

LOVE - LORN NOW BARRED FROM HUNTING IN AFRICA

(By Frederic Haskin in
Boston Traveller)

Washington — For a hundred years the conventional course to be followed by a young man disappointed in love has been to rush off to Africa to shoot big game. The slaughter of savage animals has been traditionally regarded as an anodyne if not an antidote. The belief has been held that the rejected lover who sees the glaring eyes of a charging rhinoceros or a pouncing lion can, for a moment or two at least, get his mind off the more devastating eyes of his lost love.

For Politicians Also

Although big game hunting in Africa has been regarded as the special refuge of the love-lorn, it may be recalled that the politically-lorn also have turned in that direction. Did not Theodore Roosevelt, on his retirement from political life, plunge into the very heart of darkest Africa, spreading death and destruction in his wake and publicity on the pages of the world's newspapers?

All the world loves a lover and, for a time, it was felt that Africa was big enough to hold all the rejected lovers in the world and its teeming life sufficiently prolific to keep up with the shafts of the jilted ones. Passage of time has shown, however, that love conquers all, even rejected love, and that Africa is being stripped of its savage fauna.

The lion and the rhino, the dik dik and the wildbeest are not without friends. There are those who realize that the slaughter by the neventhe-seeking lovers has interrupted many an African love affair. It has been said that nobody could possibly love a hippopotamus unless it were another hippopotamus. That is the point. Love affairs do subsist among the hippopotami and their interruption is causing plenty of trouble. Giraffes are sighting on the Zambezi because some mate has fadled victim of some jilted broker. Elands moan. Bangos pine. Warthogs wail away.

Friends of Africa have not wasted supine while this devastation has been going on. They have risen in defence of the dark continent. Realizing the utter futility of attempting to solve the problem at the source—that is, by getting the girls to accept lovers, they have taken other steps. Appeal to the women was rejected on the ground that, even though accepted, the lovers would probably rush off to Africa as soon as the honeymoon was over. It was determined to take steps on the ground.

Animals Must Be Protected

So it is that nine nations have just signed a draft treaty providing for the protection of the flora and fauna of Africa met recently in the Moses room of the House of Lords at London and, after many sessions, agreed upon a draft treaty of many clauses designed to stand between lovers and the African beasts like a bulwark or a prospective mother-in-law.

The Union of South Africa, Belgium, Great Britain, Egypt, Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Abyssinia and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan sent distinguished plenipotentiaries to the conference. All signed save Abyssinia, whose envoy said he must return to Addis Ababa for instruction from the Emperor before final action. It might be profitably noted that one of the titles of the Emperor of Abyssinia is Conquering Lion. His Majesty must conceivably feel that he was being patronized by the other nine nations; he might say that he needs no protection from accidental lovers.

C. T. Water, high commissioner for the Union of South Africa, said at the conference that ordinary game laws are useless. The young man who sets forth in the African jungles or on the African veldt has blood in his eye and rancor in his heart and is careless of open and closed seasons. Mr. T. Water pointed out that so vast is the African domain that it would be impossible to police it with game wardens according to the normal practice on game preserves. It would take an army bigger than Hindenburg's and there would be no assurance that the army would not have a spot or two of romantic disappointments in its personnel.

The general consensus as expressed in the treaty finally drawn was that the only thing to do was to outlaw hunting entirely over very wide sections. Regions larger than entire countries on other continents are to be closed absolutely to hunters. It will not be a question of open or closed seasons; all seasons are closed.

Hunting To Be Regulated

There are already two large natural parks in Africa which now are game sanctuaries. The Union of South Africa some years ago established the Kruger National Park, while Belgium established the Parc National Albert in Congo. It is possible for favored persons to obtain permits to take a limited bag, but there can be no indiscriminate hunting. Of particular interest is the fact that no native settlements are permitted within these reserves, with one notable exception. The Belgian authorities have decided to permit the pygmies to continue to inhabit the jungles, but they are the only humans so favored. The reason doubtless is that the authorities could not help themselves.

It is the general plan to establish buffer belts along the great preserves. These will be wide strips of territory, policed by game wardens, but in which hunting may be done. This measure is done to protect lands outside the preserves from depredation by the wild animals, which prey on crops and cattle. It is considered that the animals will soon learn that they venture on this strip a heir peril and will, therefore, keep to their immense sanctuaries.

Sir Phillip Cunliffe-Owen, British secretary of state for the colonies, has included in the provisions a prohibition against hunting by motor car, a singularly destructive practice. Also the Comte d'Adix moved against hunting with airplanes. This includes even camera hunting, because low flying planes stampede herds to their detriment. A minimum altitude of 1500 feet has been prescribed. If absolutely necessary an aviator may make a forced landing among the lions, but he mustn't scare, feed or annoy. In dry seasons entire herds of elephants and other creatures migrate to find water. On such occasions they are to be protected even when they migrate off the reservations. If the gorilla looks in a planter's dooryard in search of food or water in a bad season, he is to be treated as a guest. Gorillas are getting scarce in Africa.

Lord Grey of Falloden, not long before his death, pointed out that a comparison of the wild life of Africa today and 100 years ago shows that several species have become absolutely extinct. This applies to certain rare plants too, and these are equally protected.

One clause of the treaty strikes especially at a racket. It appears that some of the more cunning lovers have given the appearance of rushing off to Africa to shoot big game, but, in reality, have parked in some cosy club, later to reappear bearing trophies. There is a regular business of trophy hunting carried on by professionals. These sell to tenderfoot hunters just as the fish market sells to the highly imaginative but empty-creed fisherman.

The treaty provides that there shall be another meeting in four years to make such changes as experience dictates.

