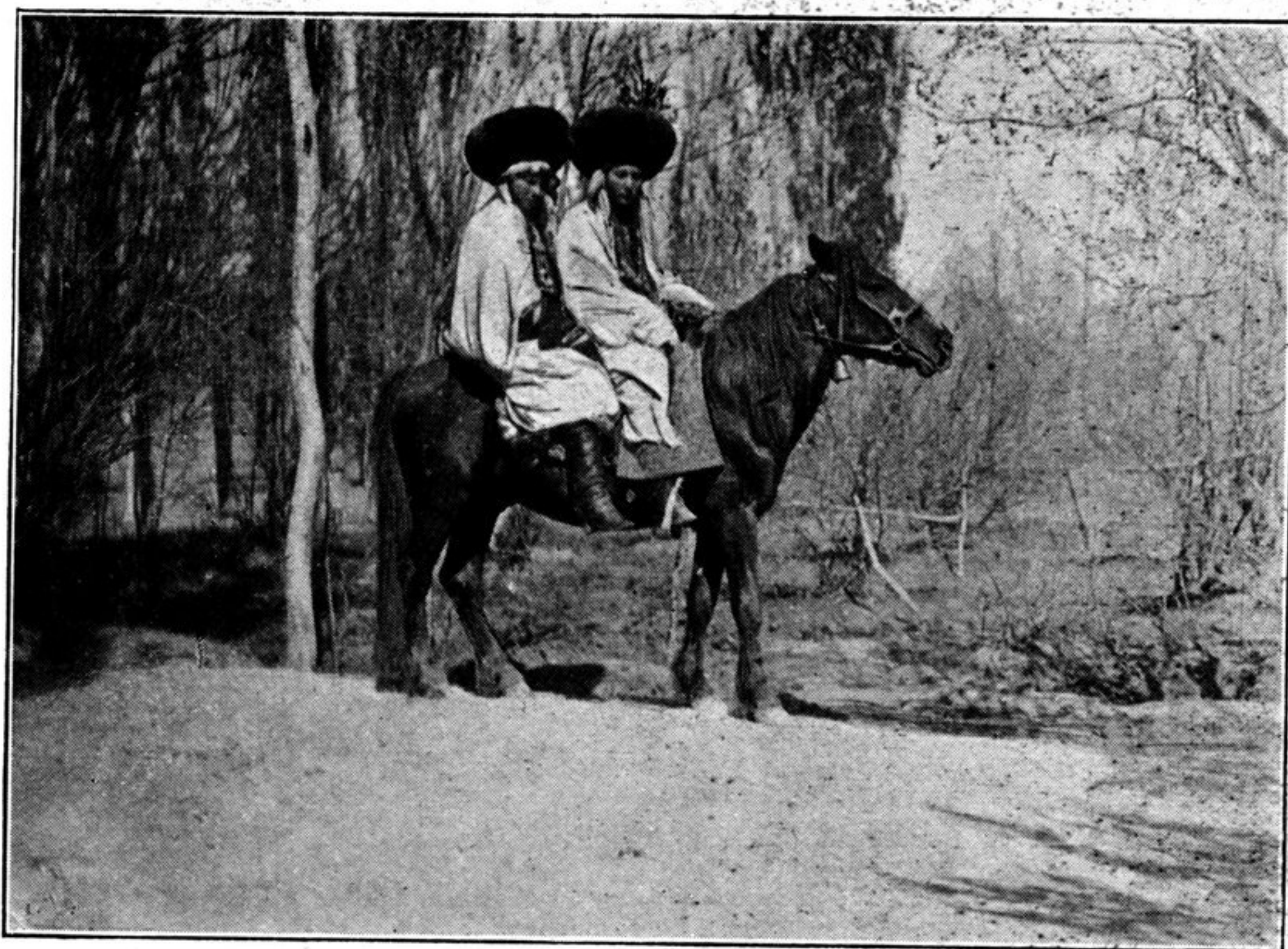


and well-kept, while the large one-storied house was singularly well-built and clean. When the Beg had, with the help of two attendants, reached the ground in safety, he took off his shoes or strong slippers and ushered me into a long, rectangular room with white-washed walls and numerous alcoves. The roof was very high, consisting of large rafters with uniform cross-pieces of wood between, while the floor had a thick covering of reeds and



NATIVE WOMEN GOING TO MARKET.

straw overlaid with Khotan carpets of bright colours and elegant designs. At one side of the apartment was a capacious fireplace with a bright wood fire, over which was a chimney which, unlike most others, did allow the smoke to escape. The repast consisted of tea, bread, coloured eggs, currants and sweets. Stretching myself on the floor, which was as soft as a cushion, I partook of these refreshments while waiting for the arrival of the