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Collier's

Saturday, April 17, 1909

The Lone Fisherman. Cover Design	Painted by Maxfield Parrish	
Zebras in the Sandy Bed of the Olgere River. Frontispiece	Photograph by A. Radclyffe Dugmore	8
Editorials		9
Comment About Congress	Mark Sullivan	11
Snapping Africa's Big Game	A. Radclyffe Dugmore	12
The Woman Who Votes	Sarah Comstock	14
I. Campaign Days in Denver.		
"Be It Ever So Humble."	Photograph by Rudolf Eickemeyer	16

Outdoor America

Edited by CASPAR WHITNEY

Comments		17
Keeping up the Physical Standard	Ralph D. Paine	18
The Individuality of Animals	J. Alden Loring	19
Skimmer Defending Its Nest. Photograph		19
Hunting Lost Explorers	Cyrus C. Adams	19
Bringing the Market Nearer	Hugh S. Fullerton	20
"Far From the Dull Impertinence of the Skyscraper." Photograph		20
The Economical Cottage	Joy Wheeler Dow	21
Riding Off. Photograph		21
The Borderland Woman	Agnes C. Laut	22
Helping Father. Photograph		22
Improve Your Fruit	Julian Burroughs	23
"Seen Many Fishing Seasons and Hope to See Many More" Photograph		23
Early Flowers		23
The Violet's Way		23
Seasonable and Helpful Reminders		24
News Photographs		25
What the World is Doing		26
In the World's Workshop	Waldo P. Warren	33

Volume XLIII

Number 4

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COLLIER'S Travel Department, 420 West Thirteenth Street, New York City, will furnish, free by mail, information and if possible booklets and time tables of any Hotel, Resort, Tour, Railroad or Steamship Line in the United States or Canada.



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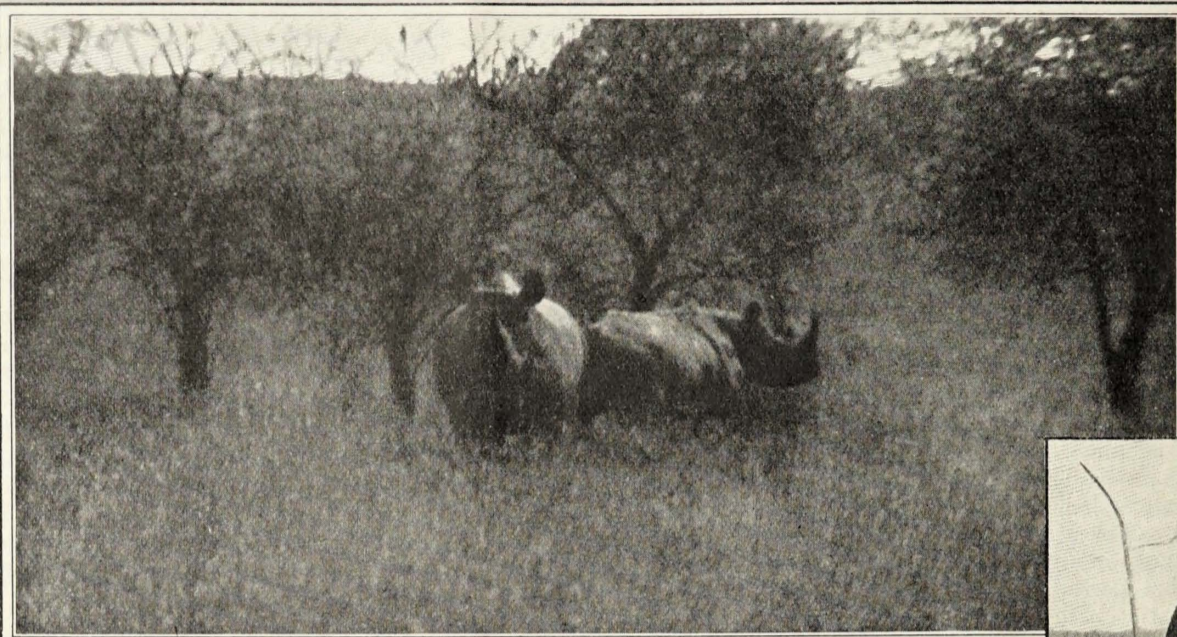
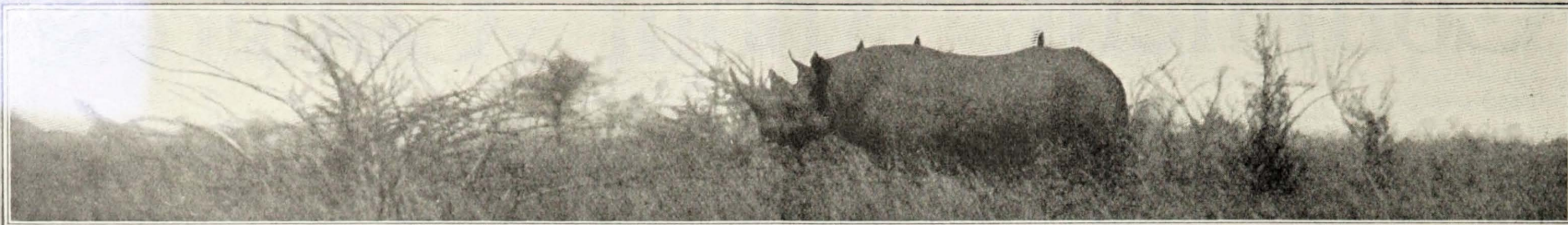
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Zebras in the Sandy Bed of the Olgerei River

