The Ostrich in America

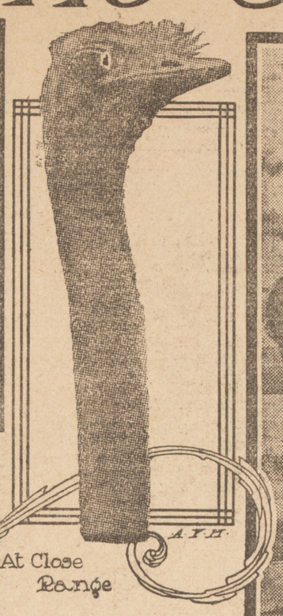
BY FORBES-LINDSAY



Catching an Orange



Young Nubian Ostrich Now Very Rare and Fast Becoming Extinct



At Close Range



Plucking the Plumes



Scene on an Ostrich Farm

Perhaps no member of the animal kingdom has contributed so much to the vanity of the human race as has the ostrich. Since the earliest times its feathers have been used for ornament. The ancient Ethiopian emperors bedecked themselves with them, and no doubt their reported progenitor, the Queen of Sheba, appeared before Solomon with a headdress and cloak of ostrich plumes. In the middle ages the kings and knights of Europe wore ostrich feathers in their helmets, and in these days military officers of high rank wear them. But, of course, the bulk of the 150,000 pounds of plumes marketed every year, at a price of from $7 to $200 apiece, go to adorn the hats of women.

The ostrich is by far the largest bird in existence, and perhaps the most peculiar. The male stands 8 feet in height and weighs upward of 200 pounds, the American breed being larger than those of Africa. Its plumage is loose and naturally wavy, the wing and tail feathers furnishing the commercial product. At one time the birds were very numerous throughout the sandy region from the Barbary States to Cape Colony, but in many parts they have been exterminated by the native hunters, who had no idea of corraling them, but killed those from which they got feathers. They are still sometimes found in troops of 50 or more, but in the breeding season one male and three or four females congregate. This is the case in their wild state, but in captivity they appear to practice strict monogamy. The male makes a shallow pit in the sand, in which the female lays eggs to the number of 30. As a rule with wild ostriches loose eggs are found in the vicinity of the nest which are not hatched, and are believed to be designed for the nourishment of the young chicks. In the daytime the eggs are left to the heat of the sun, but the nest is generally guarded by one or another of the birds. At night the male sits upon them, and never allows his mate to interfere in the hatching.

The ostrich is a most ungainly creature, but extremely active. The round, fluffy body between the bare, bony legs and long, snakelike neck give it a bizarre appearance, which is enhanced by its awkward movements. The neck, which, when stretched to the utmost, will enable it to reach an object 10 feet from the ground, terminates in a small, flat head, with large eyes and short, broad beak. The wings are but rudimentary and enable the bird to rise from the earth only a few feet. Despite this, it can move with surprising swiftness. Its stride of 22 feet is camel-like but it covers the ground so fast as to outpace any horse. The ostrich resembles the camel, too, in the nastiness of its temper. It is easily irritated and ever ready for a fight. Two birds will approach each other with the maneuvers of catch-as catch-can wrestlers, in a crouching position, the head waving from side to side and the wings outstretched. The actual onslaught is much like that of a fighting cock, the stroke being delivered with the two-toed foot. When thoroughly aroused the bird is a formidable foe. In South Africa it has several times been known to kill men and horses. There the ostriches are hearded much as cattle are on our western plains, being allowed to wander during the day over the farm and at night being rounded up and corraled. It is then that the herder is most frequently attacked and often a very pretty fight ensues between the bird, with its pistonlike legs, and the mounted man, with his cutting whip.

It was in the latter part of the nineteenth century that an Englishman conceived the idea of trapping and preserving ostriches. The first ostrich farm was established in South Africa, which remains the principal centre of the industry, but a large quantity of feathers are now shipped from Australia, South America and California. The credit of introducing the valuable bird to this country is due to Mr. Edwin Cawston. About 20 years ago he realized that if the birds could be safely brought to America a large profit would result from the venture, for the duty on the feathers was high. Southern California seemed to offer ideal conditions for ostrich farming, and Mr. Cawston determined to make the effort to import some select birds for breeding. It was a bold and decidedly risky undertaking, for it involved a number of quite uncertain factors and a heavy expense.

