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INSPECTION INVITED.

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OFFICERS OF BRITISH BARK HAD LIVE TIME WITH WILD MEN AND WITH WILD ANIMALS.

Two Hundred Deadly
Snakes Got Loose and
Crew Had to Find Sleep-
ing Quarters in the Rig-
ging

THEN FIVE YAKS
WERE HEAT-CRAZED

Finally the Nondescript
Crew Started a Sideshow
of Their Own and Did
Some Quarrelling

New York, July 23.—Two hundred
deadly East Indian snakes over-
running the ship, five heat-crazed yaks
doing everything but climbing aloft,
and a crew of 35 Lascars, Hindus and
Chinese threatening every minute to
cut one another's throats—such was
the combination which added ten
years to the age of Capt. Grant, of
the Brilliant, a four-master British
bark.

The Brilliant reached New York
harbor after a voyage of 115 days
from Hongkong. Life began to be
just one strenuous minute after an-
other almost before Victoria Island
had faded over the horizon, and the
excitement continued unabated until
the Jersey coast was sighted. With
the Brilliant safely secured to her
pier in New York, Capt. Grant and
his officers heaved a great sigh of
relief. The captain's hair had turned
grey and his weather beaten fea-
tures had several more wrinkles as
a result of his experience.

The Brilliant, carrying Standard
Oil stores, had an uneventful voyage
outward bound to Hongkong and Ko-
be. She carried an able crew, of
Swedes and Noawegians, but they
tired of the long grind and deserted
the ship between watches a few hours
after the vessel dropped anchor in
Kobe harbor. With the holds filled
with Japanese merchandise, Captain
Grant was compelled to sign a nonde-
script crew composed of no less than
ten nationalities in order to man his
vessel for the homeward bound trip
to New York. He cleared at Kobe,
stopped at Higo until December 18,
and made Hongkong in two weeks.
The entire crew deserted at this port

and Capt. Grant said the seamen
signed in their place represented the
worst of the Far Eastern ports.

No Sleep for Officers
Squared away for the southward
with the Straits of Sundae as the
objective, the Brilliant became the
theatre for a series of events which
made sleep a matter of three winks
at a time for the officers. First of
all, it was found that most of the
"able seamen" had never seen any
more experience than would be
necessary to handle a rowboat. When
most of the men were suffering from
seasickness and lying in their bunks,
a big Lascar deserted his post at the
wheel and made for the forward

hatchway like a streak of brown. Two
seconds elapsed and he came up from
below with the entire crew at his
heels. Ill or well, they were in the
rigging at one leap, and all gesticu-
lated wildly as they directed the at-
tention of Captain Grant to several
squirring objects on the deck.

Four boxes filled with cobras and
other poisonous reptiles had broken
loose from their fastenings. Two
hundred snakes had been given the
liberty of the Brilliant. The Orientals
would not go near the snakes, and
Capt. Grant and his officers were com-
pelled to kill them with clubs. Snakes
appeared from hiding places, how-
ever, for three weeks after the boxes
had been broken, and until the crew
was sure that the last had been done
away with the sailors persisted in
sleeping in the rigging. They had to
make themselves fast with lines dur-
ing rough weather, but it was better
than sleeping below, with the possi-
bility of waking up and finding a full
grown cobra as a bedfellow.

Yaks Unruly

After passing through the Straits of
Sundae the five yaks on board began
showing signs of suffering from the
heat. As the Brilliant hovered near
the "line" they went crazy one by
one.

"They couldn't do it in a bunch,"
said Capt. Grant. "They had to do
it one at a time in order to prolong
our agony."
The snakes and the heat-crazed
yaks had practically scared the sea-
men out of their wits before the
"line" was well to the stern. About
the time the last yak had been killed
and cast overboard the Lascars and
the Chinese engaged in a pitched bat-
tle.

The Hindus and others took sides in
the argument. Their fights were a
daily feature until long after the Cape
had been rounded. Instead of trying
to prevent trouble, knowing that any
interference on his part would only
complicate matters, Capt. Grant al-
lowed them to fight it out among
themselves. At times, however, the
friction assumed a serious turn, when
some of the men displayed knives.
Although they never actually carried
out their threats to cut each other's
throats, the situation continued to be
tense and called for the utmost diplo-
macy on the part of the officers.

