

# MEETING ROOSEVELT IN MOMBASA

**Dr. Ramon Guiteras Tells of the Gathering of Big Hunters, and Sets Forth Some Odd and Interesting Facts About the Habits of Big Game**



Shot with the Camera—Animals in the Distance Were the Size of Small Cows

**DR. RAMON GUI TERAS**, of the Post Graduate hospital, New York, who, with Dr. Louis L. Seaman, author and scientist, recently returned from a hunting trip in Africa, contributes herewith a striking bit of natural history of the big game made familiar to thousands of readers recently through the activities of Colonel Roosevelt in the jungle and on the veldt and river.

Dr. Guiteras gives his facts with the careful deliberation of the scientific investigator, and his hunting incidents are highly interesting as well as instructive.

During their journeys in the dark continent Dr. Seaman made an exhaustive study of the tsetse fly, which causes the strange and fatal sleeping sickness, and is now busy preparing an important work on the subject.

BY DR. RAMON GUI TERAS

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**W**HEN I arrived at Nairobi and was going to Norfolk hotel for my baggage, the largest and best looking safari that I have ever seen passed. I was very much interested to know to whom it belonged, and was told that it was the Roosevelt safari going to Capite plains. When I got back to the station with my bag I met Captain Cunningham, who was Colonel Roosevelt's white hunter and guide; Mr. McMillen, whose guest he was to be, and Colonel Harrison, the great elephant hunter and the discoverer of the pigmies of Africa, who were going to Mombasa to meet him.

The next evening we had a big dinner for Colonel Roosevelt at the Mombasa club, at which Governor Jackson, Selous, Colonel Harrison, Kermit Roosevelt, the scientists of the expedition, the captain of the English man of war, the German consul, Doctor Redford, Captain Donald, Ward Fawcass, Cole, Doctor Seaman, myself and others were present.

Colonel Roosevelt appeared surprised at finding me in Mombasa, and we reminisced over college days at Harvard and athletics when we were there 30 years ago. I introduced Colonel Roosevelt to a very mild mannered settler named Fawcass, as a man who had killed 10 lions, whereupon the colonel said:—

"Well, if I kill one lion and one elephant I will be satisfied."

I predicted he would kill 15 lions and would see 30,000 head of game, and I am anxious to see if my predictions will come out true.

I feel that the estimate of the number of game is probably less than half of what he will see, but so far as lions are concerned, with the men and ponies he has with him he can shoot 15 if he wants to. Lions are considered vermin in East Africa, and there is no limit to the number one may shoot, whereas a hunter is limited to two of a number of other animals.

So far as elephants are concerned Uganda is a great elephant country, and Colonel Roosevelt told me he had permission to shoot in the Congo, which is the greatest of all elephant countries, so that he will be able to get as many good tuskers as he wants.

He will also be in a good buffalo and rhinoceros country. He has the best caravan that ever left Nairobi, the best white hunter, the best ponies, and he is a keen sportsman. Colonel Roosevelt seemed to be in fine health and full of energy. He complained of being overweight, but he will easily go down to training weight after hunting and trapping for a few weeks under the sun of the equator.

I have heard that numerous papers have asserted that it was very dangerous for him to travel in Africa and that he might contract some serious disease. Colonel Roosevelt is, however, in fine condition, and stands no more danger of being injured by animals than by automobiles in this city or Paris. He has the army surgeon who is best posted on tropical diseases with him, and who will see that the drinking water is boiled and that preventive medicine is given when deemed necessary. He will therefore come out of the jungle in a much better condition than he went in, and he was looking in perfect health when I left him in Mombasa.

## IN THE REAL JUNGLE

One is often asked, what is a jungle? Let one imagine trees 15 or 30 feet high; between them bushes 6 to 15 feet high, of the densest variety; below these ferns and thorn bushes, called "waitabit," vines of various sizes from one-quarter to one and a half inches in diameter, intertwining among these and binding them all together. A jungle on low land would be on the banks of the river and would also have tall reeds or papyrus, besides the trees, bushes and vines. Papyrus is a thick rod, 6 to 10 feet high, with a large tuft on the top. Elephant grass is very dense, thick grass, coarse, strong and often 10 feet high. It is in some places almost impossible to walk through, as it is often over one's head.