Photograph by A. RADCLYFFE DUGMORE



"He stood near a bush with the tick-birds sitting on his back"



"We found a pair of rhinoceroses asleep under a bush. The tick-birds gave warning of our approach, and immediately the two animals got up and faced us"



The Masai with his bent spear

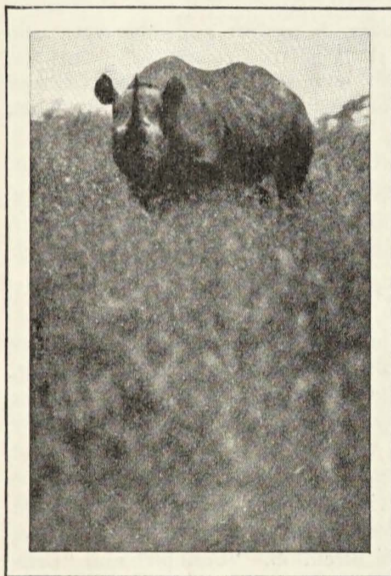
Pointing out the line of march—the picturesque Masai guide, "very tall and slight, dressed only in a loose cloth hung from one shoulder, his hair done up in minute braids and covered with red earth and grease"

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Snapping Africa's Big Game

The Camera that Beat Roosevelt to the Jungle and the Long Trail—The Irritable Bull Rhinoceros that Charged the Photographer, and got Snapped, Shot, and Speared—Crowded Hours with Zebra, Antelope, Hartbeest, Giraffe, Cackling Tick-birds, Wart-hogs, and the Fringe-eared Oryx

This article and these photographs are the first instalment received from A. Radclyffe Dugmore, the nature photographer commissioned by Collier's to hunt with his camera in the section of Africa which Theodore Roosevelt is about to visit. Mr. Dugmore's photographs will be published from week to week as they reach us



The charge of an angry bull rhino

AFTER spending time and money in assembling an outfit for photographing wild animals, I finally found myself at Mombasa, the old Arab-Portuguese-British seaport town, starting-point of the so-called Uganda Railroad—the road which was to bring me into the greatest of all game countries.

