

THE SUDAN

A correspondent who has travelled widely in the Sudan has sent us the following notes, based on his personal observations:—

Future Policy.—To my mind the most important thing to be done for the future of game in the Sudan is to interest the educated Sudanese in it. They are taking a more important part every year in the administration of the country and the future of Game Preservation must eventually lie in their hands.

I hope it may be possible to show them what a wonderful economic and cultural asset the fauna of the Sudan is to them.

There seems to be some prospect of interesting the authorities in the creation of a Natural History Museum, and it may prove possible to form a Natural History Society.

Reserves.—The two main Reserves in existence at present are the National Park, which lies between Torit and Yambio and the Dinder River Reserve.

Various others are in existence and more are contemplated.

There is a very large uninhabited area to the north-west of Raga adjoining our border with French Africa and south of the Bahr el Arab. I have been told by people who knew it years ago that it is swarming with game. I hope in the next year or two to explore it. I think it might be possible to form a joint Reserve on each side of the border and am writing to Captain Eric Miville, the French Game Warden, who is also very interested in this area.

The National Park which has been planned by Major Barker is a splendid area and should provide a good refuge for game, as it is driven out of more populated districts. At present there are few roads in it and it is difficult to say how much game it contains.

Danger Spots.—There are at present three areas where I think game are in danger. The most important is the Abyssinian border. Arms in large numbers were issued to patriots and collected after battles and there can be no doubt that firearms are plentiful all down the border and that game must be being destroyed. Major Barker is co-operating with S.D. Force and Administration to check poaching.

I think that a good deal of smaller game may be being destroyed by natives using nets in the districts bordering on Uganda and Belgian Congo. Captain Salmon may know something of this. Major Barker is giving this special attention, and I hear there will be an Assistant Game Warden resident in this area later next year who will be able to investigate.

North-West Darfur.—One frequently hears stories of large quantities of addax and desert oryx being destroyed by Arabs and I think it requires investigation.

Apart from these three areas I think the state of game preservation in the Sudan is most satisfactory.

A good deal of damage is being done to crops by elephant in certain areas and an elephant control service on the lines of the Uganda one is being set up.

NOTES ON RARE SPECIES

Giraffe.—Are on the increase everywhere and very large herds can be seen in many areas.

White Rhino.—These are plentiful from the Nile to the French Sudan border, especially in the Dinka areas south of the Bahr el Arab and the Torit and Aweil districts. They have belied their peaceful reputation and have killed numerous people. I hope an attempt will be made to move them to less populated areas. I do not think there is any fear of their extinction.

Giant Eland.—There are considerable numbers of Giant Eland in every district of Equatorial Province. They are, however, very subject to rinderpest and a careful watch must be kept on them. I would like to see a great many of the buffalo, which spread this disease and of which we have enormous numbers, killed off.

Black Rhinoceros.—Appear to be fairly plentiful in Torit District and round Mongalla.

Mrs. Gray's Kob.—Very plentiful on both sides of the Nile and as far west as Torit District and east as the Abyssinian border. No danger of extinction.

Elephant.—Are, I think on the increase everywhere. Native administrators are becoming more efficient and are keeping to quotas allowed to Chiefs.

I think that it is very possible that there may be some unidentified species in the Didinga and Imatong mountain areas. This area and the amazing migrations that take place every year in the area east of the Nile and north of the Kenya border should be investigated as soon as possible. I hope that the new Assistant Game Warden will be able to do both.

THE TSETS.

By SIR W.

In an article on G. G. Rushby, printed there occurs, on p. 38 been shown that tsets of plants." He goes solely on the latex of cattle with trypanoso tsetse fly extracts from which are transformed genic to man and ma (presumably the probl is vegetal.

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