

"Rounding Up" a Herd of Elephants

CAPTURING a wild elephant alive is considered such a difficult and hazardous undertaking that elaborate expeditions are usually organized for the purpose. In Siam, where elephants are employed to do most of the hard work connected with felling timber, building roads and similar operations and where, consequently, the big animals are required in large numbers, the natives capture them wholesale.

Elephants are plentiful enough in Siam, where they gather in large herds, but it would be almost impossible to capture them save by the use of strategy. The natives resort to a thief to catch a thief, or in other words, of using tamed elephants to catch the wild ones.

When the Siamese Government is in need of elephants, a herd of wild ones is sought out. Then experienced elephant hunters—and almost every Siamese is taught from childhood how to handle the big beasts—are sent out with a number of tamed elephants, some of whom are mounted, while others are allowed their full liberty.

The tame elephants without riders are used as "stool pigeons," so to speak, and mingle with the wild herd, while the hunters surround it. The tame animals among the herd know almost as well as their masters what is expected of them, and they urge their wild companions to follow them toward a specially constructed corral, or kraal, as they call it, built of strong timbers with large doors.

In this manner the whole herd is slowly but surely driven through forest and field, and sometimes even across large streams. Once in a while one of the older elephants tries to break away, but as a rule easily driven back by the hunters, who are armed with long spears, with which they goad the recalcitrants into line.

When the herd is nearing the corral, the bunch is slowly thinned out until it forms in single file, the animals trotting willingly behind each other. A tame elephant leads the line and enters the corral, and all the others follow him quite unsuspiciously. As soon as they are all inside the stockade, the doors are closed and it is not till then that the wild elephants realize that they have been deprived of their natural liberty.

Sometimes they charge the barrier and injure themselves in consequence, for the stockade is built of sturdy teak logs, twelve feet high and driven eight or nine feet into the earth. Usually, however, they acquiesce in their fate. After they

have quieted down somewhat they are lassoed with strong ropes and their legs are tied to the strong posts of the stockade.

The wild elephant of Siam is not generally savage, but unless he is harassed he is quite gentle, and the elephant drive is witnessed by large numbers of the population who follow the drive without fear of any danger.

Of course, there are plenty of savage elephants in Siam, but these, as a rule, do not travel with the herds, but roam singly through the primeval forest. The natives know well enough to leave them alone, but they provide the most exciting sort of sport for the foreign hunters.

The King of Siam is an expert on elephants, and he invariably at-

tempts an elephant drive with his whole suite. A regular grandstand is erected near the entrance to the corral, from which point of vantage the King and his royal suite witness the process of capturing the elephants. The King is a great camera fiend, and from his royal logs he takes many an interesting snap-shot of the big beasts.

The Wild Herd Follows the Tamed Elephants Even Across Broad Streams.

Often the proceedings are enlivened by a contest between a tame elephant and one of the herd of wild elephants who discovers the treachery of his companion and shows his resentment by attacking him. These elephants furnish great amusement for the natives, although they usually separate the combatants before much harm is done, not so much, it must be admitted, from humanitarian motives as

from the fear that the animals may kill each other, and the herd be so much the smaller as a result.

After the return of the Crown Prince of Siam from Oxford, England, and this country, a special elephant drive was arranged for his benefit. A herd of two or three hundred wild elephants was located in the jungle and a large cordon of tame animals was employed for the round-up. The affair was made a great society event and all the flower of Siam's aristocracy was on hand to watch the proceedings.

