

## An Indian Elephant in the Limelight.

By Herbert Dunk, Winnipeg

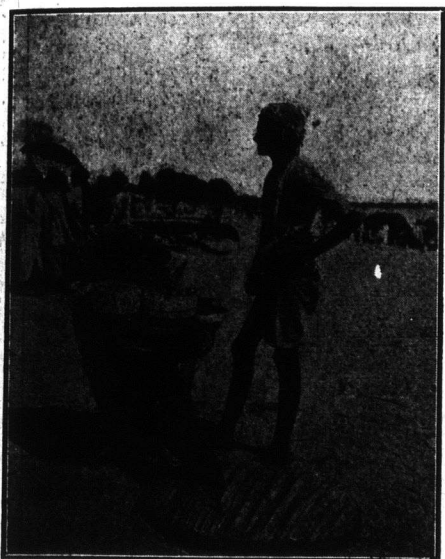
Nearly everyone takes an interest of some kind in the elephant. Some people regard him as a fearsome beast, while others look upon him as a tractable and docile domestic animal. And, so far at any rate as the Indian elephant is concerned, those who hold the latter opinion are the more correct.

There are two great divisions of the elephant genus—the African and the Indian varieties. The species peculiar to Africa are distinct from those found in India, and the difference lies, broadly speaking, in the matter of intelligence. The Dark Continent mammal is the heavier and duller animal, while the Indian beast is the more sagacious and very much easier of domestication. There is also, it is said, a further difference in the

protect himself. Most people know the story of the elephant who, having suffered maltreatment from a tailor, took his revenge by filling his trunk to its utmost capacity and then when passing his enemy's place of business, he ejected a perfect volume of dirty water and deluged the unhappy man of the needle. It is an interesting sight to watch elephants bathing and observe them draw the water into their trunks and then squirt it over their bodies. No more weird, and when first suffered, startling, experience can be imagined than to be perched on the back of an elephant when he swims

across a river. It may appear wonderful to many people that the great cumbersome beast can swim, but nevertheless it is a fact and his method of so doing is somewhat remarkable. He will walk into the water and when it gets beyond his depth he proceeds to sink until nothing is left of him above the water but a few inches of the tip of his trunk. Very much, one might say, the same as in the manner of submarine boats. Again the elephant finds his trunk of great advantage to him when flies and mosquitoes are troublesome for he will proceed to break off branches from the trees and by holding them with this elongated nasal organ he will keep the insects from annoying him. Many years ago when the writer was in Mandalay, the capital of Upper Burmah, elephants were used in demolishing the great stockade which had been erected by Mindoon-Min, one of the Kings of Burmah, and which surrounded the Royal Palace. This stockade was com-

posed of logs about twelve feet above ground and probably nine or ten inches across. The method of procedure was to place a cable chain attached to an elephant around each log and then at the command of the mahout—or elephant driver—his majesty unconcernedly walked off and the log, which was sunk several feet into the ground, came out as easily as you please. The next step was to take the log away. An ordinary beast dragged it but a bull elephant lifted the huge log on to his tusks and it was a matter of much wonderment to those who saw it done, to watch how exactly he placed the log on his tusks so that a perfect balance was obtained. And this was all done of his own accord and sagacity. The last act in the work was the stacking of the logs wherein there was exhibited a marvellous display of intelligence. The logs were stacked one on the top of another and the elephant did the whole of the work by his lonesome self. He placed his burden



A Sweetmeat Seller.

matter of tusks, in which respect the scale goes down in favour of the African species. A good pair of tusks will weigh over one hundred pounds and they are sometimes obtained many feet in length—exclusive of the hollow root.

There are certain physical peculiarities of the elephant which should not be passed unnoticed. One of the great points for observance is that his legs differ from those of all other quadrupeds—except the bear. Not many people are aware that an elephant's hind legs bend forwards instead of backwards as in the case of other four-footed animals—in other words, he has four knees. Then his ears should be given some attention for, again unlike a horse or cow, his age is indicated by these large, flapping auricular appendages.

