



*Plate I*



*Plate II*



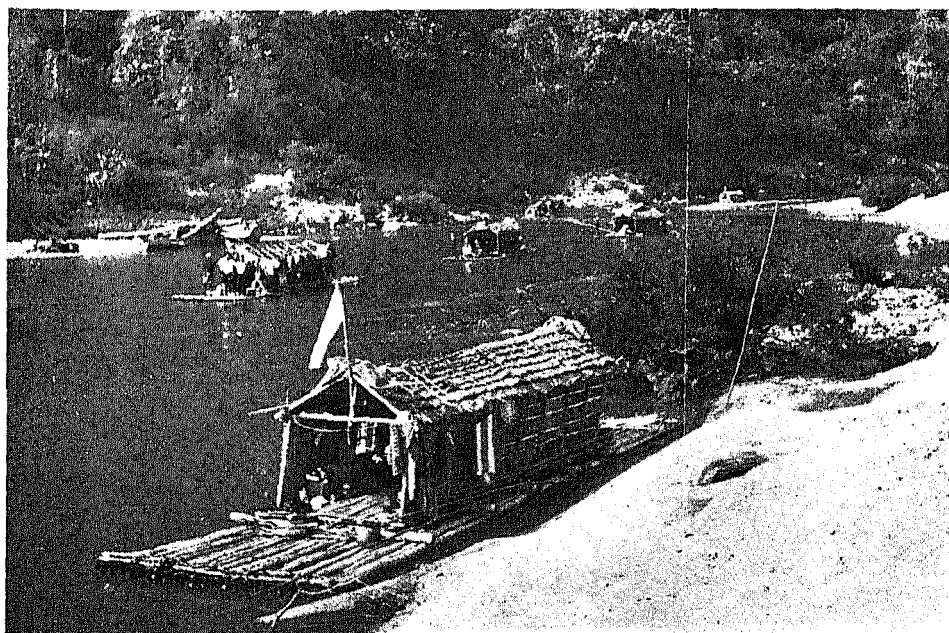
*Plate III*



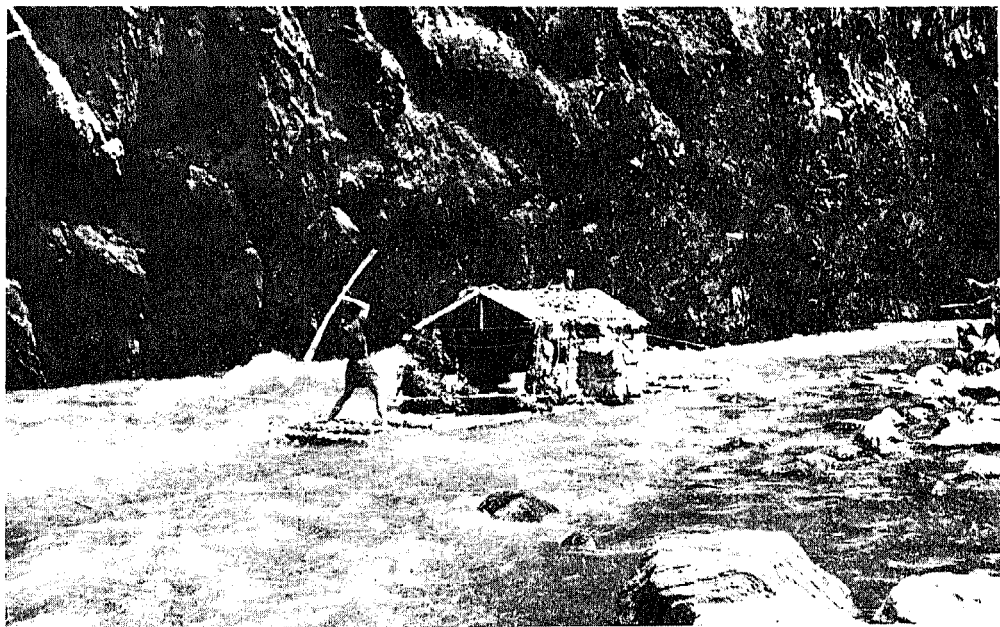
*Plate IV*



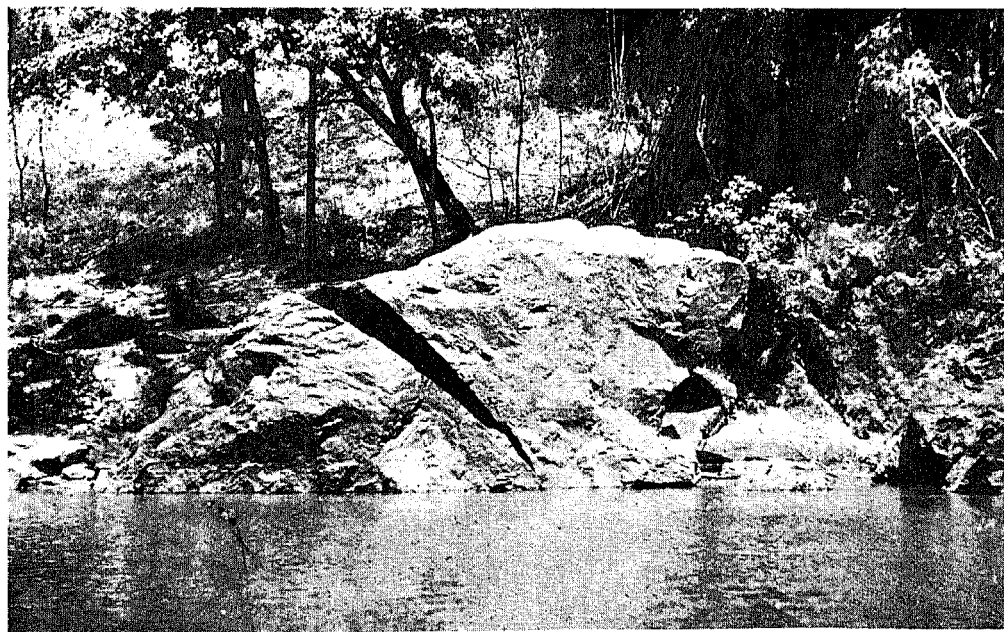
*Plate V*



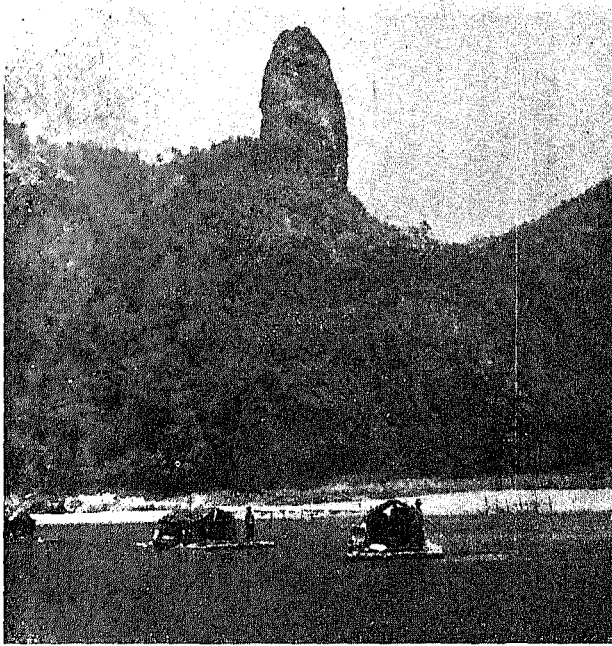
*Plate VI*



*Plate VII*



*Plate VIII*



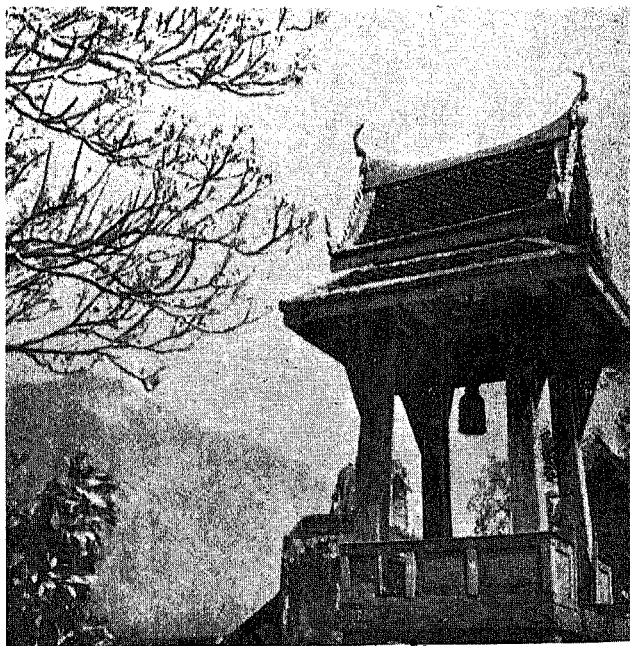
*Plate IX*



*Plate X*

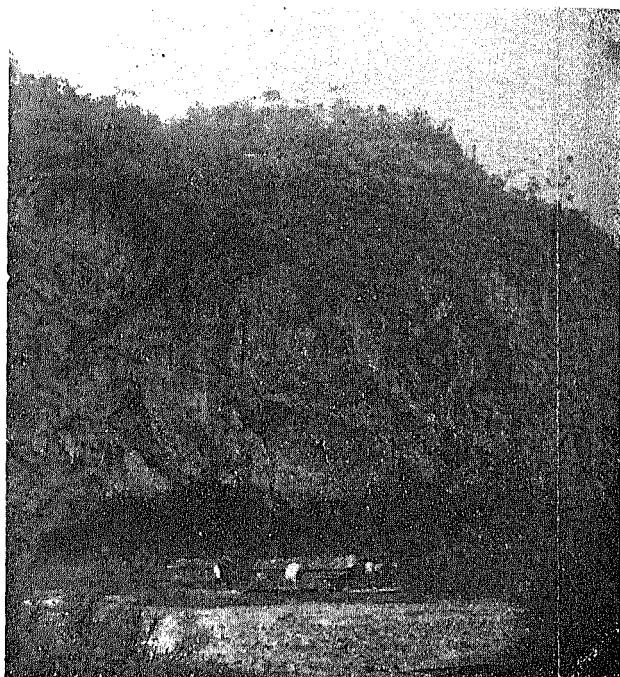


*Plate XI*

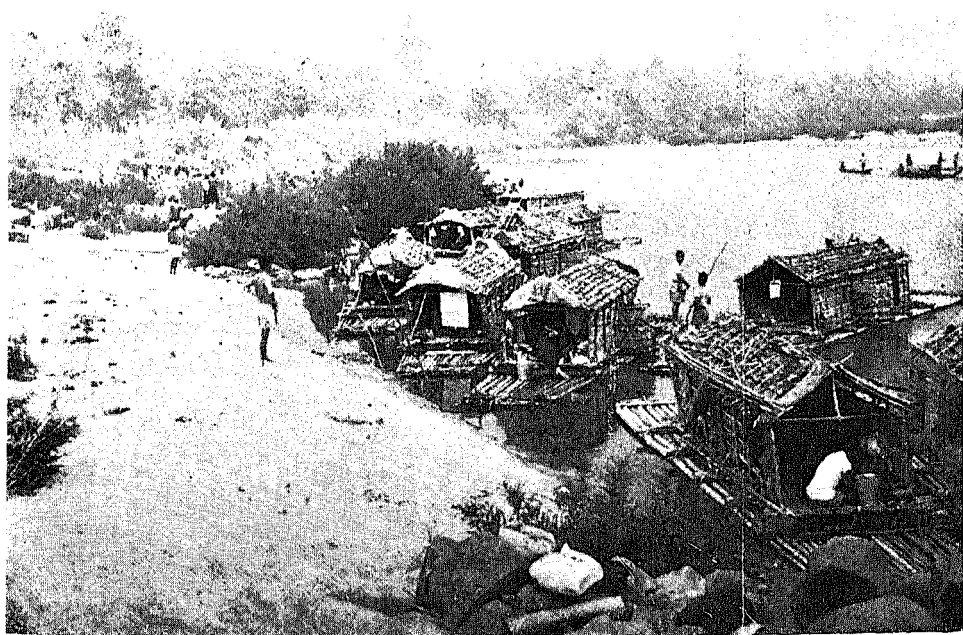


*Plate XII*

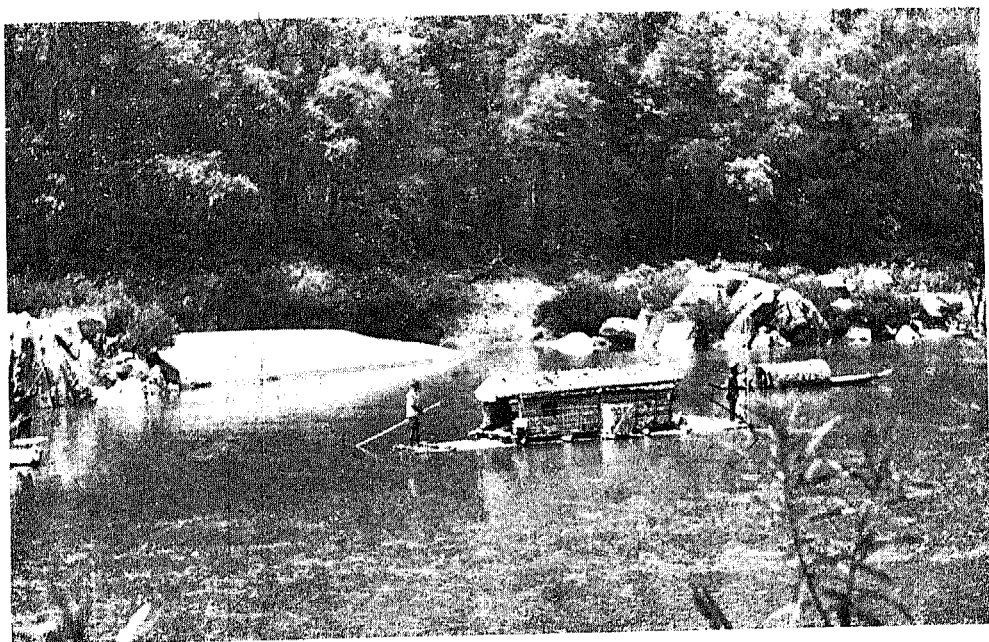




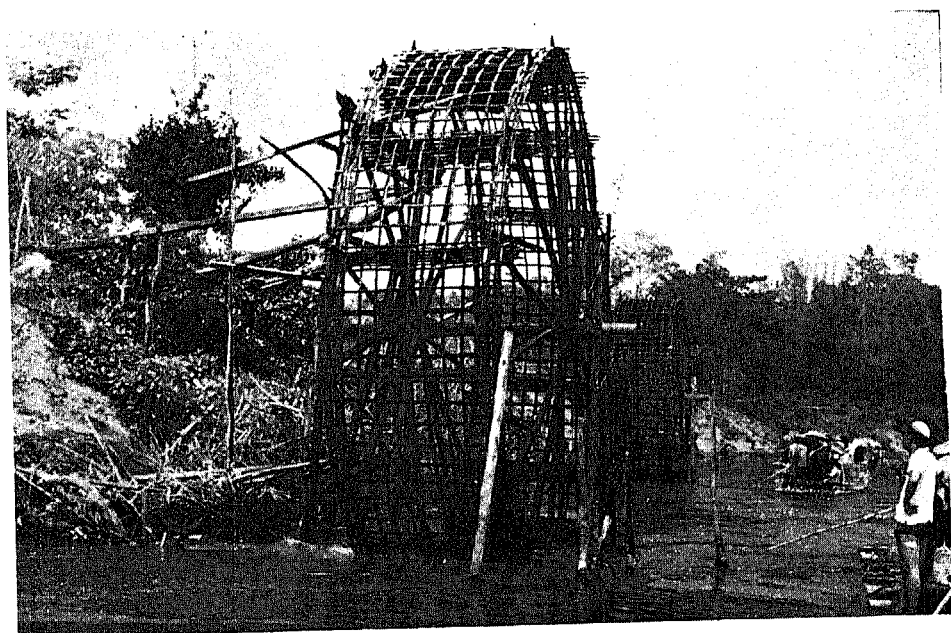
*Plate XIII*



*Plate XIV*



*Plate XV*



*Plate XVI*



## THE PLATES

*R. J. Hilton, Representative British Council*

The accompanying photographs constitute a modest attempt to put on record some of the more interesting things seen on a journey by bamboo raft down the Ping River, in Northern