

THEY ARE A STRANGE LITTLE PEOPLE--THESE MEN AND WOMEN OF NEPALI

(The Detroit News)
Calcutta—I saw a short sturdy lot of men, all in battered old felt hats of Homburg pattern, crossing a river in dugouts, paddling themselves over with rude oars, and shouting at their cattle which were swimming and in difficulties, thanks to the rate at which the river was flowing.—the Sarju River, over which the folk of Nepal must come if they wish to trade in the town of Tanakpore.

They had come to trade the produce of their mountain land. They brought not only cattle but hides, wool potatoes and grain, and they enjoyed mixing with the people of the market place, bargaining about their wares until they were tired. They enjoyed the small bazar, which to their mind was a fine place, and when utterly weary they slept in the shade of a group of trees just outside the weighing shed.

A strange people, small and very active, as they needs must be to climb the hills of their country. They retain this energy throughout their lives, and one often sees an old man or woman scampering up and down slopes as cheerfully and as rapidly at 60 as at 16.

They struck me as very silent. It is not easy to get a Nepali to talk. He is a believer, I should imagine, in "deeds not words" for he accomplishes a lot, and only appears talkative with his own intimate friends and relatives. Yet he is cheerful for all that and contented appearing—even more contented are the women, who make up for any lack of personal beauty, with the cheer that radiates from their faces. Not that all are ordinary to look upon. Some young Nepali girls are very pretty with clear, rosy skins, and bright intelligent dark eyes. In late life, they broaden and coarsen, but in youth are very attractive.

The Nepali is a great worker, and a great walker. He will plod along many miles in the sunshine, with his worldly goods upon his back. His wife will sling her babe in a basket, to which is fixed a webbing strap; this she supports on her head, so that the basket is hanging between her shoulders, and the child is carried along safely from one village to another, from one district to another, or merely about the fields and streets.

If she works in a household—and Nepali women make particularly good nurses—she will make beds and tidy rooms with her young charge slung in a shawl upon her back, and think nothing of it! I once employed a pretty Nepali girl who not only looked after the children but took the trouble to tell them stories from the Bible and teach them to sing hymns at a very early age. Having come from a Mission school she thought it as well to pass on her knowledge!

Any injustice is very quickly resented by a Nepali, and he tries to get even with the perpetrator as soon as he can. Yet he is singularly law abiding—so much so, that one of the chief proverbs of the country is "There is no answer to an order, no medicine for death."

He is thrifty and makes a good emigrant—indeed he has a fancy for emigration, and numbers have settled in and near Darjeeling or have taken up work in the tea plantations, where they dwell for many years without wanting to return to their native land. They save their money and buy land, but have one peculiarity—they will not labor on an estate in the plains, only on hills. Being mountain bred, they pine for the hills if they are on the lower lands, or all that, they find their way down to Calcutta during the cooler months of the year, and there work as household servants or as durwans (doorkeepers).

In the Nepali you find someone you can trust which is not an ordinary characteristic among races, of the East.

His religion means a lot to him, especially when in Nepal itself, but when he comes across the border and is in contact for years with other races, his caste system becomes lax, and he is inclined not to worry overmuch about the old Gods. In some parts a Brahmin may be found cultivating the soil or even working as a laborer, but it is not usual. The Nepali is a Buddhist, which religion being

very closely allied to Hinduism, makes him accept the faith of his Hindu neighbors when he settles near them on farm or tea estate.

He will eat and drink all sorts of things which the orthodox Hindu will not so much as look at. Meat, and even pork, can be consumed by emigrant Nepalis, and they often satisfy religious ceremonial by merely washing their faces and hands and removing their headgear before cooking and eating. In fact they are inclined to jeer at the Hindu who, before he eats, goes through the business of bathing and doing jujah, taking about three hours in the entire doing.

