

# THE SPORTY NEW KING OF CAMBODIA TO TAKE HIS 100 BEAUTIFUL DANCING GIRLS TO PARIS WITH HIM

## Sisavath Can't Get Along Without Them, Even on His Official Visit--The French Protocol Doesn't Know Just How to Receive and Protect the Marvelous Artistes of the Orient--A Description of Their Wonderful Performances.

By Sterling Hellig.  
Special Correspondence of The Journal.

PARIS, March 17.—An oriental potentate, who has 100 dancing girls, is putting the French protocol to much embarrassment.

He is Sisavath, late Obbarach and present king of Cambodia, brother and successor to Norodom, who died two years ago, but who was burned and finally disposed of only last month. Now the new king of Cambodia, having fulfilled all his plane duties, comes on an official visit to the gay French capital—the capital of the great European country that “protects” Cambodia.

Sisavath comes on an official visit; there are political reasons why he should be treated fine; and the French government will either lodge him in some palace or rent the whole floor of a smart hotel for him and his suite. His suite! With that suite comes the embarrassment.

I do not refer to his ministers, who, tho they be jewel-studded aristocrats in broadcloth and goldbraids, go barefooted—and do not wear trousers.

Nor do I refer to the three bakous, guardians of the sacred sword, lineal descendants of Brahma, perhaps the three most pure-blooded aristocrats of the world entire—alho they fall into embarrassing cataleptic fits at unexpected moments.

### 100—Beauties—100

The embarrassing part of the suite of Sisavath consists of just 100 of the daintiest little buds of Oriental femininity. Three of them are Sisavath's own daughters—royal princesses. Four of them are Sisavath's own wives. Two more are Sisavath's own leading favorites. And all of them are such consummate little artists, such perfumed little flowers of grace and beauty, and such learned little reciters of Cambodian classics, that King Sisavath cannot get on without them—so he brings them.

What will the French government do with them? How will it find a way to honor them and protect them, at the same time, from wild Parisian curiosity?

They come in the beginning of May, by way of Marseilles, a whole Messageries Maritimes liner being chartered for their transport from Cambodia, that Indo-Chinese kingdom, lying between Siam, Annam and French Cochinchina. It is a mysterious old kingdom, terribly depopulated by old wars, filled with noble castles and magnificent temples, the mass more or less in ruins. But between the seventh and the eleventh centuries—that is to say during a golden period of some 400 years that ended about the time William the Nor-



BARFOOTED, BUT A TRUE ARISTOCRAT—THIS IS THE KING'S PRIME MINISTER.



KING SISAVATH, THE SPORTY POTENTATE OF CAMBODIA.



“DO THEIR ACT SEATED ON A SMALL TABLE.”



ONE OF THE MYSTERIOUS THREE BAKOUS—THE OTHERS LOOK JUST LIKE HIM.

man conquered England—Cambodia was a great and splendid realm of riches and culture, having all Cochinchina for one of its provinces and covering large parts of present-day Siam and Annam. It was the legendary Khmer empire; and its line of princes, ending for the moment in Sisavath, the sport, possess diamonds, emeralds and rubies that might make even the shah of Persia sit up and look surprised.

Wonderful Dancers.

All Paris interest, naturally, centers in the 100 dancing girls. No oriental blossoms of young beauty and old culture like these have before been seen in Europe. Japanese geisha girls are clumsy, empty-headed little parvenues beside them. There is an art—or collection of arts forming a profession—that dates back to a period when all Europe slept in the Dark Ages, that has its beginnings in the mists of Old

Times lost, now, even in tradition. These girls, in whose veins runs the blood of a thousand princes of Cambodia, whose maternal line goes back thru countless delicate and learned little artists like themselves, have qualities that are extraordinary.

Their bones are as flexible as steel springs. They can bend their fingers to touch the backs of their hands. They could be contortionists such as the world has never seen—did they not deem all mere contortion stunts too vulgar.

The King's “Living Jewels.”

