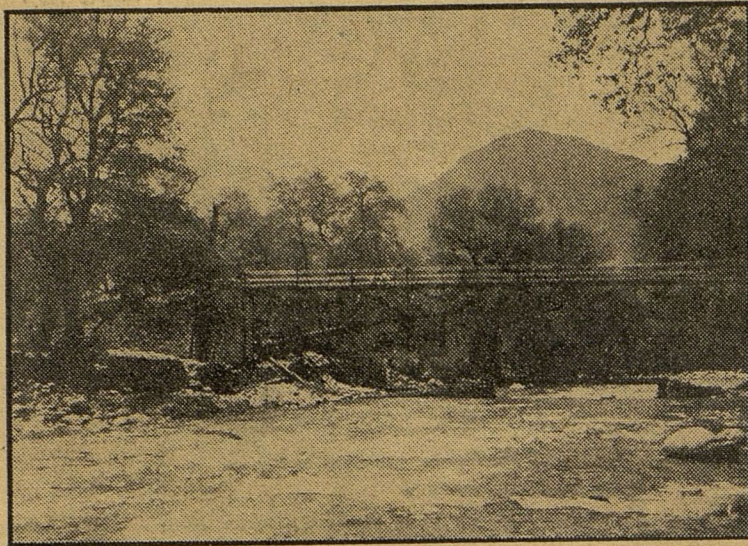


A Valley Of Many Charms

Stetson. 20. VIII. 52.



The Beas River near Katrain.

THE Kulu Valley offers unique opportunities to those who are planning a holiday in the Himalayas. Enthusiasts have sometimes compared it with Kashmir, or Switzerland, or the Scottish highlands. I have known them all and my choice is Kulu.

The valley has a character of its own; it offers a variety of landscapes, ranging from paddy-fields, undulating or descending in tiers towards the steep banks of the Beas or its tributaries, to hillsides covered with forests of pine and fir, rugged barren rocks and distant peaks tipped with snow; and brilliant sunshine, with a cold tang in the air, all the year round—qualities which persuaded me to build a cottage at Manali.

Unlike some hill stations in the Himalayas, particularly those which became the summer seats of State Governments, Kulu has not been developed to meet the needs

by **MADAN GOPAL**

of tourists, although its climate is admirably suited to the European taste. Development plans were drawn up during the last century, but a disastrous earthquake in 1905 scared the people, and plans were abandoned. Interest, however, revived in the twenties, particularly after the establishment of the rail link with Jogindarnagar, from where electricity is supplied to the two Punjabs. An out-agency of the (then) NWR was set up at Kulu to encourage the fruit trade. An ever-increasing number of tourists has been visiting the valley since.

One reason which tends to keep tourists away is the long and arduous journey by road—the railway track between Nagrota and Jogindarnagar having been dismantled during the last war. With the establishment of the Mukerian road link, however, approach to the valley has become easier. The discomfort of the road journey will be eliminated completely if, as at present planned, an air service is introduced between Delhi and Bhuntar, barely eight miles from Kulu.

Kulu caters for varied tastes.

To those weary of the heat of the plains, it offers a bracing climate; to seekers of health it offers hot springs; to the angler trout-fishing (washed away in the 1947 floods but restored since); and to the hiker unlimited opportunities.

The approach to the valley is



through Kangra, of which it forms an administrative part. From Pathankot the road passes through the undulating fields of the Siwalik hills, the tea gardens of Palampur and the pretty town of Mandi. There are few good hotels, but all the way there are excellent rest-houses. Manali, at the foot of a mountain range which forms the watershed between the basins of the Beas and the Chandrabhaga (Chenab) is the road transport terminus. Beyond this range lie the unfrequented, barren and rocky valleys of Lahoul and Spiti,

connecting India with Ladakh and Tibet.

Several interesting hikes can be planned in Kulu—to Bijli Mahadev, or to Mallana, a small village in the interior, where the "law" of the Mallana deota in supreme. A bridle path along the Parbati stream, which joins the Beas at Bhuntar, takes one to Manikaran, well-known for its hot water springs—its inhabitants seldom needing fire either for cooking or for heating their houses in winter.