Different Sects

There of course are different sects among the Nepalese, some of them so low, that, while in Nepal itself, I believe they are not allowed into the courtwards of the temples, and have to call out giving warnings of their approach if on a road frequented by the higher castes. They have even to leave the highway when they see a Brahmin approaching, so despicable in the sight of the elect classes are they. These unfortunates are blacksmiths, goldsmiths, tailors, leather-workers, and the descendants of manumitted slaves.

The people from Nepal and the border come into Kalimpong near Darjeeling every November for a great fair held there. Two days are given up to buying and selling, and to amusements. Cattle change hands, mules are bought, homemade cotton goods, grain and foodstuffs, but later in the day time is devoted to enjoyment.

Wrestling is much indulged in, and prizes to the victors, lots of dancing takes place, conjurers display their tricks to an admiring circle, and there always are a few fortune tellers to reap a harvest from the poor ignorant folks of the hills.

Some Nepalese always are to be seen at the Darjeeling market place. The women keep stalls there and sell their produce, chaffing and bargaining cheerfully with their customers as they do so. They are not shy, backward people like one meets among the women of the poorer classes in India. They always have lots to say for themselves, and appear to have a good conceit of themselves as have their menfolk. It is evident that wife oppression does not figure among the customs of Nepal.

Very Handy

Three does not seem to be any job that the Nepali woman will not turn her hand to. She is to be seen helping drag road rollers over rough ground when the Darjeeling roads are being repaired. Some 40 or 50 men, women, and children, shouting and chanting, strain at the ropes of the heavy roller, and manage somehow to drag it up the slopes, and to deter it in its too rapid passage down them. They work for ridiculously small wages, and are glad to do it, judging by their happy faces.

Like everyone else, they are fond of personal adornment, and invest their savings in jewelry. Poor indeed does the Nepal girl think herself if she cannot boast of a string of rough turquoise, and a pair of silver earrings, and a bracelet or two, while no one looks more pathetic and tired of life than does the middle-aged Nepal woman whom ill fortune has forced to part with her ornaments. In losing them she has lost her self respect and life is hardly worth the living.

TURKS SEEK RICH TREASURES

Istanbul, Turkey, June 11—Treasures reminiscent of the days of Haroun Al Raschid may be inspected by the Turkish people now in the fourth room of the Imperial Ottoman treasury at the Seraglio Palace. Bejeweled ermine costumes worn by the ancient sultans, prayer beads of precious stones and a jeweled sword owned by the third Caliph Rasheddin are in the collection, whose total value is estimated at more than \$100,000,000. The room was opened to the public yesterday.

MISS HELEN MOWATT URGES THAT INSTITUTES FORM MARITIME CRAFT GUILD

Charlotte County Woman Outlines Possibilities of "Farm-Factory"—Before Advisory Board—Two Resolutions Tabled—Mrs. A. Mathewson Honored.

That Down East women interested in artcraft should unite to form a Maritime Handicraft Guild disengage from the established Canadian Guild was the personal opinion of Miss Helen Mowatt, of St. Andrews, in an address before the closing session of the annual Women's Institute convention in the Legislative rooms here today. In order to put a provincial craft industry on a paying basis a preliminary investigation into the quality and quantity of work already produced in New Brunswick is necessary, and Miss Mowatt requested that samples of home tweeds be sent in for inspection with an inventory of looms on hand and general technical equipment available.

Miss Mowatt's word picture of a possible new and lucrative industry proved highly fascinating to the assembled delegates who peppered the speaker with a bevy of pertinent questions. Miss Mowatt, who for years has been actively engaged in the handicraft industry in Charlotte county outlined plans and specifications for the prospective guild and advised that expert advice from the old country be obtained before a possibly inferior product is placed on the market. The guild must begin well if it desires sustained success, she pointed out. With the growth of the industry, any number of disused water-mills might be obtained reasonably and converted into workshops for the preparation of raw material which could be finished in the homes. If properly directed rural New Brunswick might be turned into a co-ordinated "Farm factory."