They can use their toes as other people use their fingers. Their small rosy-brown toes are so many fingers, bearing rings with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, topazes, tourmalines and caruncles—and the ten little toenails of each are so manicured that King Sisavath calls them his Living Jewels.

Their minds are cultured with a special erudition. Classic poems, in the old court language which the common people do not understand, run into thousands of verses. They recount the adventures of old Asiatic knights and demigods; the hierarchy of Brahmian deities; their attributes, relationship and works, their love affairs and jealousies; the lives and conquests of old kings, the sorrows and the happinesses of young princesses and princes. These they know by heart. They reel them off by the hour.

Their diction is perfect. Their voices are naturally as soft as the cooing of doves; but when they commence to recite a few thousand verses they take the old classical high-pitched artificial sassy diction, as finicky as the pronunciation of French at the Theatre-Francaise.

They sing. It is a kind of hymn-song, very gentle, on the rhythm of

the bonzes praying in the evening at the pagoda.

Jewels, Jewels Everywhere.

Two girls, seated on a little table, will act scenes from romances a thousand years old. As prince and princess of the shadowy Khmer empire the princess of their costumes are actually stiff with jewels. Their pagoda-like crowns are studded with jewels. There are jewels on their fingers and jewels on their toes. There are jewels in their hair and in their ears and round their necks and arms and legs. What each girl wears—and she calls them her own—actually represents a very great fortune.

Sitting, squatting on the table just big enough to hold them, they will act a scene of jealousy, or the prince declares a love that is not returned. It is all done with the bust, the head, the face and the hands. Yet you get

an intense impression of life, love, despair, hope, hesitation, sacrifice, duty, dreamy reverie, repugnance, hypocrisy, revolt, confidence, doubt—the whole gamut of conflicting human emotions.

Now, as to the King—

King Sisavath is 60 years old. Tho under middle height, he is exceptionally vigorous. He is affable and gay, with an aristocratic air that cannot be mistaken. At home he is a mighty hunter, sticking pigs and shooting tigers for sport and trapping and taming elephants for sport and profit mingled.

On this Paris trip, however, he will be chiefly notable by reason of the elegant chastity of his European dress and the truly oriental magnificence of his jewels. His perfectly tended fingers will be covered with rings with enormous stones, each worth a fortune. His hair, of the most rare woods, have

their “pommes,” or handles, made of single emeralds or rubies. His opera-glasses are studded with diamonds. His watches and chains are studded with more diamonds. So also his betel box, his cuspidor box, his cigarets and his cigar holders. Behind him, wherever he appears officially, are the three Bakous, guardians of the sacred sword, concerning whom the French police are wondering much, being skeptical and unbelieving of things that are told them.

The French police are preparing to watch the three Bakous and protect them in a special manner. In appearance they are aged and feeble ascetics, slender wisps of dried-up humanity, unable to protect themselves, much less the sacred sword.

### Sword Worth \$3,000,000.

The sacred sword is something priceless. The enormous diamonds and rubies with which it is studded are valued at \$3,000,000. But, in the eyes of Cambodians, they are the least detail of this mysterious and venerable object. The sword dates from unknown times. No decorative art experts can place its epoch. The stones are cut neither in the ancient nor the modern manner. The blade is of an unknown tempering. Cambodian princes, Buddhist monks, and Brahmian priests, all are really ignorant of the origin and meaning of the sacred sword. But it must never be far from the sovereign—and its only guardians are the three Bakous.

Now here is the thing that the French police will not believe—alho assured of its truth by no less a person than M. Beau, governor general of Indo-China. The three Bakous, lineal descendants of Brahma himself, these wizened, petered-out and doddering aristocratic waifs and strays of an unknown antiquity, need no police to help them guard the sacred sword. Alho so weak that they fall into trances, they have a strange kind of power. The desperate, huikest crook is stricken with strange fear at one glance from their eyes. And that is all. He flees as suddenly afflicted with the jim-jams. Parisians are waiting anxiously to set their eyes on the three Bakous.

