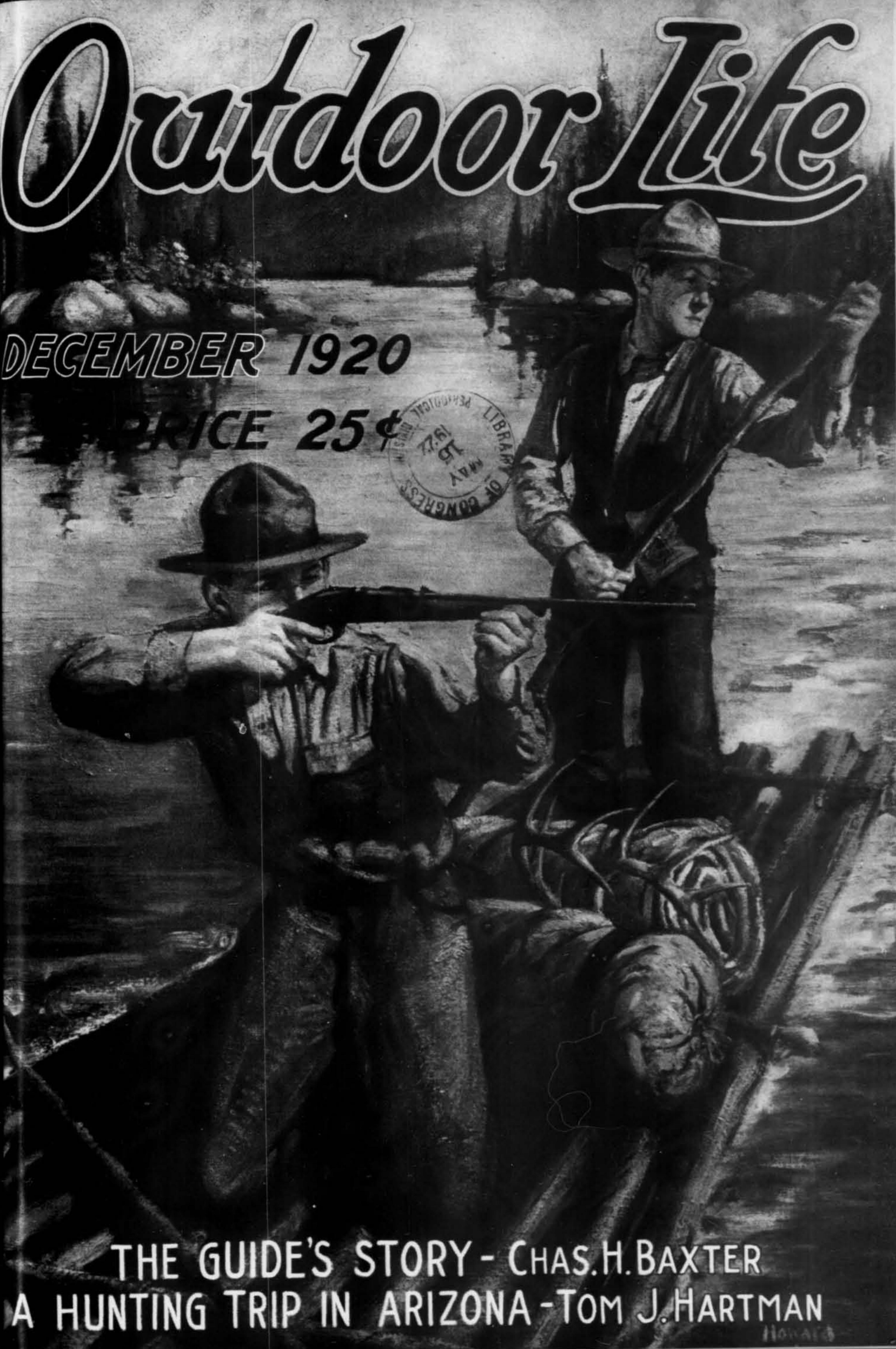


Outdoor Life

DECEMBER 1920

PRICE 25¢



THE GUIDE'S STORY - CHAS. H. BAXTER
A HUNTING TRIP IN ARIZONA - TOM J. HARTMAN

HOWARD



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Bulletin—AMERICAN GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

"More Game!"

R. P. HOLLAND, *Editor*

Game Protection Needed in the Old World

The Association has just received a letter from Theodore R. Hubback, a sportsman of Kuala Lipis, Patang, Federated Malay states, telling of game conditions in Burma. Several years ago Mr. Hubback met J. A. McGuire of *Outdoor Life* when on a trip to Kenai Peninsula for moose and sheep, and became interested in American game conservation. Burma is the largest province in East British India, composed of the former provinces of Upper and Lower Burma and the Shan states. Conditions as reported by Mr. Hubback show that certain sections of the United States are not unique in having good game laws that do not function while the game steadily decreases.

A part of Mr. Hubback's letter follows which tells of his trip into the jungles of Lower Burma:

"The main object of my hunting was to try and obtain specimens of the rhinoceros sondaicus (the lesser one-horned rhinoceros) for the British museum. My total bag, after being two months in the jungle, consisted of one female rhino. The whole country has been denuded of its rhinoceroses by poachers. Altho this country has most elaborate game laws, there is no machinery whatever to enforce them.