A vessel was chartered and especially fitted up for its purpose. Padded inclosures and other provisions were made, for at that time the seafaring ability of the ostrich was an unknown quantity. On its arrival in Capetown the ship was laden with a vast amount of food, for the ostrich is an enormous eater, and several tons of sand and gravel were taken on board to make the conditions as comfortable as possible to those to which the birds were accustomed. The next step was to secure the birds and this proved to be not so easy as had been anticipated. Expert agents were employed to find and purchase the best specimens procurable, but the expedition aroused the immediate alarm of the ostrich farmers. They feared the threatened competition and put every obstacle possible in the way of the Americans. The government was invoked to prevent the exportation of the birds and eggs, and did, in fact, place an export duty of $500 on each of the former and $125 on each of the latter.

But by this time the American vessel was on the sea with 50 fine ostriches, for which fancy prices had been paid. A number of men accustomed to the care of ostriches were brought back with the precious cargo and the birds were tended with the close care bestowed upon incubator babies. Despite all the precautions a number of them died on the voyage and some after landing, as the effect of it, but more than half the original shipment was finally installed on the farm at Pasadena and formed the nucleus of the American ostrich farming industry. The breed has been much improved since then by the introduction of many fine Nubian specimens.

The first farm established is the largest at present in the country, with upwards of 400 ostriches upon it. The inclosures are perfectly appointed with everything that can add to the comfort of the creatures. The surroundings are beautiful in the extreme. A large portion of the space is covered by a grove of live oaks, in contrast with which are orange trees, rosebushes and tropical verdure of numerous descriptions. The approach to the farm gives the impression of a great conservatory of varicolored flowers.

The keepers have bestowed the most grandolinquent names upon the finest birds. There is an Admiral Dewey, a "Teddy" Roosevelt, an Abraham Lincoln, a Daniel Webster and so on, the most appropriately named of all being "Fighting Bob Evans," an old cockbird who as his keeper says, "is always itching for a scrap." The ostriches are extremely fond of oranges, which they swallow whole. The keeper takes a handful of the fruit and throws it in different directions, the birds running after the oranges and catching them on the fly with the expertness of a ballplayer. As the solid fruit is gulped down its course along the bare neck may be plainly seen until it is lost in the mass of feathers. Those who are familiar with its habits, aver that the ostrich can eat any quantity of food and digest any substance. An old keeper stated that a lady's veil is the only thing that he ever knew to be too much for an ostrich, while he declared that he had known birds to swallow without bad effect nails, gimlets, lighted pipes, tennis balls and various articles of jewelry.

The chicks are striped, and at four years the males grow the glossy black feathers, with white wings and tails, which in the females are a dirty gray. They pair with deliberation, for, once mated, the captive ostrich is married for life. There are no divorces or elopements among them, and should one die the other remains in perpetual mourning and never remarries. A permanent nest is made by the male by squatting and rounding out a shallow place in a favorite spot, though how the birds can make themselves comfortable in it is a matter known only to themselves. The eggs are laid at the rate of one every other day or so until about 15 have been deposited. They weigh three pounds each, and are said to be very delicious, but only millionaires could afford to indulge in them frequently. The sun in California being less powerful than on their native plains, both birds participate in the hatching, the female sitting during the day and the male taking the night spell.

The chick begins to hatch after 40 days, and is about 12 inches high when it emerges from the shell, looking not unlike a ball of excelsior. During the first four days it seems to be too much taken up with its strange surroundings to eat, but after that it devours everything that comes in its way and grows at a wonderful rate, rising a foot in a month, until it is six months old and full grown. The parents seem to lose interest in the young ones as soon as they are out of the shell, and in the wild state frequently trample them to death. On the farms the chicks need the greatest care and attention during the first month, after which they display the hardiness of the adults.

