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The Doom of The Lion in Africa
(By Cyrus C Smith)

The war on the lion is becoming intense, says the American Review of Reviews. The prey he prefers lives chiefly in regions where the white man thrives and labors best; so the hand of every white man is against the lion. Within the past century, a great area in South Africa, a third as large as the United States, has been swept clear of him. This history will be repeated. In the time of Demosthenes, there were lions in Greece and in Asia Minor, but the last perished ages ago. We find in Spain the bones of the lion buried in prehistoric dust. In the same way, the present lion

is passing on; and his extermination will be the white man's work. The story of the war of the whites upon the lions of South Africa is one of the most striking of all narratives of human struggle against the animal pests of recreation.

The Dutch were in South Africa when the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock. Millions of antelopes in great variety, zebras, giraffes and other food that the lion seeks, lived on those grassy plains; and here the lion was pre-eminently the king of beasts. The Europeans undertook to herd sheep and cattle in the environs of their coast settlements but the lion disputed their right. He sprang among their flocks and carried off sheep in full view of the shepherds. The garrison at the Cape Town fort and the farmers on the out-kirts were stimulated to hunt the lion by a government premium of \$5 for each one slain; but the lions were countless and the whites were few and no serious inroads were made upon the enemy. At last a number of lions made bold one night to invade the fort itself and killed and partly devoured nine head of cattle before they were discovered and driven off. It became a question whether the whites could live in South Africa at all. The government, in 1694, raised the price of a slain lion to \$25. More settlers were flocking in, and the good money made in lion hunting so stimulated pursuit that the coast settlements, and the areas around them, were at last fairly safe.

But as cattle and sheep men pushed into the interior, the work had to be done all over again. Early in the eighteenth century, the premium paid for lions was still \$15 a head. The colonists could not afford this tax and the burden was shared by the home government. Then the British came in and the war was pushed with greater energy than ever. But what a struggle it was over a vast territory with lions in every covert. Up to sixty years ago no herdsman or shepherd ever took his charge afield without an ammunition belt and a gun on his shoulder. About 1850, a lion was killed while enjoying the wonderful sight of Cape Town spread out below him.

The extermination of the lion in South Africa has been almost wholly the work of the past sixty years. Government agencies were powerfully reinforced by scores of hunters among whom a few mighty Nimrods, such as Selous and others, won fame. No lions now exist in Africa save in a few small and scattered areas. Unfortunately, most of the beautiful game animals on whom they preyed have also disappeared. They could not have survived the spread of progress, but it's a pity they were slain so ruthlessly.

In British East Africa is the greatest center of lion hunting in the world. Here Col. Roosevelt and many other renowned sportsmen have sought and found their quarry. It is a region rich in the big game that the lion most relishes; but it is doubtful if its attractiveness to hunters will long endure because the whole region is needed for white enterprises. Thirty years ago, no one dreamed that Africa contained such a land as this directly under the Equator. It stands from 5,000 to 8,000 feet above the sea, most of it a

great plain to which white immigration is invited. Last year, the farmers filled a large ship with a cargo of maize and sent it to Europe. Under the overhead sun, they are raising European heep for wool. They are importing the best European breeds of cattle and crossing them with the best native stock to the great improvement of the milk and meat industries. They have thriving towns and the Uganda Railway gives them an outlet to the sea; and there are two things they do not want—one is lions and the other is the great game which troops in thousands over their grassy plains. On the other hand, the colonial government is trying to save the millions of antelopes, zebras and other grazing animals by limiting the number that can be killed and establishing reservations which hunters are not permitted to enter.

But the ranchman and the small farmer are vehement in their opposition to game protection. They say that where millions of grazing animals fatten on the wide grass lands great numbers of cattle and sheep would thrive; that the government should not protect game in vast regions that can be put to better use. Col. Sir James Sidler, governor of the Colony, told the people two years ago, that game preservation must not impede development and that changes in the game laws in this particular were under consideration. The colonies look forward to the day when the game reserves will be turned to industrial uses and insist that extermination of the lion which cannot be tolerated in regions devoted to live stock and farming industries. They believe also that the finish of the lion will come all the earlier through the new methods of hunting by means of dogs which have resulted in the killing of as many as nine lions at the end of a morning's gallop. The future of the lion in this

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paradise of hunters is not brilliant. It bodes him ill that the Uganda Railway passes right across the region where his lairs are most numerous. Railroads and lions are not compatible. One line crosses the center of a great lion haunt in Portuguese East Africa, and the younger animals, dazzled by the headlight, are sometimes killed on the tracks. No wonder that lions are becoming fewer in German East Africa, for this foe of man and beast cannot always exist where plantations of sisal hemp, cotton, sugar cane and tobacco are multiplying, where railroads are building from the sea to the northern and western frontiers, where miners are delving and prospectors are ransacking the land for mineral indications and where the work of covering the whole vast region with official topographic surveys is in progress.

The fight in the United States ports against rats, as protection from the invasion of the bubonic plague, is the subject of warning and advice from the public health service. The report gives methods of killing and quarantining against rats and draws attention to the fact that the plague is "primarily a disease of rodents, and secondarily and accidentally disease of men."

In many cities a strenuous pure food campaign has been waged this year with gratifying results in the decline of sickness. No city has been more industrious than Spokane, where in July over four tons of unwholesome food-stuffs were condemned by inspectors. The greater part consisted of bad berries which might otherwise have turned up later as jam and jelly. Next to berries come muskmelons, fish, beet, sausage and ham.

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by local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, Deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces. We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Workmen In Narrow Escape.

Moncton, N. B., Aug. 9.—Workmen at natural gas well No. 26 on the Albert side of the Petitcodiac River, had a narrow escape from death last evening when a sixty horse-power boiler exploded. Most of it was carried a hundred feet another direction from the men, striking a water tank destroying it.