"The Chinese will pay anything for any part of a rhinoceros to use as medicine and the Siamese come over and slay them to their hearts' content. This rhino is the rarest big game animal in the world today. There is not the least doubt in my mind after what I have seen and learned during my travels thru this jungle that it is only a matter of two or three years until they will be extinct in this district. At the present time a hunter can get up to 1,000 rupees (\$330) for a rhino if he can get the skin, flesh and offal safely out of the jungle. You can imagine poor old rhino has but little chance of surviving unless this poaching is stopped immediately.

"I doubt if there is a single specimen of this animal in any museum in America. The British museum has no specimen fit to exhibit, and I think it is deplorable that such a rare beast should be exterminated to satisfy the silly superstition of the Chinese and the greed of the Siamese. In Java there are some of this species of rhino, but there they are strictly protected, the Dutch being fully alive to the rarity of the beast. It is absolutely impossible for anyone to get permission to shoot one of these beasts in Java.

"I had a terrible time on this trip. All our photographs were spoiled by wet when we were very nearly swamped in the estuary of a small river during a severe storm. Had we capsized, all of us would have been drowned. I followed the rhino I finally secured for eighteen days before I killed her. It had previously been wounded by some Siamese poachers and it was almost impossible in the dense jungle to get near her. To add to our difficulties, when killed, the rhino fell into a hole with its feet sticking up into the air, and as it must have weighed at least a ton and a half you can imagine the time I had getting the skin off. I was very short of men, only three to help me with the skinning. The natives found here are mostly a degenerate lot, who would rather gamble or eat opium or do both. In the intervals they steal.

"There was no water anywhere near where I killed the rhino, and I had so much trouble in getting the skin off and it was so long before I could clean the hide that a great deal of the skin has slipped and I am afraid it will make a very poor trophy. However, I have skull and leg bones with the skin and I dare say the museum authorities will be glad to have it, altho it is not perfect. I am taking up the matter of the destruction of this rare rhinoceros with the Burma government and hope they will tackle the question properly and take immediate action.

"What we need is an international society for the protection of big game that could and would take up a matter of this sort and be able to 'pull the strings' and bring pressure to bear on governments who merely protect their game on paper. Many do not seem to realize that you cannot go on killing game indefinitely without disastrous results.

"The section where I hunted is the southernmost point of Burma and close to the Siamese border. It is populated with a very mixed race, there being practically no Burmans, a good many Malays, but all useless as jungle

men. The Siamese is a good jungle man, but those found here are poachers and hunting for themselves. I have written evidence of one man who shot twenty-three rhinos in three years, all illegally. This man was financed and armed by a white man purely as a speculation. I intend to keep after them. The government must take notice of such a flagrant violation of their game rules.

"There were, no doubt, a few years ago large numbers of rhinos here, both one and two-horned, but no beast of this type will last long when one man can kill them off at the rate of eight a year. These animals were killed in a comparatively small district, a triangle about twenty miles by fifty miles by thirty miles. From my own observations and from information derived from the experience of native hunters I am inclined to believe that these two species of rhino do not breed more than once in eleven years. Such a slow breeding beast naturally needs careful protection, if he is to be preserved.

"It makes me angry to see elaborate laws framed and passed to protect game and then nothing done to enforce them. I think, at any rate, that the rhinoceros sondaicus of Lower Burma should be given a chance, and I intend doing what I can to state his case."

Conservation in 1878

In a recent letter received by the Association from Mr. William B. Mershon of Saginaw, Mich., he tells of unearthing some valuable data in connection with game conservation in the early days, among which were the printed proceedings of the Michigan Sportsmen's Association for five consecutive years, beginning with 1878. In the proceedings of '78 it was advocated that wild ducks be protected by law and that a law be passed prohibiting the shipment to foreign markets of ruffed grouse and venison. From the records of the railroad company of that year it was shown that 70,000 deer were killed and shipped from the state of Michigan.

There was a plea for the protection of the passenger pigeon, showing that the sportsmen realized the havoc being created among these birds by the market shooters. Among the proceedings was an article written on the grayling, which had been discovered and identified only a few years previously. As an experiment, brook trout had been planted in Southern Michigan and a request was made for their protection. Mr. Mershon states in his letter that his father planted the first trout fry that were ever put in a Michigan stream.

This data is all very interesting to the sportsmen of today, who cannot help but regret that the plea for the protection of the passenger pigeon was not heeded, not only by the Michigan lawmakers, but by other states as well, so that this valuable species of American game could have been preserved for the sportsmen of future generations.

Shooting Birds in the Name of Science

A letter was recently received from Mr. T. P. Bellchambers of the Fauna Propagation Area, Humbug Scrub, South Australia. Mr. Bellchambers complains bitterly of the many men, so-called scientific collectors, who under permit are legally allowed to take rare specimens under the guise of preserving them for science. He says that in Australia the abuse of this privilege is bound to seal the doom of species at low ebb. The recent shooting of a pair of lyre-birds by a collector has caused a great deal of indignation among the conservationists of that section.

This danger does not exist alone in Australia. We believe there are entirely too many scientific permits issued in our country. Very often the man scientifically inclined does not take the same view of this matter that you will find endorsed by every sportsman. At the present time the trumpeter swan and the whooping crane are at very low ebb. An ornithologist of no small note told the writer recently that he believed wherever it was possible such of these birds as could be found should be killed and preserved in the name of science.

We do not agree with this theory for one instant. There are already enough specimens of each of these species in museums to preserve them, with the hope that possibly their kind may be perpetuated. Many birds are killed in



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