There were the usual horrors of landing, the aggravations of custom duties, and other seemingly needless and apparently endless delays which beset the new arrival. That's all a part of the price one pays for travel. At last all things were ready, and on January 30 my companion and I found ourselves with two traveling companions in a comfortable compartment on the train. We were armed with blankets, overcoats, and cold drinks. The drinks were welcome during the first few hours of the journey, for the coastal region is certainly hot.

We passed through country clothed in the richest of vegetation, thoroughly tropical in its lushness, where coconut palms swung their long leaves to the breezes and offered but little shade to the things below. Gradually we left the more cultivated region and passed through drier country, thickly wooded with the ubiquitous thorn tree and strange-shaped cactus; creepers of many kinds covered every available support, while brightly colored birds and still more brilliant flowers gleamed in the blinding sunshine. Everywhere it was hilly, and our course was snakelike as we gradually climbed higher and higher. By seven o'clock in the evening we reached Voi, where a good dinner was served at the station rest-house. The change in the temperature as night came on was most welcome. Blankets and overcoats were used to supplement the darkness.

By A. RADCLYFFE DUGMORE

Photographs by the Author

With the first gleam of dawn we were peering out of the windows in search of game. We could see animals moving about in the dim light; what they were we could not see, but we were delighted to know that wild animals could really be seen from the train windows exactly as we had been told. Daylight came with the rapidity usual in equatorial regions; and, as the country lighted up, we could scarcely believe that the sights before our eyes were real.

On every side game abounded: Hartbeests, Thomson's and Grant's gazels, zebras, gnus, duikers, and ostriches were there in herds. Some scampered away as the train went by; others stopped and gazed in an interested sort of way. Presently there was a cry of "giraffe," and instantly we all rushed to the side of the train. There, not 120 yards away, stood a huge bull giraffe, not a mangy-looking specimen such as one might see in a zoo or circus, but a dark, richly colored animal, the picture of grace, its head overtopping the trees as it watched the passing train. We were still within sight when it turned and ambled away in its peculiarly characteristic gait. Writers have described the giraffe's action as grotesque, or ugly. Grotesque it might possibly be called, but certainly not ugly or even ungraceful; rather might it be said to be of a strange grace thoroughly suited to the remarkable build of the animal.

Fresh herds of animals appeared unusually near the train. Several times antelopes would actually run along the tracks directly in front of the engine and then bound off to one side, scampering to the nearest hill, to survey the strange puffing creature that had presumed to race with them.

It was all too wonderful to be real. It was really

like going through an ideal zoological park, hundreds of miles long, where animals could roam free of the restraint of fences. Even when we stopped at the tidy railway stations, where strangely bedecked Masai, armed with long spears and scanty clothing, stood alongside of hardy English flowers, such as geraniums and roses, we had but to raise our eyes to the surrounding country to see herds of antelopes and zebras grazing on the sun-dried grass.

All the way to Nairobi this abundance of animals continued. The town is encircled by a double line of barbed-wire fences hung with wind-blown rags, to keep the wild animals of the plains from entering the town. Such a precaution really seems absurd when one considers that Nairobi is a fair-sized modern town, which, though but about ten years old, boasts of fine stone buildings, water-works, electric light, and an excellent hotel and stores, where all manner of things may be purchased (and at only slightly more than home prices). Here, in the heart of what but so few years ago was termed "Darkest Africa," thoroughly modern steam-rollers were working on well-made roads, on which marched the almost naked people of the neighboring country. Probably no town in the world has a more delightful climate than Nairobi; even though it is situated within a few miles of the equator, the days are not unpleasantly hot and the nights are invariably cool, owing to the altitude of about 6,000 feet. It is within sight of both the great snow-clad mountains, Kenia, over 17,000 feet, and Kilima-Njaro, which is over 19,000. As we entered the station, about the busiest I have ever seen, the troops (King's East African) were entraining for the Somaliland expedition against the Mad Mullah (so called). The native soldiers, as fine-looking, soldierly men as one would wish to see, seemed pleased with the idea of the expedition, while the British officers were fairly beaming with delight at the immediate prospect of active service.