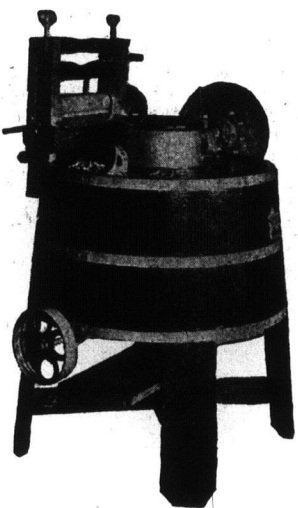
His small twinkling eyes and his ridiculously abbreviated caudal attachment are worthy of a glance, while last, but not least, is his wonderful trunk, which has been a perfect godsend to the joke maker for centuries. In mentioning the trunk it is naturally suggested to one to refer to its extraordinary capabilities. With this seemingly clumsy limb, the elephant can pick up a pin, and feed, and wash and

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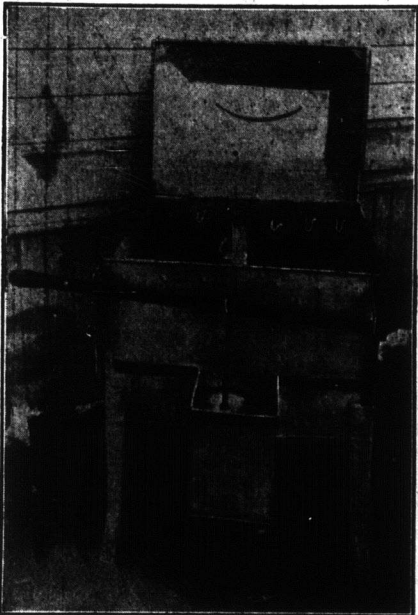
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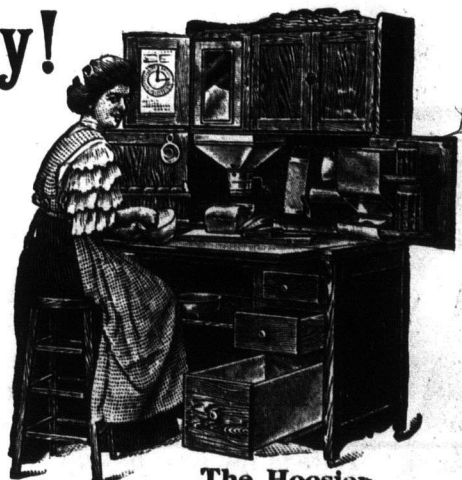
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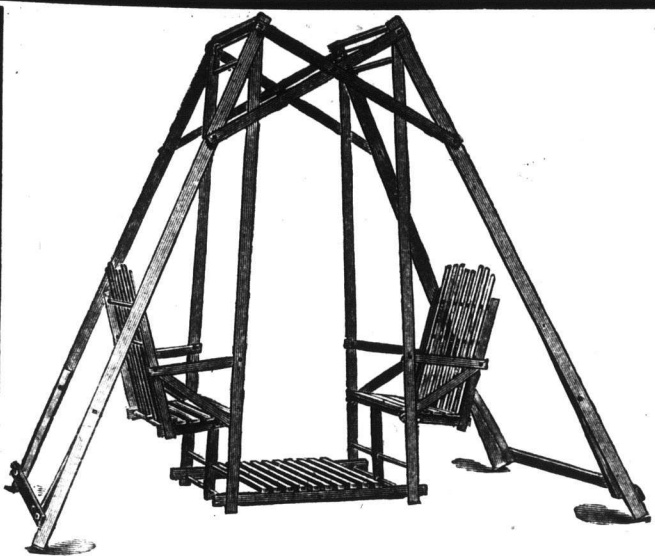
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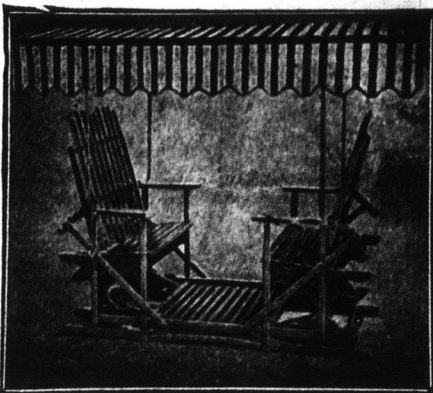
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