Terrible to Contemplate.

One problem troubles the French protocol here. Suppose that it solves the problem of receiving, lodging, amusing and protecting the king's 100 dancing girls. So far, so good. But each one of the delicate and dainty creatures bears an almost princely fortune in jewels on her charming person. Technically, they are her jewels. Practically, she is a slave. Suppose that one of them should walk off one day in Paris—with her jewels?

## HOW MANY NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN MET DEATH

### The Story of the Disasters at Sea—The Season's Catch Unusually Large—Norwegians Will Welcome the St. Olaf College Musicians—Fourth of July Celebration Being Planned.

By M. ALGER,

Special Correspondence of The Journal.

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, March 13.—While we here at Christiania have experienced an unusually mild winter, and during the last week even had a temperate sun, like that of a very fine spring day, the populations along some of the coast districts have indeed had a different experience.

This is the time of the year when thousands of men are engaged in the cod and herring fisheries, the main part of them following their pursuits in small open boats on the open sea. And this is also the time when the weather is the most treacherous. The thousands of fisher boats may start out in the morning having fine weather and, consequently a happy crew, only to be overtaken by a fierce storm when they are the farthest from their homes. The tale of disasters at sea is not new in Norway, but such a series of them as has occurred during the last fortnight is, happily, almost without a parallel in the history of the country.

First came the disaster on March 1, at Lyngholmen, near the town of Haugesund, where the fishing steamer “Thor,” during a hurricane was thrown on the rocks, and thirty-nine men lost their lives. Nearly all of them had their homes in Haugesund and its vicinity. All were people in poor circumstances, many were married, and about forty minor children became fatherless thru this disaster. Thirteen recovered bodies were interred in one grave in Haugesund on the 8th. The loss of implements on this occasion is estimated at \$50,000 kroner.

### The Fishermen Have Good Luck.

Alho continued stormy weather has been a great hindrance to the progress of the fisheries in most places along the coast, the results up to date are very satisfactory, and the catch has been very good almost every day when the weather has permitted the fishermen to be out.

To the 10th of this month, the total catch for the whole country was 14,600,000 cod, which is 8,000,000 more than up to the same date last year. Apparently, therefore, this year's result will be at least about that of an “average” year, and if weather and catch during the coming weeks continue favorable the final result may be even better than that. At the beginning of March this year the catch is as much as the aggregate catch of the three previous seasons, but then the last three seasons have been “the worst ever known.”

What has been a great item this season is the heavy loss of implements sustained by the fishermen owing to the stormy weather.

The prices are ruling high, especially in the Trondhjem districts, where the notations have been 30 to 48 kroner per 100 fish, in Nordland the price has been 28 to 35 kroner, and somewhat lower than that in Lofoten. The price on liver is 11 to 15 kroner per bbl in Lofoten, in other places 13 to 14 kroner.

The catch in the Lofoten district alone up to date is about 4,750,000 against 1,300,000 to the corresponding date last year. While this is a result for the district for better than that of late years, it does not by far come up to the catches made some twenty years ago, when the average catch at this time of the year was some 7,000,000 to 8,000,000 of cod.

The fishery fleet in Lofoten this year is a large one. Some 5,000 boats are reported stationed there.

The total for the herring fisheries up to date amounts to about 500,000 “maal” (bbbls).

### The Holmenkollen Race With Innovations.

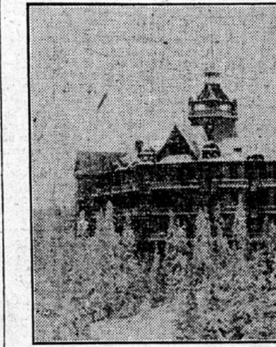
Better late than never. We did get the promised races after all. To say that conditions were favorable from a sportsman's view would certainly be a case of stretching the truth, but as it was, it was better than nothing. Also this year the races included cross country races and the leaping contest.