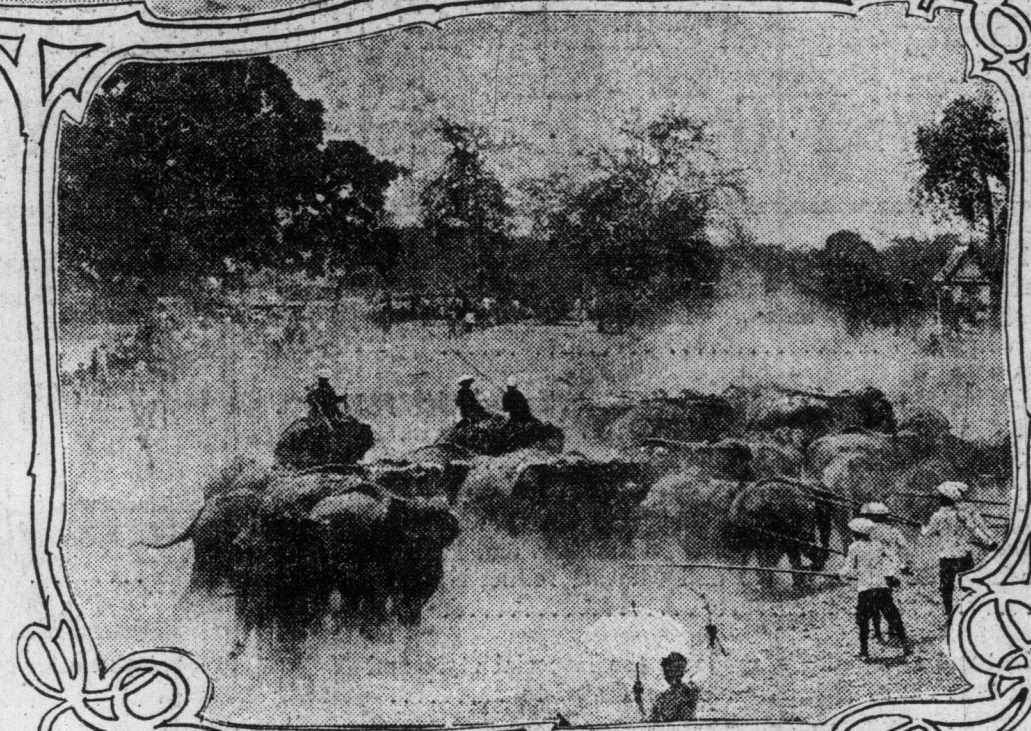
The royal elephant drive used to be an annual event in Siam, but of recent years the custom has died out and these round-ups occur only on special occasions or when the need for animals makes them necessary.



A Corral, or Kraal, of Sturdy Teak Logs Into Which the Wild Elephants Are Lured.



The Wild Herd Follows the Tamed Elephants Even Across Broad Streams.



The Siamese Hunters Use Long Poles to Goad the Big Animals Into Line.

How the Big Animals Are Caught in Siam, Where the "Elephant Round-Up" Is a Frequent Event

The Fascinating Gamble of Playwriting

EVERYBODY has heard of the fortunes made by successful playwrights—how the author's royalties on a single popular drama may insure him an income of from \$100 to \$500 per week, according to the number of companies engaged in performing it, through the entire season of forty weeks, and continuing for a long period of years.

No wonder that more stage manuscripts are written than any other kind—almost everybody who writes at all should make at least one trial for this rich prize, even without any training whatever in this most exacting department of the literary art.

That playwriting is, even with the adepts, no more than a fascinating gamble is shown in connection with the reading in London of the late

Captain Robert Marshall's will. Captain Marshall wrote a score of successful plays, yet he will lumped them all together as having a value of \$1 each!

At least three of these plays—"His Excellency the Governor," "The Duke of Killarney," and "The Duke of Killarney"—can be counted among the most popular productions of recent years. One week's royalty dues from Mr. Charles Frohman for "His Excellency the Governor" alone amounted to \$38. What, then, was the explanation?

As with most mysteries, the truth is probably simple enough. The play was proved in a talk with Mr. Henry Brigidand, of French's, upon whose shelves so much of the present-day English drama awaits either immortality or the dust.

There is probably nothing in the whole world where value is so utterly incapable of being reduced to rules as that of a stage-play. Roughly speaking, a play may be worth absolutely nothing, or it may be worth many thousands.

The actual value of plays, so far as the future is concerned, can hardly be gauged by any one. One may take it, indeed, that a new play by an unknown author is, until its success is proved, a gamble. If it is a success its worth makes up instantly to hundreds and thousands as the case may be.

"Always, of course, the bigger the play and the more elaborate the production necessary, the greater

the risk. Take, for instance, some of the Drury Lane dramas that have ceased touring and that demand an enormous amount of mechanism and a large stage. If they were revived at Drury Lane they would instantly be worth money—at any rate, to the authors. But under ordinary circumstances they might be so much waste-paper.

"On the whole, I should say that the play that has brought more money to the owners of the copyright than any other in the history of the stage is 'The Silver King.' For twenty-eight years it has been running somewhere or other—in England, America, or the Colonies—without a single break. It is still on tour.

"Among the more recent plays that have brought fortunes, there is, of course, 'Peter Pan,' though it is possible that of all Mr. Barrie's plays 'The Little Minister' has made most, with its enormously successful tour. Mr. Shaw is credited with having added a very tidy sum to his exchequer by his vogue in Germany, but in general Continental rights are not worth as much as might be thought, as the runs are shorter than they are here."

As showing that the playwright himself does, after all, share pretty largely in the fruits of his labors, it was recently calculated that the total royalties made by Sir Arthur Pinero, Sir William Gilbert, Mr. Arthur Jones and Mr. Barrie would in each case run well into six figures.

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