All the way from Kulu to Manali, some 26 miles, there are orchards where apples, pears and Japanese persimmons grow. On the left bank of the Beas are Nagar and Jagatsukh, the former at one time the seat of the rulers of Kulu and lately associated with the name of Nicholas Roerich, who lived and painted there. On the right bank are Bandrole, Katrain, Raisan and Manali, all of them known for their fruit orchards; Manali is the prettiest spot in the valley along the Beas. Close by there is the hot water spring of Vasisht.

The town of Kulu Sultanpur, the administrative headquarters, has little to recommend it, except its beautiful maidan, which is the venue of the annual Dussehra fair, a feast of colour. Villagers bring their deotas (godlings) numbering over 300—each village has its own deotas—to pay homage to their chief, Raghunathji. The deotas are brought in palanquins, and the attendants come dancing and singing. Raghunathji's cart is drawn by distinguished people of the valley, among them the Rai of Rupi and the Raja of Sangri. At the fair the peasants buy their winter needs

Traders on the way from Tibet or Central Asia halt for the fair and sell the wares they bring; so do some of the gaddis—nomads returning from the upper reaches of the Himalayas to escape the rigours of winter. The fair also attracts visitors and traders from the plains, the former for the festivities and the latter supplying the needs of the villagers after the harvest and buying blankets and shawls woven during the summer.

(Next week: Dalhousie)

They Are Saying...

Compiled by our
London Office

I WISH sometimes that some of my right honourable and honourable friends could make one-tenth of the effort to understand America's attitude to China which they rightly make to understand China's attitude towards the United States... — Mr Denis Healey, Labour MP for Leeds South-East, in House of Commons.

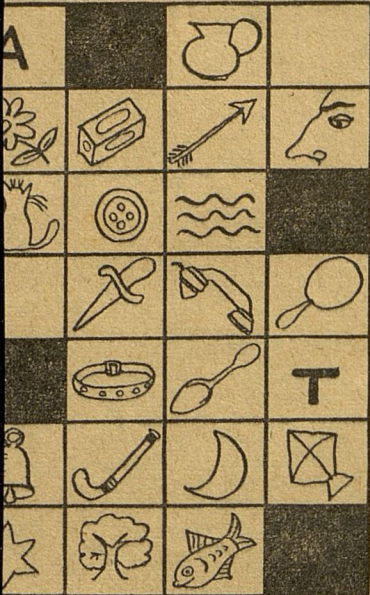
I don't know what one can say

about Syngman Rhee unless one could take him into protective custody. The situation is very serious or could be very serious—Lord Alexander in House of Lords debate.

The big unions have become too big. They have grown into power-houses of politics. And in the process they have become remote and detached from the problems of working men—Daily Express leader.

The existence of the European Payments Union is a standing rebuke to sterling—American writer in Lloyds Bank Review.

ATTENTION



are drawings of several well-known objects. Some of them are cut off in the most obvious way. The objects haven't got an obvious pair off with the black squares. Suggest what their pairs should be. This is a little exercise, so don't think it's too hard. Write your answers on a separate sheet and send it to the Editor, 685 to your entry and remember to give your name and address and League number. Closing date is 15th June.

Olympic Quiz

1. How often are Olympic Games held?
2. In which country were they last held?
3. Where are they being held this year?
4. What is the Olympic flame?
5. Where and how is it lit?
6. Why are pigeons released at the beginning of such Games?
7. How many athletic teams have India and Pakistan sent to the Games this year?
8. What is the record for the mile?
9. Who holds it?
10. What is the pole vault record?
11. Who holds it?
12. Who are the swimming champions?
13. What is the Olympic emblem?
14. Is cricket included in Olympic Games?

Send us your answers, but there will be no prizes. Answers next week.

An 11-year-old Paris girl has won a new "literary prize" awarded for the best description of her district at the time of day she likes it best. The contest was open to 11 and 12-year-old children of the Passy-Auteuil section of the city before beginning their secondary education.

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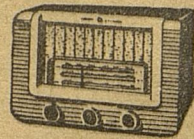
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