

# RULER OF THE AFGHANS

## CHARACTER OF HABIB-ULLAH KHAN, AMIR OF KABUL.

### The Man Who Tries To Do Many Things Besides Governing His People.

A short, stout man, who wears a gray frock coat when visiting, likes afternoon tea, plays a remarkably good game of bridge, does not hesitate to sit down at the piano and sing a song for the entertainment of a party, and after dinner has been known to speed the parting friend with a long and animated conversation on the doormat—this is one side of the character of Habib-Ullah Khan, Amir of Kabul, Seeker after God's Health and Lamp of the Congregation and the Faith.

He did all these things when visiting India in the early part of last year, says the London Daily Mail. He seems to have created the impression in some minds that he was the Asiatic counterpart of the German Emperor.

He told various people whom he met that he was the best smith in Afghanistan, the best carpenter, the best drill sergeant. Then he claimed to be able to preach a better sermon than any Mullah, and as a matter of fact

### LED 700,000 PEOPLE IN PRAYER

at Delhi—surely the largest prayer meeting on record. He speaks seven or eight languages; he plays cricket; he has acquired a liking for the motor car and it seems to think very highly of his own powers as a doctor.

Then, too, he apparently knows how to enjoy himself at a race meeting, and when he makes a bet, he pays on the spot if he loses. When he was in India an attendant stalked solemnly behind him, carrying a vast cashbox full of money, from which disbursements were made when necessary.

He is said to be a good sportsman, but when he plays cricket with his attendants the Amir apparently always wins. It might perhaps be risky for opponents to make a better showing.

A slight impediment in his speech is associated by tradition with an ancient palace intrigue to poison him when he was a child.

His left hand has but four fingers, due to a gun accident some four years ago. He might have been an arm and a leg, but it did not seem to be a British doctor who went from India and cured an injury which seemed likely to develop into mortification of the arm.

When in India his outspokenness and cheerfulness seem to have made him

A GENERAL FAVORITE.

As the sun set he would stop his train at a wayside station "and invite any humble laborer of the Faith to say his prayers with the King of Afghanistan."

He wanted to know everybody's views and wanted to inspect everything that seemed likely to be useful in his homeland. He stopped an army sergeant's wife to discuss with her preferences and ideals, and he made the chemical lecturer at a hospital which he visited explain the properties of carbon dioxide in relation to combustion.

But on the other hand he would not waste any time in inspecting a little gathering of warships that had been arranged for his special benefit—the British navy cannot go through the Khyber Pass. Perhaps this explains the fact that he preferred to hurry off to the races rather than witness "battle practice."

Two things seemed rather to cast a shadow over him. "I hope you don't mind the bagpipes?" a neighbor asked him at one of the innumerable banquets. "Not at all," he answered. "I have them at Kabul." "But"—with a sad smile

"they don't stand so close behind my chair."

Then too the joys of railway travel did not appeal to him. In anticipation of his visit to a famous shrine a monorail was built to carry him to the sanctuary. He, a bejeweled royal car. He looked at the monorail, he looked at the car, and

### THEN ORDERED A LANDAU.

The Amir is the son of one who was a slave girl before she became one of the Queens of Afghanistan.

His harem in Kabul is not so large as that maintained by his father. Angus Hamilton says that when the Amir came to the throne three wives were divorced in order to keep the spirit of the Koran, which forbids the maintenance of more than four wives.

Many slaves of prepossessing charms, as are told, are taken into the harem from time to time and added to the number of his concubines. But the queens appear to exercise a strict censorship in regard to the type of slave. The hapless woman who becomes a favorite and excites the admiration of the Amir "is generally removed."

One queen, it is recorded, "has killed with her own hands three of her slaves and personally chastises her erring handmaids, purposely disfiguring any whose physical attractiveness might charm the Amir."

The four wives of the Amir "occupy positions which are graduated to a recognized scale. The first wife draws an allowance of one lakh of rupees annually; the second wife receives eighty thousand rupees, the third wife forty thousand rupees, the fourth wife twenty thousand rupees a year."

One rather gathers that the domestic life of the Amir is not untroubled and that the influence of his wives is not cast on the side of peace and quietness.

### FISH THAT GLOW.

Direct Their Rays in Any Direction Like a Searchlight.

The inhabitants of the ocean vary in many respects according to the depths at which they live, but most of all in their powers of vision. Fish that live at very great depths have either no eyes at all or enormously big ones. There are two methods of getting about in the gloomiest abysses—by delicate organs of touch, or by sight, that collects the few rays of light due to phosphorescence or other accidental sources.