At the age of nine months the bird is first plucked, if the process may be so described, for as a matter of fact the feathers are not pulled out, but clipped off about an inch from the body. The remaining portion of the quill dries up and is then extracted. There is no pain whatever incurred in the process. The bird to be clipped is driven into a small inclosure and a hood is placed over his head. This renders him quite helpless and passive. The feathers are quickly snipped off, the hood is removed and the bird is allowed another nine months in which to grow a fresh crop.

RAILROAD OPENS BRAND NEW COUNTRY

A railroad which, though only 275 miles long, has been 35 years in building has just been completed. It is the Guatemala railroad, and though it has cost more than many roads 10 times as long, because of the engineering difficulties presented, its main business for the present will be hauling coffee and bananas. The chief importance of the railroad is in making accessible to Europe and the eastern part of the United States the attractive city of Guatemala, with its 100,000 inhabitants, which previously was as distant, commercially, as the Hawaiian Islands.

This city, which is the centre of almost the entire trade of the republic, could be reached easily from the Pacific Ocean side, on which coast Guatemala has no harbors, and pasengers and freight have had to be lightered from vessels some distance out. With the completion of the new railroad Guatemala's coffee crop can be delivered in New York with ease.

Heretofore it was necessary to lighter the coffee to steamers, then carry it 1,000 miles to Panama, thence across the Panama railroad to Colon, about a month being required for this trip alone.

The government of Guatemala, in order to bring the country within easier reach of the world, took steps about 35 years ago toward the construction of a railroad from the Atlantic to the capital, about 200 miles, and starting at Puerto Barrios, the principal harbor on the Atlantic Coast. They had succeeded in building 134 miles of the line up to 1896. Work was suspended then because there wasn't sufficient money to carry the railroad over the difficult mountain section.

In 1904 the work was taken up again largely through the interest in it of Sir William C. Van Horne, of the Canadian Pacific. Gen. Thomas H. H. Hubbard, president of the Guatemala Central, which covers the 75 miles between Guatemala City and the west coast, also took a hand, and the work was rushed rapidly. Now coffee and bananas, which used to require from two weeks to a month for transportation from Guatemala City to Colon, are delivered at Puerto Barrios in a day, while the traveler from New York to Guatemala City makes the trip in a week instead of a month.

Among the highest peaks of the Cordilleras the railroad construction was attended with great difficulties on account of the many deep ravines which had to be crossed by bridges. There are many short truss bridges, and an immense amount of masonry was required.

It was necessary at many points to protect the railroad against the mountain streams by walls of rubble work. The construction work is of a permanent nature, and no wood was used except the creosoted ties. The old section had to be almost entirely rebuilt while the new part was under construction, in order that it might be up to the standard.

The new road will probably make Puerto Barrios the principal distributing market for the banana trade instead of Port Limon, Costa Rica, which has hitherto been the chief source of supply, as Puerto Barrios is more than a day nearer New Orleans.

Not only is tea grown at a high elevation finer flavored and more healthful than ordinary tea, but it is much more economical. That is why one pound of "Salada" will make more cups of tea than one and one-quarter pounds of any other kind.

IN THE HOMES OF FAIR CANADA

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills Are Bringing Health to Weak Despondent People.

There is not a nook or corner in Canada, in the cities, towns, villages and farms where Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have not been used, and from one end of the country to the other they have brought back to breadwinners, their wives and families the splendid treasure of new health and new strength. You have only to ask your neighbors and they can tell you of some nerve-shattered man suffering women, ailing youth, or unhappy anemic girl, who owe present health and strength to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Their wonderful success is due to the fact that Dr. Williams' Pink Pills go right to the root of the disease in the blood, and by making the vital fluid rich and red, strengthen every organ and every nerve, thus driving out disease and pain.

