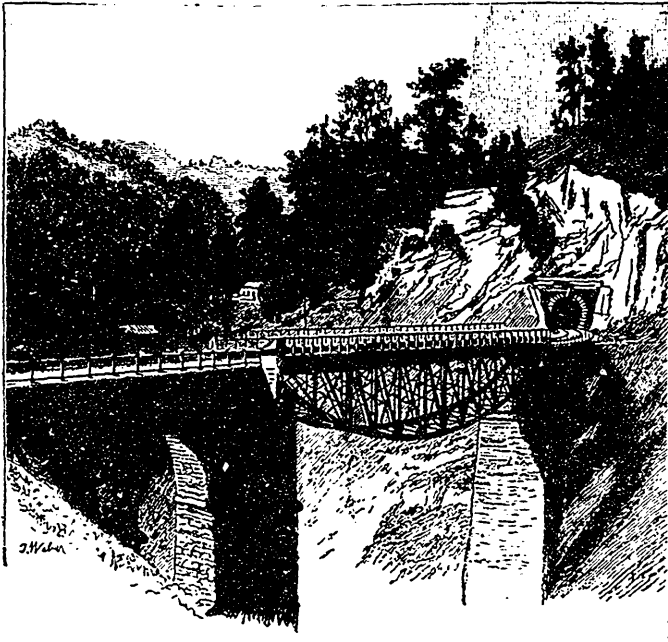


meadows of *Rhododendron*. The virgin forests of these highlands are well stocked with animals of the chase, such as bears, foxes, and wild boars; herds of red-deer and roebucks browse in the forests of the less elevated mountains, and on the rocky ridges of the Rodna chain the chamois finds a home.

Few things are more striking than the alert and fearless attitude of the chamois goats on the mountain crags. Their senses of sight, hearing and smell are wonderfully acute, and it is exceedingly hard to get near enough to have a shot at them. Yet stalwart cragsmen, with their iron-shod shoes, will track the



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chamois to their most inaccessible resorts. Having got your chamois, however, it is almost a greater difficulty to fetch him home, as the mountain paths and rocky ledges are more than sufficiently difficult without any load whatever; nevertheless, these sure-footed hunters hardly ever leave their prey behind them.

Cropping the scanty herbage of the upland meadows and higher mountain slopes are a number of hardy mountain sheep. Their chief enemies are the great-horned eagle, which will sometimes swoop down and carry off a lamb, and the brown bear, which is their remorseless foe.

These mountain regions are traversed by several railways.