Thailand, from Chiengmai to Tak. Neither the writer nor the photographer can claim special knowledge, only the good fortune to have been able to see these things: the notes that follow have been gathered from a variety of sources, mostly oral, and need to be supplemented by more competent historians. But before these temples and chedis are finally overwhelmed by the forest — here they are recorded.

### Plates I-V

We reached Kang Soi on the fourth day of our journey and there found four Wats. It is possible that this place was in the way of an army that invaded the North with designs on Chiengmai. These Wats — by name Wat Luang, Wat Nok Yoong, Wat Kesa and Wat Kang Soi — may have been built to commemorate a victory

- I. An ancient Wat of which only this Chedi remains
- II and III. Wat Luang—fragments of a "viharn" (temple) and a Chedi remain.
- IV and V. Wat Kang Soi—there is an octagonal Chedi of which the lower part is covered in copper.

### Plate VI

Where a tributary joins the MePing at Sob Tuen the scenery is most picturesque. Huge rocks have fallen to block the river.

### Plate VII

These fallen rocks when they are in narrow passages force the stream into rapids like this at Pa Arb Nang, which is among the most dangerous to boats and rafts on the whole river. The raftmen with long bamboo poles have to prevent

the flimsy structure of bamboo that is the raft from crashing into the rocks, and to steer it down the turbulent current. The current is strong and a slight error may lead to the wreck of the raft or the loss of life.

### Plates VIII and IX

Strangely shaped rocks in all countries get names from the local people, sometimes because of a fancied