MILK, CATSUP TRAP GUNMAN

Chicago, Jan. 5—A three-gun man, police said, today stood trapped as a slayer because of his penchant for milk and catsup.

He was Charles Stein, 25 recently captured while trying to hold up a cook was slain last week during a holdup. Stein was identified by safe employees.

Police said his finger prints were like those found on a milk glass and catsup bottle in a restaurant where a cook was slain last week during a holdup. Stein was identified by safe employees.

What a lot of tripe is heard on the air, and seen on the screen.

NEWSPAPER FILL MANY NEEDS WRITER SAYS

Miami Beach, Fla., Jan. 6—George Ade, Indiana humorist, told the Committee of One Hundred, millionaires' winter club, last night, that the newspaper published "with the big idea that the only province of a daily paper is to print the news has been pushed out of the picture."

"What was once the amplified bulletin board is now the guide, counselor and friend, companion, confidant, court jester, a busy gossip and vaudeville entertainer," Ade said. "It does everything for the reader except to wind the clock and tend the baby."

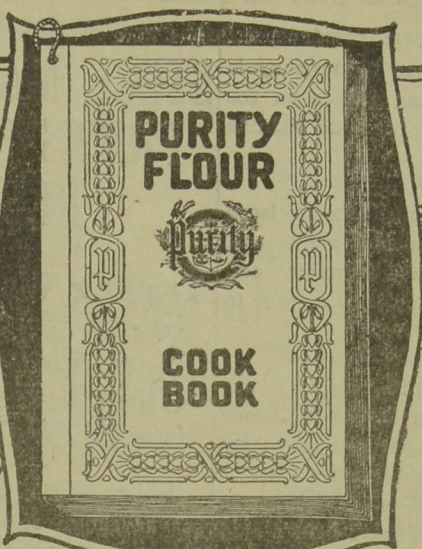
Ade said the modern daily newspaper prints the news but can get out a "riproar and highly readable" issue if there is not a word of important news coming in over the wires.

What the second generation will do for the Soviet set-up will be a plenty. It will have ideas of its own.

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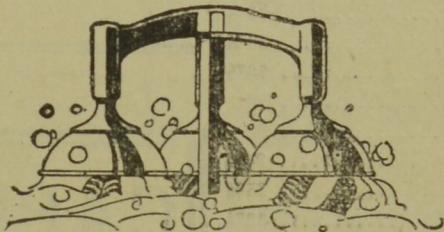
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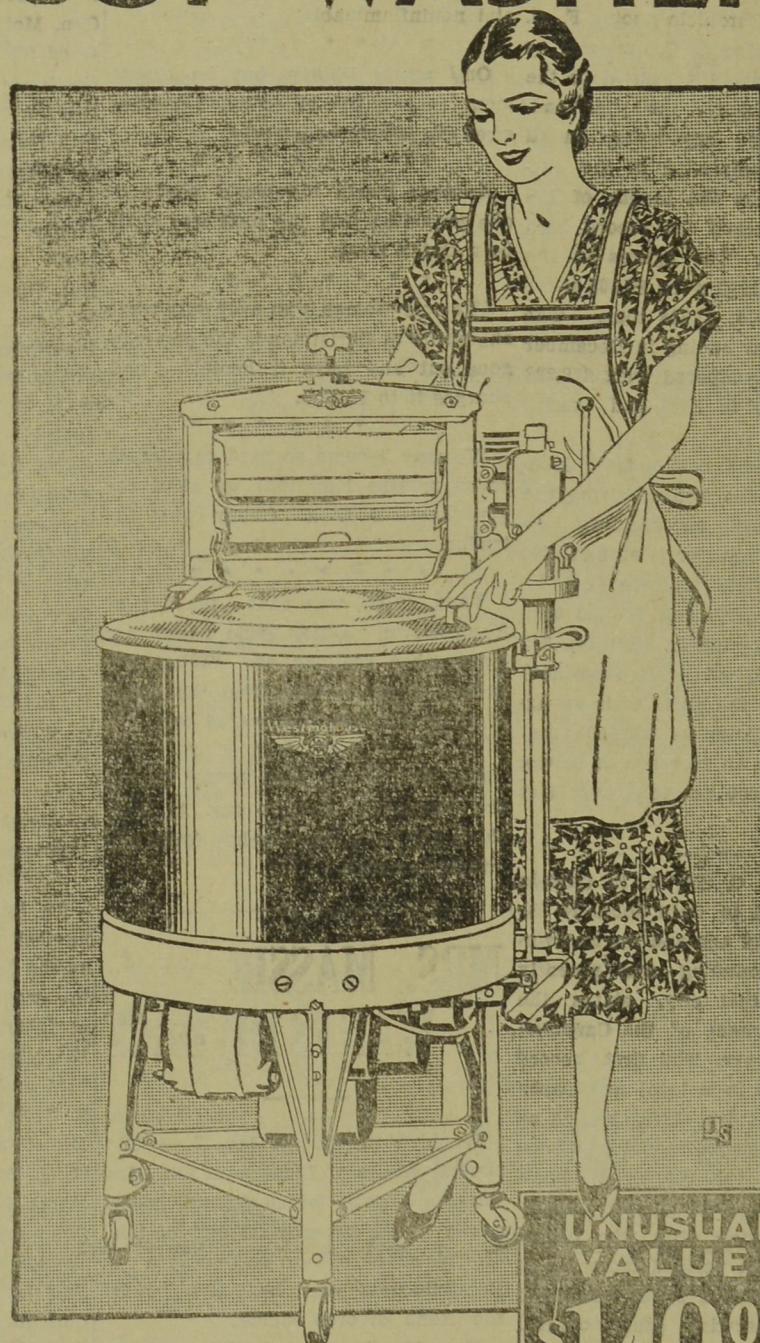
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