Our sajari¹ outfitters met us at the train, and soon had our belongings off to their stores, while we went in a rickshaw to the hotel. It was Sunday, so nothing could be done toward getting ready for a trip. We decided to take advantage of the Governor's permission to work on the big game reserve, where no shooting is allowed. This district covers about 10,000 square miles and includes the country from one mile north of the railway, southward to the German boundary, and from Tsavo about to Nairobi. I was anxious to try my photographic outfit thoroughly before undertaking a long expedition, and to learn something of the way of camping in East Africa. Therefore this trip suited my purpose exactly. Two days later our caravan, consisting of eighteen porters, head man, cook, guide, gun-bearer, camera-bearer, and our two "boys," marched to the railway station, and, after chattering as much as a tree full of monkeys, they were finally packed aboard, each man sticking closely to his red blanket, water bottle, and three days' rations. At noon we left Nairobi and went southward to Kiu, arriving about 4:30. There we camped near the station, enjoying our first night under canvas in equatorial Africa. How different it was from what one might have expected! The wonderful clearness of the nearby full moon alone was in keeping with our ideas of what a tropical night should be. The insects that should have been there to torment us, the suffocating heat which should have made us dread the very idea of bed, where were they? Certainly not here! Of insects there were none save an occasional moth, which fluttered against the lamp; and, instead of heat, the keen and clear air actually waxed us to our beds, where three warm blankets kept us comfortable and happy as we passed into the land of dreams.

By four o'clock next morning we were up and making ready for an early start, as we wanted to do most of the march of sixteen miles before the sun became too hot; but it was nearly six before we actually started, owing to the incompetence of the head man, who had no idea of handling the men. Three sheep, which were to be used for food during our trip, seriously objected to leaving their native place, and it required the united efforts of the cook (for whom they had an instinctive dislike) and our two boys to persuade those sheep to keep anywhere near the caravan.

My companion, C—, and I walked ahead, with the Masai guide leading; a more picturesque figure could scarcely be imagined—very tall and slight, dressed only in a loose cloth hung from one shoulder, his hair done up in minute braids and covered with red earth and grease. He was armed with a long spear and a very long knife. As we watched him in admiration, we little thought that the spear, which seemed more for ornament than use, might soon save the life of at least one of us.

The country through which we passed was rolling land, covered with rather short grass and scattered low-

growing thorn trees, many of which were in bloom, and the air was filled with the delicious perfume. It was like an immense abandoned apple orchard in New England. The effect of the long dry season did not seem so very noticeable, and yet between Kiu and the Olgerei River, sixteen miles away, there is no water except during the brief rainy seasons.

Game we saw on all sides, but did not wish to delay the caravan by doing any photographing, so we pushed forward at a good pace, stopping now and then to enjoy the delightfully cool shade of a tree. We saw our first rhinoceros on a nearby hill, and it gave us a strange sensation to see the huge beast, more like a relic of bygone days than an animal living in the twentieth century, walking along in an unconcerned way. A tall giraffe accompanied us for several miles, keeping always well ahead and occupying every available high place, from which he could obtain a good view of us. Farther on we saw wart-hogs and fringe-eared oryxes for the first time.

Digging for a Drink

BY NOON we reached our camping-ground on the Olgerei River: river in name only, for we found it nothing but a dry sand bed, except for a small water hole containing a dark-colored fluid unfit for drinking, owing to the contamination of the cattle, immense herds of which were watered there by the Masai. By digging a hole in the sand we were able to procure comparatively clear water of disgusting flavor. As there were no signs of any animals that we particularly wanted, we moved camp early the following morning, going southward across country until we struck the dry river bed about nine miles below; there we found a large water hole which was also used by cattle. However, we finally found very fair water by digging a hole a couple of feet deep in the sand. This hole we protected by a thorn hedge to keep away any animals. That night we heard our first lion, and a strangely weird sound it was, but not quite as blood-curdling as I had expected it to be. Our camp was, of course, well protected by a thorn fence, so that we had nothing to fear.

