

Hunting a Live Prehistoric Monster



ONE of the most remarkable scientific discoveries ever made has just been reported by an expedition of British scientists.

In the wilds of New Guinea, the great unexplored island just north of Australia, these scientists have run across a marvelous race of pigmies whose average height is about four feet three inches, and a monster mammal, considerably larger than an elephant, which they have named the gazeka, and which has seemingly wrought great havoc amongst the pigmies.

Just what species the gazeka belongs to has not yet been determined, but in the description given by the explorers, Dr. W. D. Matthews, of the American Museum of Natural History, sees a strong resemblance to a prehistoric monster known as the diprodon, fossil remains of which have been found at different times throughout Australia.

The expedition was sent out by a committee

appointed by the British Ornithologist's union to explore the great Snow mountains in Dutch New Guinea, and consists of several famous scientists, headed by Walter Goodfellow, the naturalist.

The expedition landed at the mouth of the Mimika river, on the south coast of Dutch New Guinea, in the early part of the year, and at once pushed into the interior. While ascending the Snow mountains, at an elevation of about 2,000 feet, the explorers came upon the tribe of pigmies, which are said to belong to that division of the human race known as the Negritos.

The importance of this discovery to anthropologists can hardly be overestimated, because it has always been a subject of controversy among the scientists as to whether Negritos existed in the Papuan islands.

The New Guinea savages, or Papuans, as they are called, are comparatively well known, but they are a very different kind of men to the pigmies just discovered. The typical Papuan is much taller than the average European, often attaining a height of seven feet, and is strongly built. The color of the skin varies from deep chocolate to nearly black. The nose is large and prominent, and a nose bar of shell, bone or wood is usually thrust through it. Both men and women go about entirely naked. Their houses are generally built on piles, and, as in Borneo, are often communal and of very large size, many families occupying one building, which may be as much as 700 feet long. Then there are remarkable houses built in trees and known as "dobbies," but these are used only to escape their enemies. Cannibalism prevails among the Papuans, although it is by no means universal.

The Negritos, on the other hand, which heretofore have been thought to occupy only the Andaman islands, in the Bay of Bengal, and the northern portion of the Malay peninsula and the Philippine islands, are characteristically short, an adult standing over four feet six inches, while the women rarely exceed four feet. The average height is about four feet three inches.

The main features of this peculiar human type, apart from their diminutiveness, are the extraordinarily dark color of their skin, which approaches the color of a newly blackened stove, the extremely broad nose, the breadth of which is about equal to the height, and the frizzy hair, which grows in isolated peppercorn tufts all over the scalp. Their arms are unusually long, like those of the man-ape, and their mental qualities are sadly undeveloped, not one of them being able to express a higher numerical idea than three.

How these little people have been able to protect themselves against the many dangerous animals that infest the section, particularly the gigantic gazeka, which has just been discovered, is still a mystery, although they have shown remarkable ingenuity in the invention of weapons. One, for instance, is a variety of "spring gun" which might prove effective against almost any living enemy. It is made by setting a flattened bamboo spear attached to a bent sapling which is fastened to a trigger in such a way that it is released by the passerby stumbling against an invisible string stretched across the track. The spears are poisoned, either with the famous "upas" or some other similar vegetable poison, and a wound from one of them means almost instant death.

Whether such primitive defensive methods avail them against the huge gazeka is not known, but the chances are that they find safety in retreat.

According to the official reports, the gazeka is of gigantic size and fearsome aspect. It is black and white striped, has the nose of a tapir and "a face like the devil." Among the English inhabitants of the island, the animal is known as Monckton's gazeka, in honor of Mr. C. A. W. Monckton, a former explorer in New Guinea, who first reported its presence in the mountains.

Mr. Monckton, during his ascent of Mount Albert Edward, in the west of British New Guinea,



ENORMOUS FOOT OF "GAZEKA" RECONSTRUCTED FROM RECENT TRACKS



THE GIGANTIC SKULL OF THE DIPRODON IN COMPARISON WITH A MAN'S SKULL

discovered the huge footprints and other indications of the very recent presence of some tremendous monster that had evidently been prowling on the grassy plains surrounding the lakes on the summit at an elevation of about 12,500 feet. He followed the trail all day, and came upon the monster at dusk, just as it was devastating a settlement of the pigmies. The little natives were screaming and running for their lives, although they turned every now and again to aim their poisoned arrows at the brute.

Monckton let fire as soon as he was able to get in a proper position, and the huge gazeka at once turned upon him. As it reared upon its hind legs and pawed the air it looked to the hunter as big as a house, standing fully 25 feet high. Two of Monckton's bullets seemed to take effect, as a stream of blood flowed freely from the animal's shoulder, but before Monckton was able to reload the animal turned and fled. By that time it was too dark to follow him, and Monckton never had another opportunity to renew his pursuit.