Mr. Joseph Lacombe, Quebec City, says:—"To-day I weigh about forty pounds more than I did a year ago, and am in every way in much sounder health. For upwards of two years I had been studying hard to pass my examinations and my health had completely given way under the strain, I lost flesh rapidly, my appetite was gone and my nerves were greatly weakened. I was obliged to abandon my studies and was in a state of complete exhaustion. I consulted a physician, but as I was daily growing weaker I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which I had often heard very highly spoken of. The beneficial effects were indeed remarkable for I had not used more than a couple of boxes when I could feel an improvement, and hope returned. I continued using the pills for some weeks longer, with the result that my strength increased daily and I was soon able to take over my studies and work with as much energy as I had ever done. To-day I am in perfect health and I attribute my recovery solely to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

You can get these Pills from any medicine dealer or by mail at 50c. a box os six boxes for $2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co. Brockville, Ont.

BLACK ROSES FROM RUSSIA

Flowers have always been used as emblems. Away back in England there was the War of the Roses, the red and the white. Mr. Chamberlain will go down in history associated with the orchid.

The Earl of Beaconsfield's love for the rose has been perpetuated by the foundation of the Primrose League. And now there is another chance for some great man, statesman or other, to appropriate to himself the latest improvement upon nature and to hand it down to posterity as the emblem of a party or a policy.

H. Seraphimoff, a master gardener living at Voronezh, in Russia, has arrived at St. Petersburg with several specimens of black roses, which he claims to have produced, thereby solving the great problem that has puzzled gardeners for many years.

L. B. Archibald, of Truro, deputy grand master of the Great Priory of Canada, last evening paid an official visit to the encampment of St. John Knights Templar, when the temple degree was worked, after which a collation was served and speech-making indulged in. Dr. J. R. McIntosh, commander of the St. John encampment, presided.

FITS CURED

Sufferers from Fits, Epilepsy, St. Vitus' Dance, Nervous Troubles or Falling Sickness should write the LIEBIG CO., 179 King street, Toronto, for a trial bottle of their Fit Cure and Treatise. Enclose 10c for postage and packing.

SIR R. HART ON MISSIONS IN CHINA

He Has Very Great Admiration for the Work Carried on by Roman Catholics.

Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-Generaal of the Chinese Maritime Customs, lately gave a Reuter's representative his views on the missionary and educational questions in China. On the former topic Sir Robert Hart said:—

"I know of no unfriendly feeling on the part of the Chinese Government towards missionaries, and, as a matter of fact, mission work is being carried on peacefully all over the country without the apprehension of danger of any special kind. Of course, local indiscretions or outbreaks of local feeling may cause some disturbance, but that there is any hostility towards the missionaries is contrary to fact. There are two classes of missionaries in China—the Roman Catholics and the Protestants. By an Imperial Edict, issued a few years ago, the Roman Catholic missionaries were recognised by the Imperial Government in a very special way. Their Bishops had red buttons and other honors conferred upon them, so that the recognition of the Roman Catholics by the Chinese Government is of a very complete character. As regards the Protestants, they have never sought the same official recognition, but prefer that they and their work should be treated by the people on their own merits. They are doing very excellent work. I am a Protestant myself, but I have very great admiration for the work being carried on by the Roman Catholics, who are much beloved by the people."

With regard to the introduction and spread of Western educational methods in the Empire, Sir Robert said:—

"A few years ago the old system of examinations was abolished by Imperial Edict, and education on Western lines is now being attempted all over the country. It is, of course, only in certain parts that proper teachers and proper books are to be found, but a real beginning has been made, and no doubt the movement will spread, for the Chinese are a very studious worship, and worship intellect more than brute force. Be here, again, the matters must not be unduly pushed. Time must be given for natural development. A Chinese statesman was once discussing the question of electricity with me. He admitted that all that we knew about electricity was very interesting, but significantly remarked that even we had not got to the bottom of the subject yet. He added: 'We shall get to the bottom of the subject and teach you.' The same order of ideas still prevails, although I have not heard any one else use such an expression of prophetic determination."

Asked for his views on the situation created in the Far East as the result of the awakening of China and the new position of Japan, the Inspector-General said:

"I do not see what can possibly prevent China from becoming a world Power. China has commenced reorganisation in all departments of life, but she cannot go quickly. Japan has taken such a position in the world that she will probably be the leading Power in the East. China is much impressed with the successful way in which Japan has advanced during the last decade or two, and she is anxious to be as well organised as Japan. On the other hand, both Japan and China will be competing with the rest of the world very successfully in commercial matters, and both will be in a better position for their own defence against Western attacks than they were before."