Early next morning we started in search of game; scarcely had we gone a mile from camp when we saw three rhinoceroses about a quarter of a mile away. One of these big animals is really quite enough to begin with in a photographic way, but three can be called a crowd, especially when those three have already got our wind. However, we tackled them, making a big circuit so as to get down wind. As we approached we were somewhat disconcerted by their extreme restlessness. They knew by our scent that we were somewhere in their neighborhood, and it worried them; backward and forward they ran, trying in vain to place us. As we were not more than eighty yards away, and there were no available trees, we felt very queer sensations creeping up and down our spines. I tried an exposure as they passed us about sixty yards away, but in my ex-

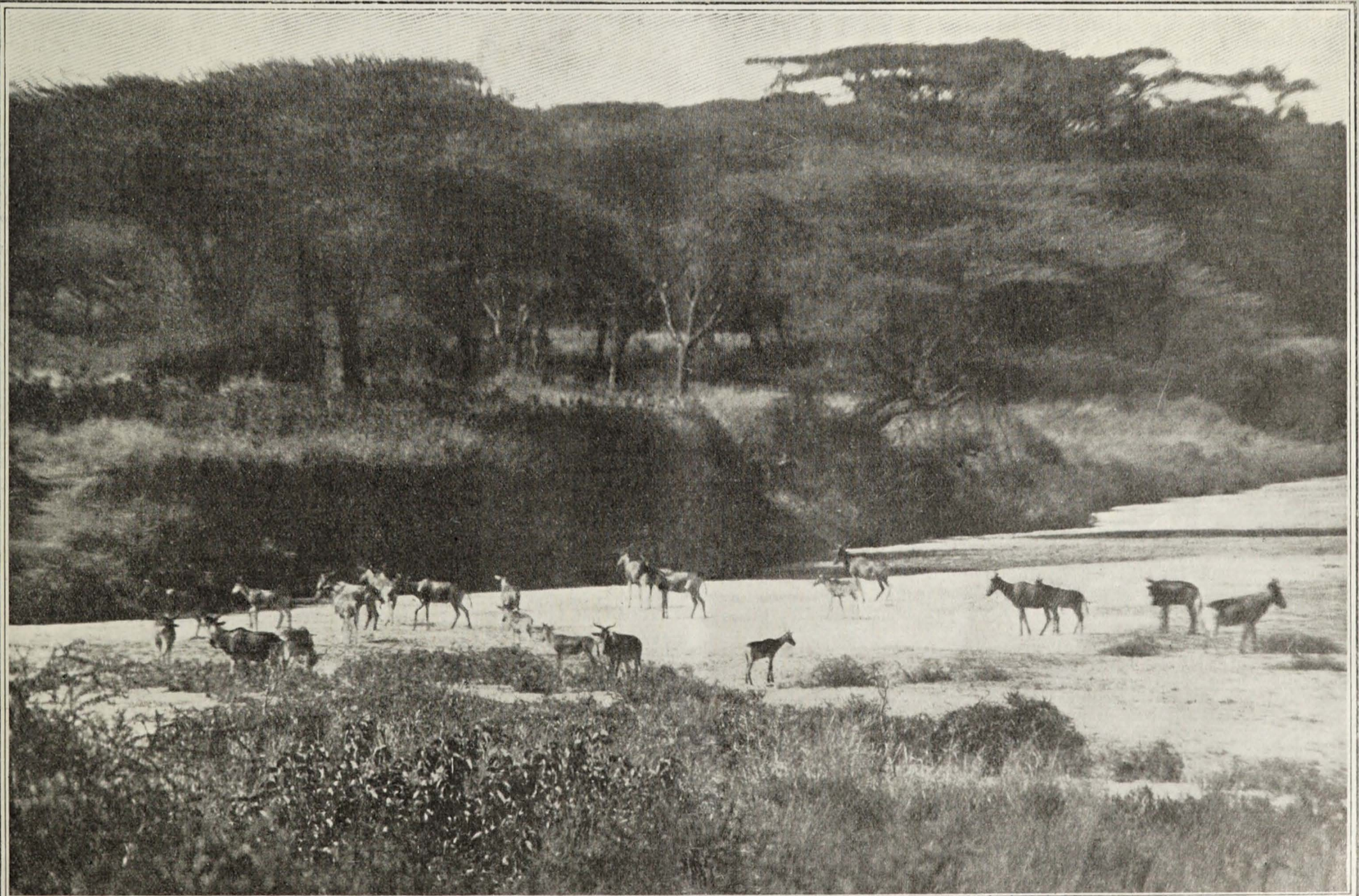
citement I failed to notice an intervening bush, which completely spoiled the picture. The noise of the shutter startled the snorting trio, and they drew together in a most alarming way. Of course, we fully expected they would charge us, as they certainly had our wind. I didn't feel justified in making another exposure, though I did change the plate and focus carefully on them. But the sound of the shutter would undoubtedly have precipitated a charge, so I forbore regretfully enough, as it was a splendid opportunity for a picture.

