



*Kirghiz in a small kibitka village (August 21st), rolling felt between straw mats, later worked up by the women.*

tails carefully tied with yarn. — The race was followed by another competition for the calf. This time the object was to carry it up a hill and place it in a fixed spot. The men were up the hill time after time, but had to come down again without reaching their goal. The prize, a humble khalat, was finally carried off by one of Hassan Beg's relatives.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the interest the people showed in these competitions. About an hour after the festival had begun the place was swarming with spectators, certainly not less than 250 horsemen, and on this occasion the games were only on a small scale, not a big festival, when there are races of 30 or 40 miles. The fact that these simple folk who spend their hard lives in kibitkas in a constant struggle with niggardly nature, keep horses exclusively for racing and train them to walk, trot and gallop, shows an unusual interest in horseflesh. Good horses, by the way, are dear and cost from 300 to 600 roubles. — I made several attempts to join in the struggle for the goat and once succeeded in getting it on to my saddle. It was not so heavy as I had thought and on a really good horse I might have got away with it.

*August 20th.* In a couple of kibitkas that I visited I was treated to kumyss, sour milk with «kaimak», a kind of savoury, thick, boiled yak cream floating in big lumps. I had an opportunity of seeing the primitive looms on which the Kirghiz women weave their rough cloth, made in very narrow, long strips. I was able to come to terms at a comparatively high price for a loom composed of pegs and loose pieces of wood and a woman's headgear. These objects have some ethnographic value.

*August 21st.* We started at 9 and rode 24 miles, almost all the time in an easterly direction along the wonderfully beautiful Allai valley with its rich verdure against which the southern chain of lofty mountains, heavily capped with snow, produces an amazing effect. During the night the thermometer had dropped below freezing point and snow had fallen in the