resemblance as in Plate VIII, the Rock of the Pig, sometimes for a reason which is not all obvious as in Plate IX, Pa Kan Bed or the Rock of the Fishing Rod. It would be interesting to know the story behind this name.

### Plates X, XI and XII

Wat Phra Dhatu Loi — either the Temple of the Floating Bone or the Temple of the Floating Chedi. This ancient Wat is much venerated, possibly owing to an apparent miracle that occurs. It is said that no matter how high the river rises nor how great the floods the water never flows into the Wat. During the great floods of thirty seven years ago, it is said the level of the water was higher than that of the ground around the Wat, yet none of the water ran into the Wat and it seemed to float. The Chedi-Lao in style—is covered with copper plates.

### Plate XIII

Pa Marn, The Curtain Rock, so called from an imagined resemblance to a theatre curtain.

### Plates XIV and XV

Kang Hun Kueng and Kang Pa Mon — typically attractive scenery on the river side. Plate XV shows these rafts at rest for the night. Members of the company travelling on this occasion found the footmarks here of elephant, deer, antelope, tiger and wild fowl. In all there are 49 Kang or rapids counted by Prince Damrong in the month of February when the average depth of the water is three feet.

## Plate XVI

Shows a solution of the problem of irrigating gardens high above the level of the river. The stream drives the wheel which picks up water in bamboo containers and they pour it into a trough which has a run-off into the gardens. This device costs no more than labour — the materials grow all around — and ensures good crops of vegetables at all seasons.

---