I had promised that there should be no shooting unless in actual self-defense, and it would have been most unpleasant to shoot at least two rhinoceroses on the first day, so it was with a feeling of intense relief that we saw the excited creatures turn and bolt. After going some distance they separated, the big bull going by himself. We followed him for several miles, and finally got within about one hundred yards, when I made several telephoto exposures before he ran off. Unfortunately the grass was very deep, so that I was unable to get satisfactory pictures. It had been a time of great excitement for us, and we were glad to have come out of it with no mishap. We had had enough for one day, and so returned to camp and a good lunch.

The next day we found a pair of rhinoceroses asleep under a bush—an old cow and a nearly full-grown calf. The chance for a good photograph seemed decidedly favorable, so we walked cautiously up wind toward them. Not knowing much about rhinoceroses, I scarcely expected to be able to get nearer than about eighty yards. At that distance the regular lens would not be of much use, so I fitted the telephoto to the camera. The tick-birds, which live on nearly all rhinoceroses, gave warning of our approach by loud cackling, and immediately the two animals got up and faced us. I made an exposure, and before I could change the plate they headed directly for us. My companion waited till the last moment, in the hope that I would be ready for another picture, but it was useless. Those animals came too quickly, and at fifteen yards we fired a shot from the 450 cordite, striking the old cow in the shoulder. Fortunately, the bullet made her change her mind about us, and she swung round and made off as fast as she could with her calf close behind her. So ended our second experience with rhinoceros. We had really been charged. Holding a large camera steady and then trying to focus it correctly is not quite as easy as it sounds. The rest of the day was spent in trying to get near to several rhinoceroses, but without any success. Only long-distance shots were possible, and they were not worth wasting plates on.

We watched one big bull that came across our trail about seven hundred yards behind us. The moment he struck it he charged violently to where he thought we might be. Finding nothing, he turned and charged back again, and so he continued for some minutes, looking all the time for some object upon which to vent his indignation. At last he got tired of it and walked off in a very uneasy frame of mind. We kept a pretty sharp lookout on our back trail, to see that he did not follow us.

