

ELEPHANTS LAST DRIVE.

It was the last taste of freedom for about 100 elephants in the Kakankote Forest, in the State of Mysore. A wide trench, with fires at short intervals, forms a huge trap of nearly ten acres across. Towards it, wild elephants are driven by beaters along the Kapini River. Once they're gone through the gap in the trench, the fires scare them for escape-attempts. Awaiting them are stockades, where the animals are broken in and tamed. The Maharajah of Mysore and the President of India, Dr. Prasad, came to watch.

Elephants already tamed, help in the breaking in.

The Kheda, as the round-up and taming are called, has taken place about every eight years, for the past century. It's the only way to keep down the numbers of the destructive wild elephants. But this is the last Kheda in this part of India. The Kapini River is to be dammed, and much of the Kakankote Forest will become a reservoir.

If the creatures were not rounded up they'd be lost in the flooding operation. Fortunately, it doesn't take long for them to realize they're no match for man's ingenuity, and they accept their fate. Indian forestry makes good use of elephants. After the Kheda, the heavy labour force had some good recruits.