None of the inhabitants was brave enough to repeat Monckton's attempt to capture the brute, and until the British expedition reached New Guinea he has prowled around with impunity, occasionally descending upon the rudimentary huts

of the pigmies and destroying those who failed to fly in time. The British explorers were aware of Monckton's experience, and in fact, it is believed that one of the principal objects of the expedition was to secure a specimen of the strange monster. It has long been known that there were many mammals in New Guinea still to be discovered, but just what they expected to find the scientists themselves could not tell.

New Guinea lies to the east of what is known as Wallace's line, an imaginary line defined by A. R. Wallace, on one side of which only placental animals are found, while on the other only marsupials exist. No tapirs or rhinoceroses exist to the east of Wallace's line, which includes Australia and New Guinea, but about the period when the mastodon and the mammoth flourished in America a huge marsupial known as the diprodon is known to have existed in Australia. Fossil remains recently discovered leave no doubt as to its gigantic size, and, although there is, of course, no means of ascertaining its appearance in life, as it has been extinct for several thousands of years, the gazeka appears to bear a marked resemblance in form to this ancient monster.

That a few diprodons could have survived to this day despite the extinction of the main part of the type, is not considered unlikely by the scientists, who point out that nature does not usually blot out a whole class of animals suddenly, but that, on the contrary, it is sometimes thousands of years before the last individual member of the type succumbs to the conditions which destroyed his fellows.

The British explorers are enduring many hardships in their scientific expedition. In New Guinea the temperature is never less than 114 degrees in the shade, and water is not always accessible. But if these ardent explorers really capture a living diprodon they will consider their labors well rewarded.

ONCE HOME OF FAMOUS SCHOOL

Ascending the hill slope of Indian Queen lane, one passes over a winding roadway through what was once a thickly wooded grove overlooking the Ridge road and the Schuylkill river, a quaint cluster of three houses now joined as one homestead. A tablet swings from the arch in one of its ancient doorways, stating that this was the home of Dr. Smith, the first provost of the college—afterward the University of Pennsylvania.

Although the structure known in these days as Dr. Smith's home now has the appearance of being one large building, it comprises what was originally three distinct houses, with quaint spring houses and outbuildings, the Philadelphia Inquirer says. The old records show that Dr. Smith built these three clusters of strange buildings, on the hill nearly opposite the Old Falls tavern, among which was the octagon building and the vault in which his remains and others of his family were deposited immediately on the brow of the hill. The old "octagon building," which created much comment when first built because of its unusual construction, was called "Smith's Folly" in the early days, but its many-windowed recesses were the special delight of the celebrated university provost.

The residents of the Falls of Schuylkill find peculiar satisfaction today in the preservation of this old landmark because of its important association with the early education of this section. Not only was it the home of Dr. Smith, and made famous for its connection with the beginnings of

the University of Pennsylvania, but because from this historic building there was introduced the famous Pestalozzi system of education which made its influence felt throughout the country.

Early historians state that it was about the year 1809 that there came to the falls a very singular character, Joseph Neef, a pupil of the celebrated Pestalozzi of Switzerland. He was induced to come to this country for the purpose of establishing Pestalozzi's system of education by William McClure, the philosopher, who endowed the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Mr. Neef's school occupied the Smith property for many years; the octagon and connecting building were occupied as the schoolhouse and the adjoining buildings were used as dwellings. The school soon became large and flourishing, boys coming from all parts of the country to attend.

There are still among the residents of the Falls of Schuylkill those whose fathers or grandfathers attended the famous Neef school, and they delight in relating the stories handed down to them of the methods of study in the fine old groves surrounding the school building.

A Very Palpable Hit.

The Lady Golfer—Excuse me, sir, but have you seen my ball anywhere?

The Unfortunate Man—No, madam; but I can show you the exact spot on which it fell.—The Sketch.

THE ONLOOKER

WILBUR D. NESBIT

Where life is



The city is of brick and stone
With walls that touch the sky,
But there a man is quite alone
Though thousands pass him by;
They breathe the breath of mill and mart
Where never dreaming is;
He in their lives may have no part
And they have none in his.

It hammers him, the city's day,
Or binds him round with tape,
Until in its relentless way
It molds him to a shape—
A shape that also shapes his soul
Like those of all the rest.
Unless he will not pay this toll
And fares upon a quest.

The country is of grass and trees
And cloud and sun and rain,
Of singing birds and humming bees
And winding road and lane,
And grass that whispers all day long,
And orchards deep with shade—
Ah, there are story, laugh and song,
Forever to be made.

And he who passes is your friend
Though ne'er again you meet;
The people do not blur and blend
As in a city street
Into a host of rushing forms
That either come or go,
And if your soul has calms or storms
They neither care nor know.

A garden first was given man
But with his knowing frown
He sacrificed the primal plan
And built himself a town.
And ever through the city ways
There comes the luring dream
Of starry nights and drowsing days
Of meadowland and stream.