(Continued on page 30)



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Snapping Africa's Big Game

(Continued from page 13)

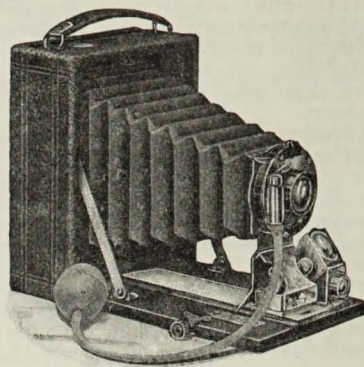
The picture of that big beast is one that I shall never forget; not alone on account of the animal himself, but of the whole setting, for the valley below was literally covered with game. At one time we could see, besides droves of the common antelope, oryxes, elands, zebras, ostriches, and the giraffe; and surmounting the whole scene was the beautiful snow-capped mountain Kilima-Njaro, eighty miles away, its summit dazzlingly white in the clear upper air, while its base was completely lost in the haze of distance. Unfortunately, in hot countries one can not photograph objects over two or three hundred yards away, except under unusual conditions, owing to the shimmering of the heated atmosphere near the earth. It was too bad to miss such a wonderful picture.

A couple of days later, while we were on the lookout for game to photograph, we saw, about a third of a mile ahead of us, a pair of rhinoceroses, one a bull with a pretty good horn. The wind was favorable, so we started for them. We hadn't gone very far when my camera-bearer called out: "Kifaro, Kifaro!" and, to our surprise, we saw another rhinoceros nearly down-wind of us and not two hundred yards away. It was certainly fortunate that we had seen him, for had we gone but a very little farther he would undoubtedly have had our wind, and would probably have come for us. In this case we would have been in a nice predicament, with rhinoceroses on both sides of us. It might have been rather too exciting. We carefully stalked the newly-found one, and at about one hundred yards I made a couple of telephoto exposures as he stood near a bush with the tick-birds sitting on his back. Before we had proceeded more than a few steps we were much surprised to see him settle down for a nap.

Here, then, was a most excellent chance for some close work, so with the utmost caution C—and I crept ahead, until we were within thirty yards of the sleeping animal. I focused the camera carefully and C—held his 450 ready, and then we wondered what would happen next. To say that my heart was beating violently scarcely expresses it, but I held on to the camera and wished devoutly that our friend would bestir himself. Suddenly it seemed to dawn on him that something was wrong, and as I watched through the focusing hood of the camera I heard a loud snort and saw him rise with wonderful speed, and then, without hesitating a second, down he came on us. Yes, I pressed the button, but that is all I can remember doing before, with a loud report, the rifle spoke and the rhinoceros turned and made off. We measured the distance to where the shot had been fired and found it was exactly fifteen yards, and it must be allowed that fifteen yards is pretty close range. We rested up a short while, and then, as the other rhinoceroses were working away from us, we hurried after them. I was anxious to get a photograph of them against the skyline as they reached the hill-top, and so kept within comfortable distance for telephoto work, about one hundred and twenty yards. Suddenly, without any warning, they turned round and faced us, the big bull looking very fine, with his big horn showing clearly against the sky. From his manner we judged that trouble in rhinoceros form was coming our way, and it came, surely enough. The two big creatures thundered down the hillside, with tails erect and heads well lowered. C—fired at the cow, which was clear of any intervening brush, while I tried to make some photographs. I did not like the looks of things when that cow continued in our direction after receiving the shot, and I was sorely tempted to abandon the camera and reach for a more useful weapon of defense. But a picture was what I wanted, and so I changed plates as quickly as possible, and without entirely realizing that the telephoto was in the camera (and it's very difficult to focus such a lens quickly) I pressed the button just before C—fired the left barrel at the big bull. Fortunately, the shot was well placed, directly in the center of the forehead, and the huge beast dropped stone dead, exactly eleven yards away from where we stood. The cow had turned in the mean time, so no more shooting was necessary.

All the excitement of other hunts seemed as nothing to what we had just gone through. We were literally shaking from the strain, and as we gazed at the dead monster before us we could not but wish that the fatal bullet had not been neces-

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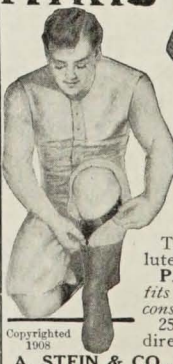
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sary. It had, however, been simply a matter of choice between his life and ours, so that it was best that it had ended as it had.