When the Brilliant made fast in
New York harbor, Capt. Grant with-
drew his surveillance with the re-
mark that they could go as far as
they liked in marring each other's
countenances, but that he would tie
each man hand and foot and cast him
overboard if they so much as made a
dent in the polished deck of the
Brilliant.

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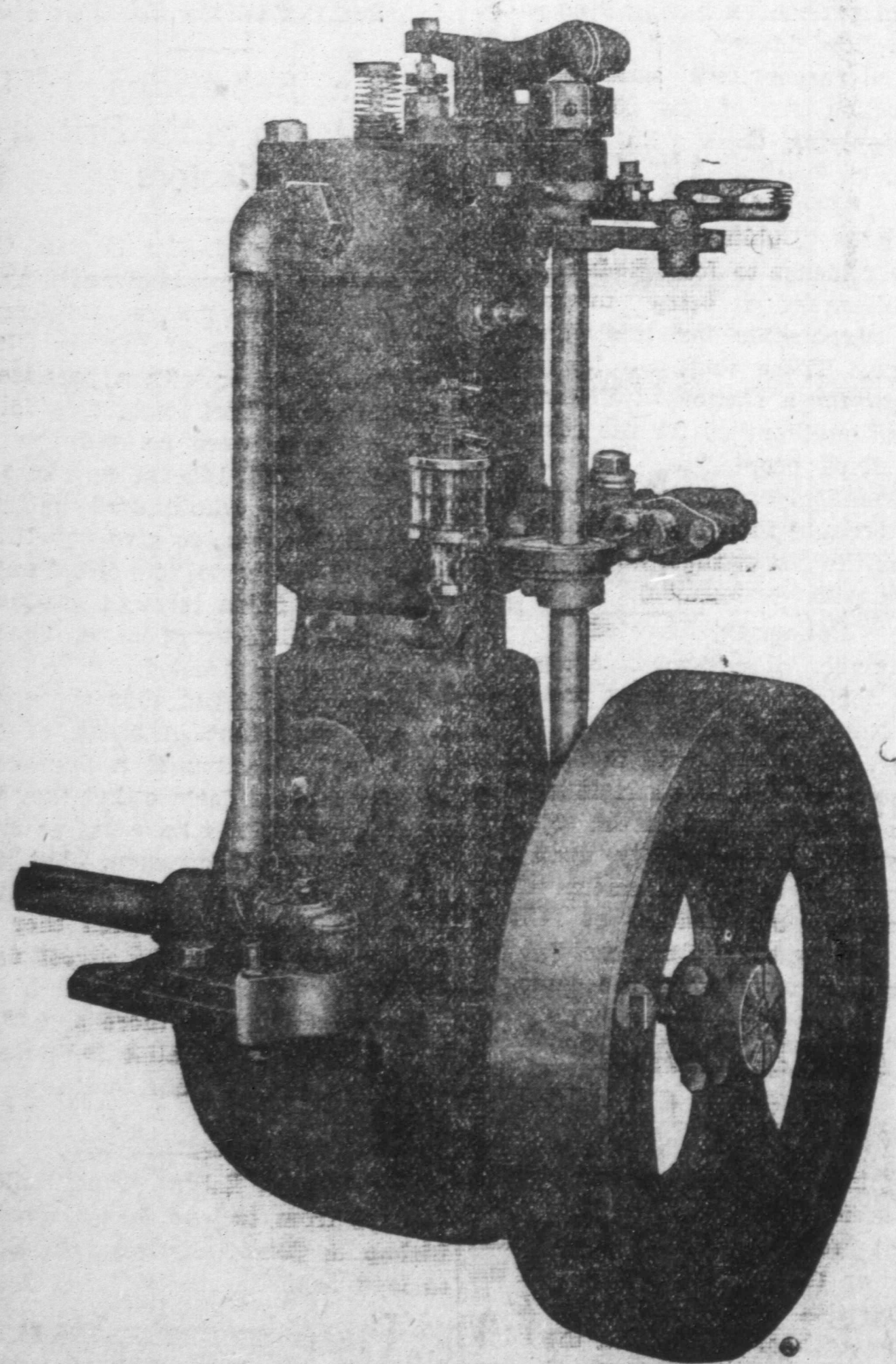
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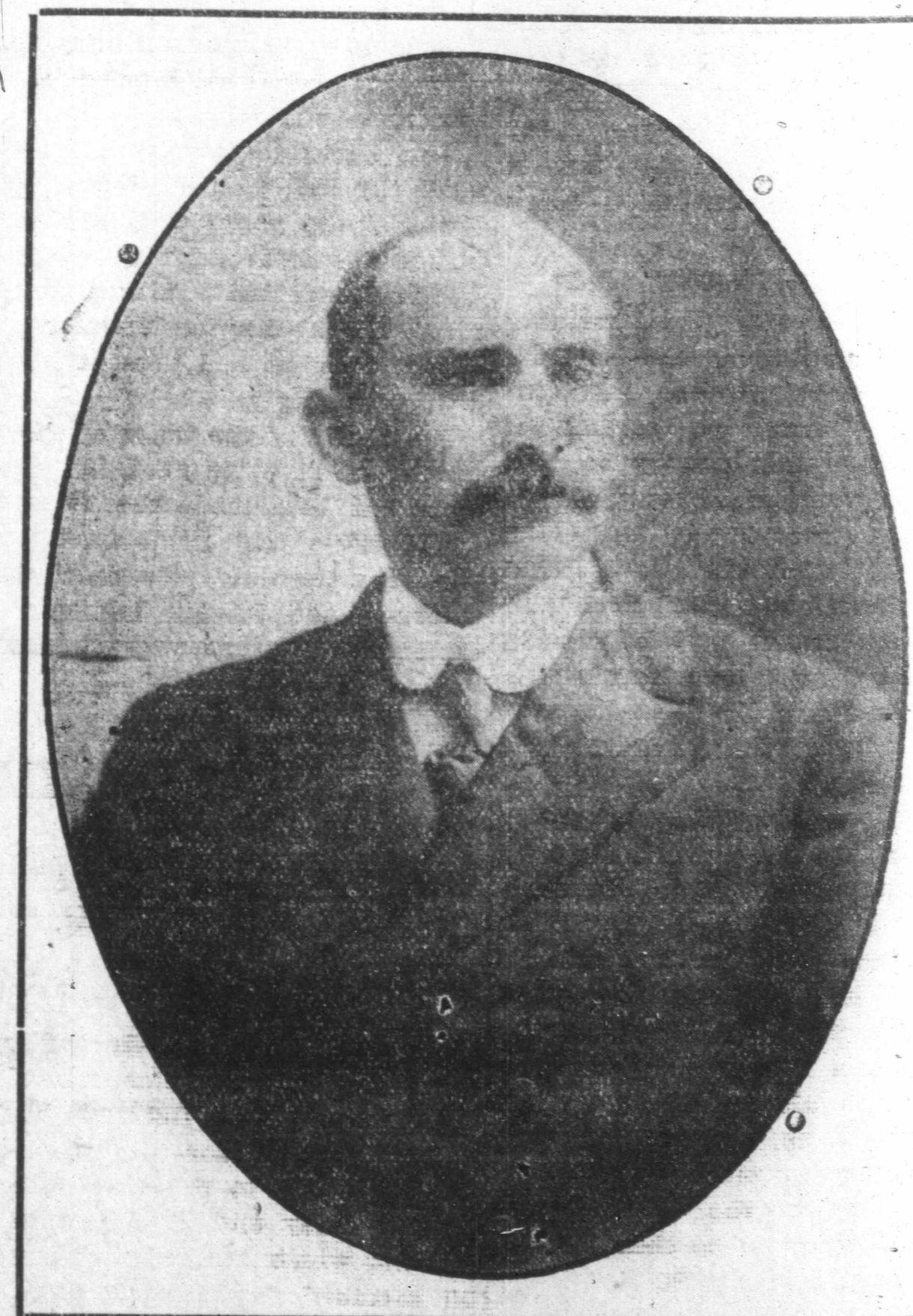
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