The fish which live near the top of the ocean have smaller eyes than those, say, eight fathoms down. One hundred and twenty fathoms deeper, where daylight disappears, the eyes are bigger still. Beyond the depth of 500 fathoms, small eyes prevail, with long feelers to supplement them.

At this depth, in fact, sight is practically useless. In the greatest abysses the fish are usually blind, feeling their way about solely by means of their sensitive bodies. Some, indeed, show signs externally of having once possessed eyes, but that is all.

In others—the oldest and most confirmed abyssal species—the eye has disappeared altogether, externally, though traces of it are still to be recognized, embedded deeply in the tissues of the head.

Many deep-sea fish have a curious system of hollows in the skull or about the body which hold a kind of phosphorescent slime. Others have round or oval, shining opalescent spots, placed on the head or along the body or tail.

All of them are abundantly supplied with nerves, and they are apparently organs for the production of phosphorescent light. If so, such a fish must swim about surrounded by a faint glow, somewhat like that thrown off by luminous paint.

One scientist even suggests that these fish may have the power of directing their rays in any direction, like a searchlight.

# WINTER LIFE IN NORWAY

## LADS AND LASSES OUTDOORS BY DAY AND NIGHT.

### Week End Skiing Parties That Spend the Hours of Rest in Huts Amid the Wilds.

A writer for a German paper who has been stopping in Christiania gives a surprising account of the liberty accorded to the young people of Norway, especially the girls. After receiving the rite of confirmation the girls receive what he calls schlusselfreihet, or key freedom, their parents literally hand over to them a night key and complete liberty to come and go as they please day and night.

Though the period of schlusselfreihet is in the early teens, the beneficiaries have no scruple about enjoying it to the fullest extent. With or without male companions they go off winter and summer on long country trips, week end parties usually, which start on Saturday afternoon when the half day sessions of the schools are over and the offices close up and last until Monday morning.

All through the country for the length of a day's journey about the capital parties take refuge ever night. Rich families own their own ski huts, sometimes several of them in various directions; but the greater number are owned by farmers, who rent them out at the rate of from

\$1.00 TO \$2.00 A MONTH.

Just outside of Christiania is the Holmenkollen. It is a great hill about 3,250 feet high, so near to Christiania that its abrupt cliffs seem to look down over the houses in the suburbs.

Parties go out by day to get the glorious view of sea and shore from the summit. They go out in the evening and spend all night there to watch the Northern Lights and the sunrise.

A trolley line runs to the top of the mountain and the staid of walking up has become so commonplace that nobody thinks of doing it any more. The company issues for one crown, about 27 cents, a ticket good for all day rides. The cars are equipped in winter with light-colored skis and bobbeds; so nobody rides down, at least in winter time. There are great sloping reaches of snow on which the bob sledging is superb.

There are dozens of stag parties and almost an equal number made up of girls only. But in a large number of cases—perhaps a majority—boys and girls, young men and women, tramp together.

There is a total absence of attempts at gallantry; the girls are as independent as the men. They expect none of the small attentions or courtesies that our girls would look for, and they get none.

In winter time the skis are invariably taken along. Sometimes bobbeds are taken too, if the country to be traversed favors their use.

SKATES ARE OFTEN TAKEN TOO.

Each individual has provisions for a day or two and sometimes the tea making apparatus is divided evenly as to weight. The costume is picturesque, woolen caps of gay colors give brilliant effect to a snow landscape over which they are dotted, when viewed from a distance on a sunny day. Warm sweaters, generally white, are worn by men and women alike, the men wear knickerbockers and leggings; the girls' skirts coming a little below the knee, and leggings too. The shoes of both sexes are built strictly for business purposes.

When the hour of rest comes, the

who party takes to the ski hut and all sleep in their clothes on beds of pine needles. In summer the early sunrise finds them afoot again. In the winter the start is made hours before dawn and the objective point of the morning is often some height from which the coming light is hailed with song.

The climate of southern Norway greatly favors the outdoor winter life. Early in December the country becomes thickly covered with snow, which practically remains until the spring. The thermometer hardly ever rises above freezing point and the chances of rain are negligible. Snow is not taken seriously by the skiers and the cold is seldom so intense

### AS TO BE DANGEROUS.

It is on the Holmenkollen that the international ski contests take place every year, bringing English, German, Swiss and French competitors in constantly increasing numbers. There are events for men and women and boys and girls of all ages, and young people come from all parts of Norway without chaperone or guardian and spend several days on the ground to take part in them.

