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HUNTING THE TIGER BY NIGHT.

Although India traces its civilization back to the earliest time, and may be looked upon as the cradle of nations, to the European it represents the paradise of travelers, and is the abiding place of the transient.

The ambition of many of those who visit India for pleasure is to taste the excitement of the chase after the wild game of the jungle. Traveling princes and those who are favored by an invitation from some sporting maharajah are generally favored with a hunt from the back of an elephant. Beaters are sent into the wilderness in advance of the hunting party, and the game is gradually driven toward the spot where the party has been stationed. Elephants, specially trained for the purpose, are employed, and they are generally selected for their courage and sagacity.

Other methods of hunting, however, which require less formidable preparations, are more generally resorted to. One of the most common methods of shooting is that by night, when a blue light is opportunely burned to give the sportsman an opportunity to take aim at a tiger which has been attracted to the spot by some form of bait, the sportsman being located above in a machan or some other point of vantage. In our illustration, however, a correspondent in Calcutta has employed a different and more advanced method of securing his prey, having resorted to the use of electricity to reach the desired result. He describes what he has accomplished as follows:

"I do a good deal of shooting off and on in the Sunderbunds and other parts of India, principally tiger. As the jungles are very thick, the only way is to sit up at night in a machan or platform over a cow or over an animal he has killed. At present I use a battery of six large cells, filled with sal ammoniac. It is very heavy and cumbersome and the light only a five candle power lamp. Its recommendations are that the battery is good for the next ten years and only wants an occasional filling up of the cells with water and sometimes a little fresh sal ammoniac. As I can only go shooting during six months of the year, this is a great advantage. The method of using is as follows: From the box containing the cells I have a line of wire (double of course), say 30 to 40 feet long, slipped onto each end of the box by butterfly nuts, the lamp, which is tied to a branch of a tree immediately over, say 20 feet high, the bait being at the other end.

"At about two yards from the battery there is a connection, I think called a male switch. A short line of wire about 3 or 4 feet long makes the connection to the fore end of my rifle; at one end of this short length is a female switch to fit onto the above male one, and at the other end two small rings are made of the wires. These rings are fastened by two big-headed screws to the bed of the connection. On nearing the tiger at the kill, I aim as nearly in the direction as I can, then a slight pressure of the thumb

makes the electric connection, and the light opens right over the tiger. As the tiger is not in the habit of looking up, it is a second or two before he can make out where the sudden light has come from, and by that time he has a shell well into his ribs, and further proceedings interest him no more."

The difficulty with the system, however, was the great weight and size of the battery used, and the light was too feeble. Our sportsman also employed accumulators, but they did not seem to be adapted to such rough work. He is now fitting himself out with the Capo-farad battery, which may be carried in the belt like cartridges. It is estimated that thirty of these batteries carried in this way would be sufficient to provide a sixteen candle power light, which would burn a sufficiently long time for the purposes of shooting. It would seem as if such a system might also be



HUNTING THE TIGER BY NIGHT WITH ELECTRIC LIGHT

adapted for big game shooting in the Rockies, where night hunting for the wily grizzly is also resorted to on much the same plan as that employed in the far East.

A Shower of Black Ants.

The warm, thunderous state of the atmosphere, Wednesday evening, presaged a heavy downpour of rain in the city and vicinity, but this expectation was not realized, and the rain passed off with a slight shower. Instead of the rain a shower of another kind resulted, which is one of the most curious visitations in the history of the city. On the sidewalks, in the roads, upon the roofs, and the insides of the houses there was seen, yesterday, numbers of large black ants crawling about. They were found as plentiful in the outskirts of the city as on the main streets, and from the fact that some of these insects have wings while others have dropped or shed them, it is natural to conclude that they have migrated from some district to the south of the province, and have come to stay. They are large, black-bodied specimens, about the size of a wasp, and have the strong nippers of their race. They are not native of Manitoba, and are similar to the African ant. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Improved Lighthouse Apparatus.

The Sule Skerry lighthouse tower has been in progress during the past three seasons, and is now approaching completion. The tower is erected on a rock which rises in the Atlantic to a height of about 40 feet, situate about 40 miles in a westerly direction from Stromness and nearly the same distance from Cape Wrath, but in a northwesterly direction. The rock is exposed to the force of the Atlantic and Polar waves, and has been, no doubt, the scene of many shipwrecks which are unrecorded in the Board of Trade's annual "Wreck Register," as no wreck receiver was there to note them. The lantern which is to contain the optical apparatus was erected by Messrs. Steven & Struthers last year. It is of the largest diameter (16 feet) [hitherto erected on any lighthouse tower, and is 12 feet 2 inches in height of daylight.

The optical apparatus is known by the name given to it by the original designers, Messrs. Stevenson, as hyper-radiant, and is acknowledged by all lighthouse engineers as the most notable improvement of recent times, as it utilizes and condenses all the rays of light emitted by burners of larger diameter than could be used with advantage in Fresnel's first order lights. Original of suggested in 1869. It has been still further improved by the spherical form of lens and equiangular prisms. The Sule Skerry apparatus has three faces, each face consisting of three lenses with prisms above and below them so designed as to give a group of three flashes of light of equal intensity in quick succession every half minute, the whole forming a cage of polished glass, set in gun metal frames, 9 feet in diameter and 8½ feet in height. In the focus there is placed a burner having six concentric wicks. This apparatus was made in accordance

with Messrs. Stevenson's design by Messrs. Barbier & Bernard, Paris. The glasswork is made to revolve at the required speed by a machine, driven by weight, made by Messrs. Steven & Struthers. The apparatus revolves on a carriage working on conical rollers, and makes one revolution in a minute and a half. It is expected that the light will be shown to the mariner for the first time during next autumn. It will be elevated about 112 feet above the sea, and will, therefore, have a range of 16½ nautical miles.

Blowpipe Glass Mix.

A recipe recommended by the Pottery Gazette for glass to work before the blowpipe, such as glass for making delicate chemical apparatus and small fancy blown ware, is as follows:

Sand.....	100
Salt cake.....	70
Lime.....	20
Coal.....	5

Weber recommends having a small quantity of alumina also. The Thuringian factories, which make considerable glass of this kind, use sand containing 4 per cent alumina as impurity.