Turning to the question of British trade the Inspector-General remarked:

"British merchants have not lost anything of the trade they already possessed, but in the matter of the increased business this is very largely in the hands of new men. Germans chiefly. I have heard people say that the British merchant is very conservative, and that his attitude is that of 'if you like my goods take them,' while the German trader is more anxious to find out what is required and to adapt his goods to the requirements of the prospective customer. Naturally the latter gets more clients. With regard to Japan there are Japanese traders in a small way all over the country, and they are making a bid for business in every direction. But at present this seems to apply more to small traders than to big merchants."

Discussing the relations of China with Tibet and the provisions of the treaty recently signed in India, Sir Robert Hart said:

"I know that the Chinese Government has seriously in view the question of Tibet and that it is considering arrangements for developing Tibet on commercial lines, and also for the establishment of a postal system. In fact, China means to do something in Tibet, where her position has been strengthened as a result of the events of the last few years."

ST. STEPHEN WILL CELEBRATE

St. Stephen has not been much in the public eye of late years. but enthusiasm of her citizens is to find vent in a great three days' carnival, September 7th, 8th, and 9th.

Her merchants, manufactureres and the people generally have contributed to a fund for this purpose and have placed $2,500 at the disposal of an energetic executive committee who are perfecting plans to make the event equally as successful as all former undertakings of the kind.

The morning of Monday, September 7th, will be devoted to athetic sports and in the afternoon the streets will be filled with a grand civic, military and trades procession.

The mornings of Tuesday and Wednesday will be devoted to aquatic events, the principal feature of which will be contests for motor boats, of which over three hundred of all sizes and kinds, are owned within forty miles of St. Stephen. Ten valuable silver cups have already been donated for these contests and other prizes will be provided.

Tuesday afternoon will witness the great horse reel race for prizes aggregating several hundred dollars, and in which teams from all over Maine and the Maritime Provinces are expected to enter. Inquiries have already been received from three Maine towns and four in New Brunswick. A base ball game will be in progress while this race is on.

Wednesday afternoon will be devoted to athletic sports and a balloon ascension.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh That Contain Mercury.

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is tenfold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by Druggists. Price 75c. per bottle.
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

In No. 1 Salvage Corps rooms last night there was an interesting boxing exhibition of which Mike (Twin) Sullivan was the centre. He boxed William Donohue, Edward Mooney, Dan Murphy of Cambridge, and wound up in an interesting bout with Fred Flaherty of this city. Among the interested spectators were Dan Littlejohn and Patsey Haley, a boxer from the States who is here on a visit.

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"I herewith enclose you one of my lat-est photographs, which will show you what Newbro's Herpicide has done formy hair. Since using your remedy my hair is much longer than it was, and ithas that lustre to it that one's hair always has when the scalp is in a healthycondition."

(Signed) Miss Madeline Clutter.
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The immense popularity of Newbro's Herpicide, particularly among the better class, is due to the fact that it never disappoints. It does all and more than is claimed for it.

Its delightful fragrance, perfect cleaness and freedom from grease or oil, appeal to the discriminating, and its cleansing, refreshing and health-giving effect upon the scalp is immediately apparent.

Herpicide makes the hair light and fluffy and gives it a silken gloss.

Extraordinarily long hair is a gift of Nature that relatively few possess, but not many would complain if they could save Nature's head covering in its original beauty and luxuriance.

The dandruff germ is the greatest enemy of abundant hair. This is on account of the highly contagious nature of dandruff, which makes it almost impossible to escape the disease without the occasional use of a germ destroying solution.

Newbro's Herpicide is the ORIGINAL remedy that "kills the dandruff germ." It promptly eradicates dandruff, stops falling hair and (except in chronic baldness), restores the hair to its former health and activity. Herpicide stops itching of the scalp almost instantly.

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