The German observer of these conditions says that the freedom allowed to the young people appears to have the best possible effects, especially in the development of character among the women. In particular, he says, it seems to fit them for public life.

Almost every city in Norway has at present a number of women in the municipal governing bodies, and in the next election the women are to exercise the full franchise in the choice of members for the Storting or national legislature.

### HIS FATHER'S PIPE.

Last night when Pa an' Ma went out I sneaked into the den, An' got Pa's pipe an' had a smoke. Just like the grown up men.

I got his "baccy" jar an' filled The bowl an' struck a light; An' puffed away just like my pa, O, I was brave all right.

I just blew clouds of smoke about, An' then I made two rings; An' then I understood just why A pipe such comfort brings.

O Gee! I had a bully time, A regular dandy treat; Except that something made me sick That I had had to eat.

I guess I must have cat too much Of apple pie an' cheese; Coz while I sat a smokin' there, I sorter felt, my knees

Begun to shake, an' then the things Went round an' round an' round; The cul' an' got round from the walls An' rested on the ground.

The mantel shelf jus' danced a jig, The sofa was a-swing; I tried to lie down there awhile, But couldn't catch the thing.

An' then my head began to swim, My eyes they both got blurred; I tried to call our hired girl, But couldn't say a word.

An' so I lay upon the floor, Which rooked jus' like a boat; I felt like I was burning up, My tongue stuck in my throat.

I never was so sick before, I can't explain jus' why I got that way, unless, of course, It was that apple pie.

My ma came home an' found me there, As sick as I could be; She saw the pipe upon the floor, An' so she said to me,

"You've smoked your father's pipe, you have. 'It's made you sick, I'm glad.' She wouldn't believe me when I said It was the pie we had.

# SOME FROST TRAGEDIES

## CURIOUS ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY ICE AND SNOW.

### The Greatest Calamities of Frost, Strangely Enough, Are Those Caused by Thaw.

In February, four years ago, there was a tremendous frost on the Continent. The Vistula, among other rivers, was covered with ice of immense thickness, and when the thaw came and the bonds of frost were loosened, the roaring river became choked with gigantic dams of ice.

In Galicia, near Szezin, the flocks grounded in a shallow part of the stream instantly a vast barrier of ice began to rear itself, while behind it the choked river swelled into a mighty lake, and all parts of Norway without chaperone or guardian and spend several days on the ground to take part in them.

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### TO SEA ON AN ICE FLOE.

A dreadful disaster was that which befell a couple of winters ago at Wieringen, on the Zuider Zee. This great shallow inland sea of brackish water usually freezes every winter for a long distance out. One January evening a number of people were amusing themselves skating off the village, some at a considerable distance from shore, when suddenly a great floe, across in extent, cracked away from the rest of the ice, and a rapidly widening lane of water divided a dozen skaters from the shore.

Some plunged in and swam back, but seven were carried out to sea on the floating ice. These on shore rushed for boats, but here the frost completed its deadly work. The boats were too tightly frozen into the sand of the beach to be moved, and by the time that one was loosened it was dark. Next day the unhappy skaters were found, frozen to death.

On the low, sandy shores of Lake Michigan stands the village of Sandpoint, a little place of wooden-built houses, which is—oddly enough—inhabited only in winter. Its people are fishermen who catch their prey by cutting holes in the ice when the lake freezes. One night in February, 1907, a tremendous gale arose, and before the sleeping inhabitants knew what had happened, their homes which were built without foundations, were blown on to the ice, and went sliding out at great speed across the frozen surface.

One house dropped into a hole, and its inhabitants were drowned, but the others, fortunately, brought up safe against the edge of a long cape, which runs out crescent-fashion almost opposite the village.

This brings to mind an extraordinary accident which occurred at Telluride, in Colorado, about three years ago. Some seventy miners were asleep in the shaft-house of the Liberty Bell mine, when the end of a glacier in the mountain above broke away, and sliding down the valley, struck the shaft-house and carried it nearly half a mile. The amazing thing is that the occupants were not all killed. Thirty escaped alive. These were busy digging out the dead when a second landslide occurred, and another ten of the poor fellows were crushed or buried.

SUNK BY FROZEN SPRAY.

It will always be remembered as one of the strangest accidents caused by frost that the liner, Germania, was, in 1895, sunk at her wharf in New York, simply by the enormous weight of frozen sea

water, which coated her weather side.

