usually the case with the smaller individual operators. Now a by no means new idea is being revived abroad in the shape of trust invest-

ment companies to deal mainly in mines and mining stocks. It is argued that subscribers will gain by the division of chances secured by spreading investments over a large number of ventures, and that what the companies lose in one direction will be made good by profits in others. The scheme is to advance money to float mining enterprises and to operate in the regular share markets. It is doubtful, however, whether it will work. Most similar trusts when applied to the mining industry have had a shady history, and no matter how respectable or at least well known the names of the managers may be, sad experience will render investors cautious in committing their money to the hands of mining trust investment concerns.—*Eng. and Min. Journal*.

Grain Bags.

The grain bag trade on the Pacific coast last year amounted to 33,000,000 bags, and the indications now are that 2,000,000 more will be required for the wheat crop this season. The prospect for a large wheat yield never was better. The entire bag capacity of the California Jute Mill Company is about 1,250,000 per year, and not more than this number can be produced by the double shift prison force at San Quentin. The great bulk of these goods, or over 30,000,000 bags, comes to the coast from Calcutta. They are filled with grain and shipped to Liverpool, and from there they are returned to New York as second hand bags, which can never again be used for wheat, but are used for bagging vegetables and mill offals.



PRINCE FRED—ENGLISH SETTER.



SACQUINE.