Choosing a Watermelon.

The flavor of a watermelon depends largely upon how you choose it.

If you select it over the telephone through the mediumship of a grocery clerk whose clairvoyance is imperfectly developed you will obtain a melon which is beautiful to gaze upon externally but whose interior decorations are unfinished.

There is nothing so dispiriting in life as to bisect a large, emerald watermelon with a blonde area on its southern exposure, and find the inside of it a discouraged pink streaked with white. Such a color scheme is fine for a mother-of-pearl knife handle, but ineffective for nutritive purposes.

Another unhappily feature of a watermelon is to be compelled to eat it with a fork and not drop any of the juice on your napkin. Watermelons were never intended by nature to be sliced geometrically and eaten by means of a fork. They are not in the pie class. For that matter, many good authorities contend that the use of a fork damages the flavor of pie.

Pie and watermelon each should be eaten by the same method. A convenient wedge should be seized in the hand, the back should be turned if necessary to avoid shocking onlookers, and then the delicacy should be bitten off ad lib. The chin may be wiped dry with the handkerchief later.

To choose a watermelon, go to a small town and wait on the main street until a freckled boy drives in on a wagon load of the dainties. Thump the largest one, and if it responds with a solidly hollow plunk, pay the boy his quarter, seek a secluded spot, break the melon on a fence post and let nature take its course.

Changed Her Mind.

"Do you wish to break our engagement?" he asked, bitterly.

"I do; I feel that you do not appreciate me as you should," she responded.

"Then I shall sue you for breach of promise, for a hundred thousand dollars' damages!"

With a cry of delight the fair young thing threw herself into his arms.

"Forgive me, George," she murmured. "I was mistaken. If you think my affection is worth that much to you, I am yours."

No Prentice Hand.

"How long has Mr. Flidge been writing humor?"

"O, he must be an old stager."
"But he seems so young."
"I know that, but at the banquet to the humorists he made a speech and in it he never once said anything about laying aside the cap and bells for the time being."

Michael Nesbit

SIDNEY JARVIS,
Singer and Actor, Values Doan's Kidney Pills.

Mr. Jarvis, who is one of America's leading baritones, played the part of the "Old-Grad" in the Fair Co-Ed Company with Elsie Janis. He writes: "For a long time I was troubled with backache. I consulted some of the most prominent physicians with unsatisfactory results. I was advised to try Doan's Kidney Pills, and felt benefited soon after beginning to take them. Continued use cured me completely. I cheerfully recommend them to any one suffering with kidney trouble."

Remember the name—Doan's. For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

All the Difference.
The professor was delivering an eloquent address on cruelty to animals, and to illustrate how a little judicious forethought would eliminate to a great extent the sufferings that even small insects are subject to, said:
"As I was coming through the hall tonight I saw a bald-headed gentleman very harshly treat a little innocent house-fly which had alighted on his head.

"Now, if there was any justification for such bad temper, I would be quite justified in indulging in it at the present moment, for a fly has just alighted on the back of my head. I can't see it, but I can feel it.
"Possibly some of you can see it now; it is on the top of my head. Now it is coming down my brow; now it is coming on to my— G-r-r-rat pyramids of Egypt, it's a—wasp!"

How Lightning Splits Trees.
Lightning makes trees explode, like overcharged boilers. The flame of the lightning does not burn them up, nor does the electric flash split them like an ax. The bolt flows through into all the damp interstices of the trunk and into the hollows under its bark. All the moisture at once is turned into steam, which by its immediate explosion rips open the tree. For centuries this simple theory puzzled scientists, but they have got it right at last.

Tit for Tat.
"Miss Bings," stammered the young man, "I called on you last night did I not?"

"What an odd question! Of course, you did."
"W-w-well, I just wanted to say that if I proposed to you I was drunk."
"To ease your mind, I will say that if I accepted you I was crazy."—Judge.

Points of View.
Venus was rising from the sea.
"What a vision!" cried the men on the beach.
"What a horrid bathing suit!" echoed the women, enviously.—Chicago News.

Get a Move On.
The Loafer—Alas! my ship doesn't come in.
The Real Man—Then get a move on and help some other fellow unload his.

It takes a strong-minded spinster to believe that the reason men don't propose to her is that she never gives them a chance.

There Are Reasons

Why so many people have ready-at-hand a package of

Post Toasties

The DISTINCTIVE FLAVOUR delights the palate.

The quick, easy serving right from the package—requiring only the addition of cream or good milk is an important consideration when breakfast must be ready "on time."

The sweet, crisp food is universally liked by children, and is a great help to Mothers who must give to the youngsters something wholesome that they relish.

The economical feature appeals to everyone—particularly those who wish to keep living expenses within a limit.

Post Toasties are especially pleasing served with fresh sliced peaches.

"The Memory Lingers"

Postum Cereal Co., Ltd.
Battle Creek, Mich.