No lives were lost on that occasion, although the financial loss was heavy. A similar disaster, which befell the small tramp steamer von in 1879, had a more tragic event. Overwhelmed with masses of frozen spray, and with her engines disabled, she turned turtle in the North Atlantic, and of her crew of seventeen only two lived to tell the tale.

One of the most amazing tragedies of frost occurred in Colorado on a February day, two years ago. The temperature was far below zero, but the air dry and clear, and the sun shining with amazing brilliancy. Five people, who were driving together across the tract of forest reserve known as North Park, did not really feel the cold.

Suddenly the distant mountains disappeared in a white mist, and the sun lost its brilliancy. Presently one of the women put her hand up to her cheek, crying out that something had stung her. A breeze began to blow, and the air became charged with a mist of fine particles which glittered like diamonds in the sun. They saw a settler, his face covered in a shawl, signalling to them furiously. They drove to his house, and he hurried them in, before morning all the party were dreadfully ill, and one woman was dead.

This fog is of fine ice particles, so intensely cold that they reach the lungs without melting. The Indians justly call this strange phenomenon the White Death.—Pearson's Weekly.

### MEXICAN LOTTERY TICKETS.

Millions of Them Sold Every Year—Millions of Persons as Vendors.

Nearly \$100,000 is spent in Mexico City every week in lottery tickets, and in the same period about \$70,000 is paid back in premiums, says the Mexican Herald.

On the weeks immediately preceding the big drawings, the sale, of course, mounts up to great sums, as, for instance, when the \$200,000 drawings are held, there are 20,000 tickets at \$40 each sold on the streets, and practically every ticket is disposed of, most of them during the last two weeks before the drawing.

But the general proposition, on an average of \$15,000 a day is spent by Mexico City people on the lotteries.

There are, as is well known, three companies operating under concessions from the government for the conduct of lotteries in Mexico City.

Many picturesque figures are included in the list of lottery vendors in Mexico, for all must be licensed. Blind men and women, dogs, old men, cripples and deformed persons all seem attracted to the business of selling lottery tickets.

There is an inexplicable fascination about buying a ticket from a misshapen person, for there surely must be luck in it, and this feeling is played upon by the vendors.

There have been, from time to time, rumors of changes coming in the lottery business of Mexico, but this industry is going the way of the gambling houses, now entirely driven out of practically all cities of the republic, and one hears that the great new prizes are but the forerunners of the lotteries' last days, and their efforts to gather in what they may while they can. How much truth there is in this one cannot say, but it is reasonable to suppose that the lotteries will ultimately be suppressed.

ON THE COUNTRY.

Mrs. Lomas—"I don't see what she wanted to marry him for; he has a cork leg, as well as false teeth."

Mrs. Smith—"Well, my dear, you know that woman always did have a hankering after remnants."

Lots of men would be meaner than they are if they were not too lazy to exert themselves.

# FITZBOOMSKI THE ANARCHIST TRIES TO BAG THE PRIME MINISTER.



# CURRE

For their own sake might better... For they have... the same base... chief privilege... riches have won... the mind of... in letting soul... unimprisoned... fighting of po... mostly of frien... in terms of... counting penni... amusements, c... choosing evil th... to get the good... violence to one's... elegance, ease... with soft senti... ing ourselves v... is vulgar to sta... them to earth w... fly to heaven... erty's deformity... ages on the life... By ugliness an... brutalized, the... and women... d... of min... their beggary... And the alm... cure. It is we... fias, cultures... body, then soul... and deffement... with beauty a... sweet sounds... lighful things... tris rebelen... the palate del... What is the dif... can hold of f... ed features an... regularly of f... the difference... Refiner... perfection... logics of the... of many. It is... dainty hands a... with wonderf... out of marble... that of the fr... educated, that... storied knowl... win their per... tion, creation... and physical... spiritual pabr... complexity... 'Tis not seem... man potatoes... development... horses, sheep... it is quite fut... The pu... grateful call... and shackles... a narrow... sordid... idle, as... are the cons... religion, the... and patry, l... ish compens... And there is... and flowers... itself, be its... The larger... how-er, f... through the... as provide f... facile bounty... savage societ... ests by the c... unsparring... dies as... original re... might exertio... is left free t... When the c... life to his s... organism to... sponds perfe... battles for e... Wealth will... supply all th... end his sup... foras will... in these rob... proper and... Hashish, opium, is p... rived from... The cod l... eggs yearly... The Salva... medical...