The next day our experience was repeated with a pair of rhinoceroses, an old cow and a calf. They charged unexpectedly, and came so dangerously near that it became necessary once more to save our lives at the cost of the older animal. After that we seldom tried any further encounters with rhinoceroses, as to go anywhere near them seemed to result in being charged. We remained in the neighborhood for another eight days, devoting the time to smaller game. We found the antelope extremely wild, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that I was able to get any photographs at all. Those I did get had to be made with the telephoto lens in nearly every case.

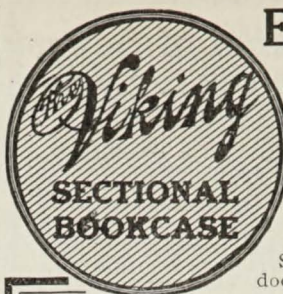
Seeing that I should not be able to do very much with the animals of the Olgei region, I decided to return to Nairobi, and arrange to start up-country to the Mt. Kenia country. We broke camp on the morning of the 19th and started for Kin, going by a direct route, so that we could make the trip in one day.

We were marching along, single file, the Masai leading and the porters bringing up the rear. Suddenly, as we walked into a patch of high grass, the tall Masai stopped, and, pointing ahead, whispered: "Kifarn!" Sure enough the gray back of a large rhinoceros showed above the waving grass not more than twenty yards away—directly in our path. This was rather too sudden, and we quickly realized the value of rapid action. The loading of the rifles and the opening of the camera took but a few seconds, but we were ready none too soon. The porters had scarcely gone back a few yards, and I had gone a little to one side, that I might get a better view of the beast in case he charged (unless he charged me first!), when that rhinoceros was up and at us. Never did I see anything so quick. It seemed incredible that so large an animal could move with such rapidity. I focused on him as he rushed toward C—and the Masai and the two thoroughly scared boys who were just back of them. Almost unconsciously I released the shutter when, at the same moment, a shot rang out. C— was trying to turn that animal with a charge of buckshot. The attempt, however, was futile, and the creature came on without even hesitating. C—, realizing that the shot had failed, fired a 12-bore ball from the left barrel, and then, grabbing his revolver, began firing right into its head as it rushed past him not six feet away, making straight for the Masai, who stood quietly waiting the onrush, and actually jumped aside when within touching distance of the big horn. Having missed the Masai, it next turned toward me just as I was endeavoring to put a second plate in position so that I might get a picture of the actual encounter. In my hurry I did not put the plate-holder all the way in, as I afterward found to my disappointment. But just for the moment I had other things with which to occupy my mind, and the camera became less important than the angry beast, when to my relief the Masai, with wonderful coolness, drove his spear into the side of the rhinoceros; that turned him toward C—, who quickly put another revolver shot into its head, and that decided the very much confused animal to leave us alone, and off he went, heading almost directly toward the very much frightened caravan. The wretched porters, seeing the imminent possibility of trouble, dropped their loads and ignominiously bolted. The Masai chased the retreating animal so closely that when it once turned toward the porters it saw an enemy within a few yards, armed with a long, sharp knife; that was too much for the rhinoceros, and he thought it better to continue his course.

The Masai soon returned, and picking up his spear, which had fallen from the animal, found that it was badly bent. No sooner had we started the caravan than we discovered another rhinoceros about four hundred yards away. When I spoke of trying to stalk and photograph it, the expression on the men's faces was truly ludicrous. They had had enough of rhinoceroses for one day and were ready to chuck their loads on the smallest provocation. As we had a long march before us, I gave up the idea of tackling any more "side-shows" for the day. We reached camp late that afternoon, tired and hot, and glad enough to get a good bath and something to eat. Then we talked over the doings of the day and decided that we had had all the rhinoceroses we wanted for some time.

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