The convention, this year a Handicraft convention in the words of the president Mrs. H. Read, came to a close after the organization of the proposed guild was placed in the hands of an Advisory Board.

The disagreeable weather which has persisted since the Institute opened on Tuesday made it necessary for the delegates to abandon their trip to the Experimental Station, but despite the unpleasantness of the elements the ladies were highly appreciative of the hospitality and kindness shown them during their stay here, and a vote of courtesy was extended to the citizens of Fredericton and others.

A vote of thanks was also extended to Mrs. Annie Matheson, retiring Convener of Publicity, in appreciation of her untiring efforts on behalf of the Institute.

Three resolutions were read to the convention by the president, only one being approved. The Institute again put itself on record as favouring the enactment of a weed control law for New Brunswick, but tabled the suggestion that Canada have a National flag, and voted against surplus grant money being used for Federal purposes. It was feared that this last would interfere with the sending of a second delegate to the Federal convention of the institute.

The greater majority of the delegates left the city last night, but a number remained for a meeting of the advisory board which will consider among other things the organization of a Handicraft Guild.

TRADE BOARD CLOSES DOWN ON TESTIMONIAL BUSINESS

Washington, D. C., June 11—One of the most promising of American industries, which has been a boon to screen stars, channel swimmers, transatlantic aviators, peanut rollers, prize fighters, social leaders, flagpole sitters and others in the public eye, is threatened with extinction by the Federal Trade Commission's drive on testimonials.

A little more than a year ago the commission attracted wide attention when it forbade a cigaret company to publish testimonials by screen stars and others who it was claimed actually were non-smokers or at least not regular consumers of the brand in question.

The commission has not rested on the laurels of its success in the case of the cigaret company but has gone forward with a campaign that bids fair to end with abolishment of this form of abuse of the public's confidence in its heroes.

'Cease And Desist' Orders

Manufacturers of underwear, toilet articles and a number of other commodities have come under the ban in recent months and have been made the targets of orders to "cease and desist." In other cases, the user of testimonials has been invited to come to Washington and talk it over with the commission, which is that body's preferred method of conducting its campaign for purity in advertising.

It is the view of the commission that testimonials which are not offered voluntarily by actual users of the article advertised are a deception of the public and unfair to competing manufacturers.

If the giver of the testimonial is a bona fide user and indorser of a product, he legitimately may be paid for use of his name, the commission has held, but in that case the advertisement must be accompanied by a notice that "this statement has been paid for."

Court Ruling is guide

A recent decision of the Supreme Court on the commission's attempts to require the modification of certain cosmetic advertisements at first

appeared to have been a set back to the campaign. Now it is regarded, however, as having served merely to point out in the legal route it should follow in such cases.

The court conceded the advertisements in question might be deceptive, but held the commissioner's powers should not be invoked unless there was definite evidence of an unfair effect on commercial competitors.

Since such evidence was lacking in the commission's case in this instance, the court held for the defendant. It was clear, however, that if a showing had been made of an adverse effect on the business of competitors the decision probably would have been sustained. Accepting this hint the commission, it is said will continue its campaign.

A WANDERING WATCH COMES HOME AT LAST

(New York Sun)

In 1899 a watch was stolen from the pocket of R. L. Dennison of Kansas City in New York. The watch, manufactured by a company which long since has gone out of business had been given to him in 1888 by his wife. In 1912 Mr. Dennison was in Iowa, Kansas, and stopped to look in the window of a jewelry store. Noticing a watch of the same make as the one which had been stolen from him, he entered the store and purchased it. Not long ago he took the watch to the jewelry store in Kansas City where the first watch had been purchased. He told his story and asked that the watch be cleaned. Some curious soul in that jewelry store checked the number of the watch with the number of the watch originally owned by Mr. Dennison and found them to be identical.

When the hear sings, usually it is in the key of O, gee!

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