The boys from the district of Trysil came out as winners in the 50 km. race, the best one covering the course in a little more than five hours, which was

well done under the circumstances, but then they have had far better chances for training during the winter in their home district than the competitors from Christiania and vicinity.

Sunday, the 11th, the 15-km. race was held. The weather was now bad, and also that day the results were as fair as could be expected. The Trysil boys once more proved their superiority. The best one covered 15 km. in 1 hour 17 minutes and 53 seconds. Then a trail leaping contest was held for those who for the first time cared to try their skill at the Holmenkollen jump. Those whose performance does not come up to the required standard are not eligible for that competition.

Then came the big events on Monday, March 12. A snow storm was in full action from the early morning and continued till after the contest was over. The weather, however, did not prevent the usual Holmenkolday audience, say about 20,000 to 25,000, from attending. From the break of day a stream of humanity, in all ages and in all stages of life, began making for this one spot, the main portion of them afoot, but the electric cars and the “cabbies,” had also all they could handle and a little more. The king and queen were



VOKSENKOLLEN SANATORIUM.

Where the Royal Family of Norway Enjoyed the Winter Sport of the Country.

present, also several of the foreign diplomats, and despite the lateness of the season and the fact that the original date had been postponed about a month, the number of foreigners present was not small, and the United States was largely represented.

While the storm, or still more the new snow, was a serious drawback, the game came off in pretty shape. While the mercury stood about at the freezing point down in Christiania it was four degrees below at Holmenkollen. At 1 o'clock the king and his suite arrived and was greeted with cheers from the crowd. The band played “Ja vi elsker,” and immediately after the signal for the start was given.

The judges, veteran skimmers, came first as usual, in order to test the fitness of the track. Then followed the real competitors. It cannot be denied that the falls were more numerous than usual, even men of the greatest experience had to go down that day. The skis had to be greased thoroly with wax in order to slide on the new snow. Nevertheless some fine leaps were made. The longest of the day was 28 meters, made by two of the competitors. The contest was over at 3 o'clock and the king and queen remained on the stand till the last man had finished.

The cafe and hotel at Holmenkollen then became crowded, and thousands who could not find accommodations there returned to the city, where the publiccafes and restaurants did a rushing business till 1 o'clock at night.

### American Business in Norway.

It may sound odd to talk about America in Norway at this time of the year, but there are a number of American tourists in this country at present. An elderly gentleman, formerly holding a prominent position in a certain branch of Uncle Sam's service, likes the land of the midnight sun so well that he has stayed here continually for several years and has also built himself a fine house in one of the most beautiful tracts of Norway, a place much frequented by travelers in the tourist season. Now this venerable gentleman has recently taken unto himself a Norwegian wife, and apparently expects to spend the rest of his days here.

Americans looking for business are here, too. A well-known packing house is about to open up an office here. It has formerly been repre-

ment of the coming of the American college musicians (St. Olaf) to Norway next summer, and the paper adds that it does not doubt that the American musicians will get the best sort of a reception here, and that their visit will be just as interesting and pleasant as that of the Norwegian student singers to America last summer.

I join with the paper and hope the boys will enjoy the trip. The fact that they are to give a concert at Christiania July 4, should at least mean that we will have a chance to get up a celebration of the day without an equal in old Norway.

By that time we will also have an American legation here and if luck is good some American warships in the harbor.

### Signs of Spring in Norway.

Besides the high temperature which has prevailed during daytime lately there are other indications that spring is coming by and by.

The ships are getting ready to leave their winter quarters, and the young sailor lads have been flocking to Christiania from their homes in the smaller towns. As to finding employment, or berths as they call it, they have been very fortunate this year. The wages are about the same as in former years.

Another sign of spring is the emigration. Indications are that it will be large. A few days ago some 250 persons left from Christiania for New York on the Oscar II, and in April and May the number of travelers will, no doubt, be still larger.

