

But the most common victims of the head-hunters are the workers in rattan and camphor. The rattan is a vine which creeps through the forests and over the branches of trees to a length sometimes of 500 feet. The Chinese labourer cuts the vine near the root, and going backward pulls it out of the trees and bushes. It is when he is so engaged that the savage creeps up and strikes him from behind. Similarly the camphor-workers have to labour in the dense forests, chipping the trunks of the fallen camphor trees with a short adze. Bending down and intent on their work, they cannot be always watchful. This is the head-hunter's opportunity, and more of the camphor-workers lose their heads than of any other single class.

Formosa practically supplies the world with camphor. In 1898 the world's supply amounted to 7,500,000 pounds. Of that amount 6,900,000 pounds were produced in Formosa. In that year 635 camphor-workers were killed or wounded by the savages. In a sense in which happily it can be said of few articles of commerce, the camphor we use in our homes is purchased with the life-blood of human beings.

When the Japanese forces landed in Formosa in 1895, the savages welcomed them as allies against their old enemies the Chinese, and some bands of warriors co-operated with the Japanese armies. But the object of the Japanese was the pacification of the Chinese, not their annihilation, and soon they had to put restraint on their savage allies. This the hill-men resented, and before long they were as ready to take a Japanese head as a Chinese.

For years the Japanese pursued a policy of conciliation. Border inspectors and border police were appointed to maintain order, and prevent aggressions on either side. Plantations were established and attempts made to teach the savages agriculture and the habits of a peaceful life.

Some of the young people of the tribes were induced to enter Japanese schools, while adults were employed as mail-carriers or trained for military service.

In the south the Malays responded to this, and have remained fairly peaceful. But the Atayals of the north were incorrigible, and there was the usual tale of heads taken by those implacable savages. In July, 1906, a Japanese camphor station was attacked and thirty-seven heads carried off. This was followed by other outrages.

Then General Count Sakuma, the new Viceroy of Formosa, decided that it was not wise to be lenient any longer. A force of Chinese troops, known as Aiyu, numbering with their Japanese officers 5,000 men, was detailed to attack the Atayal savages. The difficulties of the campaign were enormous. The territory in which this force was to operate comprised between 2,000 and 3,000 square miles. It is all mountainous, rising in Mount Sylvia to the height of 11,470 feet. These mountains are covered with dense jungles of large trees, interlaced with prickly rattan and other vines. The climate is extremely wet, and the vegetation rank. The eastern face of the territory is a line of sea-cliffs rising 5,000 to 7,000 feet from the Pacific.

Around this region the Japanese threw a horse-shoe shaped line of troops, and gradually drawing the heels of the horse-shoe together, closed in on the savages. Every device suggested by modern inventiveness for such warfare was employed. Mountain and machine guns, wire entanglements and electric mines were used to off-set the advantage possessed by the savages, who were fighting in their native haunts.

The most serious action was fought June 5th to 9th, 1907, when a Chino-Japanese force of 600 men surrounded a savage stronghold on Chintozan, a mountain over 4,000 feet high. After three days of bush-fighting, the