

*Fort Portal, Toro, Uganda.*

*October 15th, 1925.*

*To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN SOCIETY.*

SIR,

I have recently seen the paragraph in your issue of January last relating to the shooting of a White Rhinoceros in "the south-western part of the Uganda Protectorate," by "a woman traveller of Swiss nationality."

1. There are no Rhino—Black or White—in the south-western part of this Protectorate. You should have written north-western.

2. As you probably know, while Sir Geoffrey Archer was Governor here he instituted an almost absolute protection of the White Rhino in this country by allowing the shooting of a specimen by Governor's permit only, and limited the issue of these to a maximum of four per annum. These permits were very eagerly sought after, and as Sir Geoffrey himself granted the permit to kill the Rhino in question, you may be quite sure that ample proof was produced that the specimen was for a museum collection and would be scientifically preserved. Even in this country, where the granting of almost every permit is criticised adversely, no objection was raised in this particular instance, as it was well known that the people concerned were genuine collectors, and had been assisted in every possible way by the Kenya authorities.

3. The maximum of four permits per year was fixed on the assumption that there were about 120 (one hundred and twenty) White Rhino in Uganda Territory. A careful census carried out by Capt. R. Salmon of the Uganda Game Department, in April last, shows that the number is higher. Capt. Salmon actually counted over 120 White Rhino, and did not enter the Sleeping Sickness area of the West Nile District, which is known to carry some of these animals. From your estimate of twelve it seems probable that you have confused the number of White Rhino (*C. Sim. Sim.*) in Zululand with these in Uganda (*C. S. Cottoni*). From your original paragraph it is obvious that you have been seriously misinformed, and I hope you will be able to give publicity to a true statement of the case. The Uganda Government is fully alive to the need of the White Rhino for most careful protection, and I expect you will agree that a genuine and skilled collector, such as the late Mr. Bernard de Watteville, makes far better use of a permit than does a casual sportsman.

Yours faithfully,

S. W. BARRETT.