### The King and Queen in the Mountains.

Since his return from Denmark, King Haakon has been very active. After taking in the military maneuvers near Drobak, he paid a visit to Horten, the chief naval station. Then he took his family and moved up to Voksenkollen sanatorium, a place most beautifully located on a mountainside, a little way above Holmenkollen, ten kilometers from Christiania and 1,940 feet above sea level. There the royal family will remain a couple of weeks, in order to enjoy the winter sport thoroly, and this they seem to be doing. The king, of course, takes frequent trips to the city in connection with government affairs.

### Art Aids for Busy People

By MARTHA C. WELLS, Chairman of the Art Committee of the State Federation.

### IX.—STUDY PROGRAM FOR ENGLAND, COMBINING HISTORY AND ART—GENERAL SUGGESTIONS AND REFERENCES.

(Copyright, 1906.)

IT is a very important period for clubs when the decision must be made for the subject of study and program prepared, not only those which would be of general interest, but it must be along the line of available material in reference books.

England and France are the best written up, and each year adds many well illustrated books. Some of the best books are first printed in sections in magazine articles. American art, with its late development, as well as modern German art, is finding many able writers. Travel, combined with art, has proven a popular form for study, and the history of a country with its art is also very interesting.

In its usual significance art combines architecture, sculpture and painting. To this could be added dramatic art and music. This would give a wide latitude, but too diffused for the best results in one outline. A program is a boundary and is weakened by being overworked. Three or four topics each lesson is all that can be taken to advantage. A very carefully conducted discussion is occasionally helpful.

A map is the foundation for correct study, whether it be history, travel or art. The topics are much better retained if localities are traced. Very useful maps may be made on cloth with watercolors or ink (if a map is not available) which can be seen at a fair distance. Only the most prominent features are essential, as it can be gradually added to as the study progresses. It might be a stimulus to school children to apply their geography in preparing such work.

The following program on England combines history (one topic in each lesson) and art:

### England, Its History and Art.

First—Map study, physical features, history, Celtic and Roman. Stonehenge, Roman roads and walls. Military architecture, Warwick and Windsor castles.

Second—History, Saxon and Danish. Romanesque architecture, London Tower, St. John's Oratory, Durham Cathedral. Court patronage of foreign art, Holbein, Rubens, Van Dyke.

Third—History, the Normans and Feudalism. Gothic architecture, Westminster Abbey, Salisbury Cathedral, Hogarth, founder of English school of painting.

Fourth—History, the Plantagenets to Edward I. York Cathedral and its stained glass, the Royal Academy. Sir Joshua Reynolds, paintings and literary associates.

Fifth—History, the Plantagenets, concluded. Renaissance architecture, Oxford and Cambridge colleges. Architects, Inigo Jones, Sir Christopher Wren. Artists' monuments, in St. Paul's, London.

Sixth—History, Lancaster and York. Country halls and mansions, Gainsborough, West, Copley. English poetry.

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### STUDY “BILLY” SUNDAY

Evangelists Close Meetings at Clarion, Iowa, to Go to Austin.

Special to The Journal.

Clarion, Iowa, March 31.—The Congregational, Methodist and United Presbyterian churches have closed a three weeks' series of revival meetings. Evangelist Frank Mathis and Walter Parden, soloist, both residents of Clarion, conducted the services. The meetings were largely attended, and thirty-one persons professed conversion. One afternoon a largely attended meeting was held in a billiard hall of the city.

The evangelists have gone to Austin, Minn., to study the methods of “Billy” Sunday, who is conducting a meeting there. On April 2 they will begin a series of meetings at Algona, Iowa.

Mexican girls are sometimes curiously wooed. Their lovers walk up and down on the opposite side of the street for hours, staring at their windows. If the young lady is agreeable she appears at the window after a few days, and they soon become acquainted.

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### HANCHETT JOINS FACULTY.

Iowa City, Iowa, March 31.—The board of regents of the state university of Iowa, has appointed Dr. A. P. Hanchett, of Council Bluffs, professor of homopathic surgery, to succeed Dr. James G. Gilchrist, deceased. Dr. Hanchett is a member of the state board of examiners.