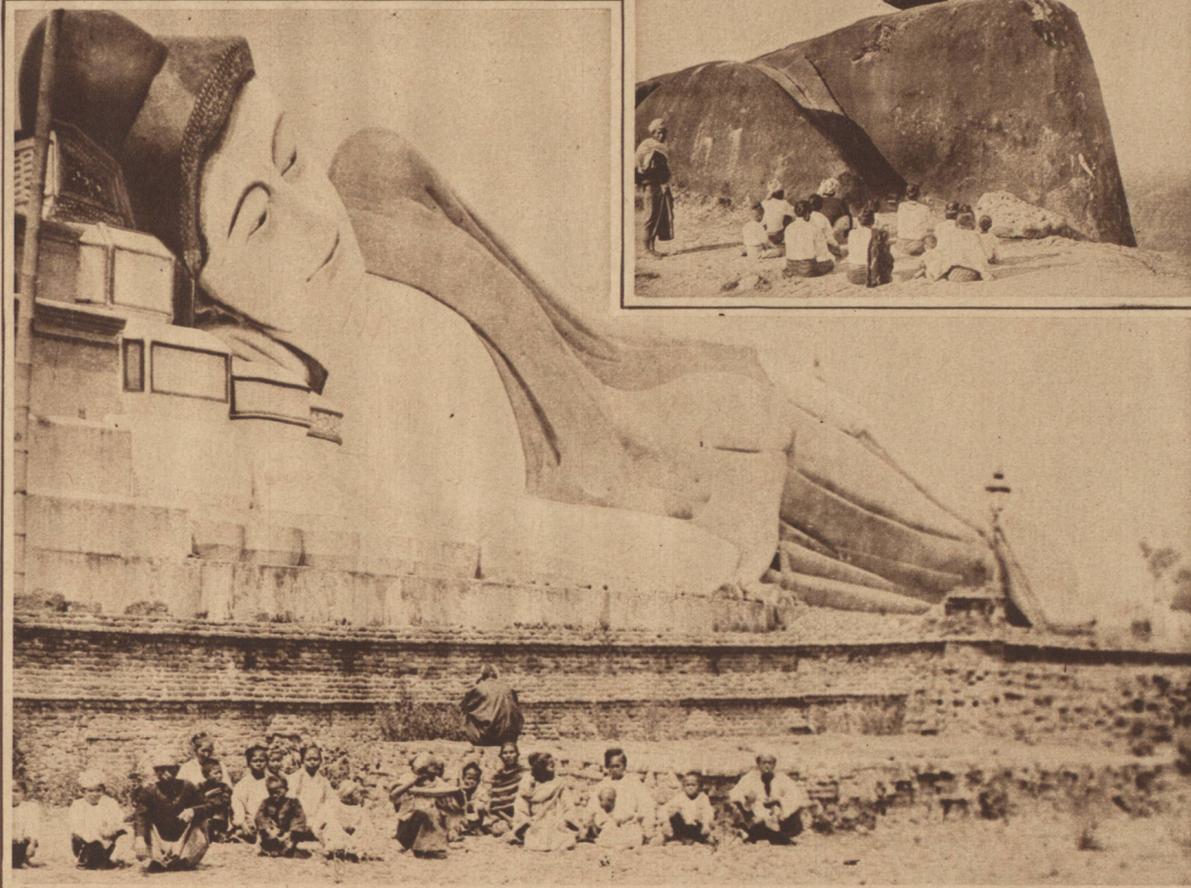


Above—Evil spirits are very much on the job in Rangoon, Burma, so this papier-mâché and wooden musician-god is brought into action to drive them away. Kipling's British soldier doubtless often saw such fetishes carried in procession as he listened to the "paddles chunkin' from Rangoon to Mandalay."



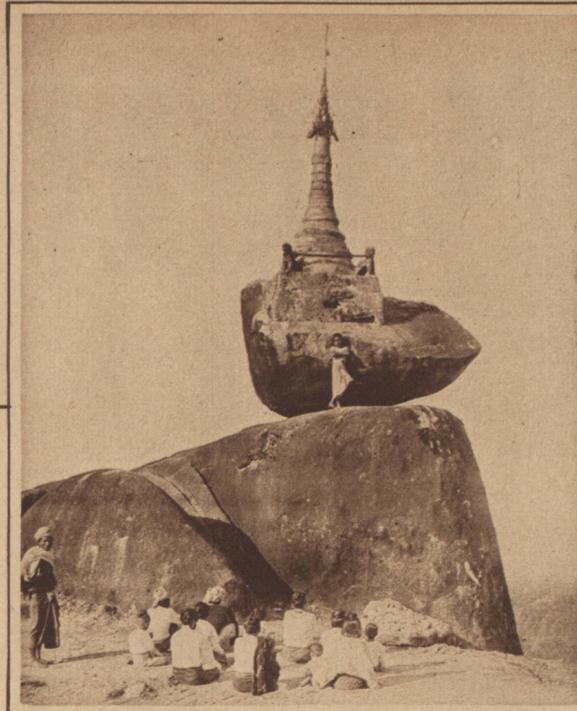
Right — Statues of Buddha, "bloomin' idols made of mud," are as common in Burma as those of the Sphinx used to be in Egypt. Here's the largest of them all, 181 feet long, at Pegu. It shows the great teacher finding peace in death. Buddha lived back in the sixth century, B. C., founding the religion that has now about a half billion of followers in the Far East.



After SEEING AMERICA FIRST try Burma, where superstition still fathers the grotesque and fantastic.

Photos by Underwood.

Right — A hair of Buddha is supposed to balance Kyaitteya Pagoda on this mountain top. It's perfectly proper to worship sitting down before this queer, wabby shrine. The Buddhists lavish much wealth on the hundreds of shrines scattered through Burma, often covering the high towers with gold leaf.



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