In Africa the animals live in different regions although those living in the same districts drink in the same pools and streams. The larger animals do not interfere with one another, but the carnivorous often feed on the herbivorous. They usually, however, do not trouble the herbivorous until they go out for their meal at night. As a hunter is only allowed to shoot two rhinoceroses, two elephants and one buffalo, and has no desire to kill more, the hunting is principally for other game—that is, the antelope and gazelles.

The animals most numerous in Africa in the Nairobi section are the kangaroo, hartebeest, the zebra, the Grant and Thompson gazelles, the empa and the waterbuck. In shooting these animals the hunter not only has the sport of stalking and shooting, but also obtains the meat for camp. The Grant and Thompson gazelles and the empa are very good eating and their meat is preferred by hunters, whereas the porters are most fond of zebra meat.

On going out in the morning and seeing hundreds of head of game one would imagine that it would be

easy to shoot an antelope in a few minutes, but such is not the case, for in the first place one does not want to shoot does or bucks with small horns, and in the second place it is hard to know the range.

## THE MORNING HUNT

Animals in Africa are usually shot at 250 yards, sometimes more, but oftener less. When a hunter starts out to shoot, however, on account of the clearness of the air it is impossible for him to tell the range, and he often thinks that he is shooting at an animal at 250 yards, while in reality he is 500 or more yards away. The animals, however, can judge the distance to a nicety, and when the hunter approaches too near they gradually walk away or else they run off for a distance. First the hartebeest,



Massai Runner Who Carries Letters from the Camps to the Nearest Towns

The Camp



Taking a Dead Hippo from the River

## HUNTING THE LION

The lion is the most dangerous of all African animals, although he usually runs away, and as his senses are more acute than those of a man he will probably detect him when in the bush and disappear without having been seen. On the plain he can be seen running away, but he can not be overtaken unless the hunter is on horseback. When wounded he will run to the tall grass or the bush if he can, but if wounded and there is no cover he will stand or charge. A hunter must be very careful in approaching a wounded lion, and fire straight and not go too near, for if he does not get the lion the lion is very apt to get him.

The hunter must also be careful not to follow him into the bush, as he never knows where the animal is until perhaps he is too near, and the lion will have the advantage and may spring on him. The lion is twice as heavy as a man and twice as strong, and in a tussle has the advantage in close quarters. In the open, however, the hunter has the advantage, if attacked, as he has the rifle and can fire a number of times while the animal is charging him.

In shooting lions nowadays ponies are very valuable. For a distance under 200 yards a lion can run faster than a pony, but for a longer distance the pony is faster. When a lion is driven out of the brush or out of a river bed to a plain by the porters and runs away, if not killed or badly wounded he will probably escape; but a hunter follows on horse and he will soon run the animal down, as the lion becomes winded and stops after running a quarter of a mile.

The hunter dismounts when about 200 or 300 yards from him and opens fire.

If the lion starts to run away the hunter again mounts his horse and follows him until he stops, when he again dismounts and opens fire. If the lion again runs and is not injured the hunter again rides him down and fires. If, on the other hand, the lion charges, the hunter continues to fire until the lion is about 200 yards away, when he mounts his horse and runs away. The lion follows, but usually soon stops and the hunter dismounts and starts firing again. If the lion is wounded and can neither run away nor charge, then the hunter continues to shoot and advance slowly until he has killed the animal. It is rarely necessary to fire many times from the range of from 200 to 300 yards before the lion is either killed or so badly wounded that he is easily disposed of.

Most cases of mauling by lions are due to following wounded animals into the tall grass or bushes. The lion is usually found in rocky country or where

quietly walk into these herds, pick out the bulls with the longest tusks and drop them without trouble. We met men who had shot a hundred elephants and none was injured or had seen any one injured. A hunter with a record of a hundred said that one of his men in trying to escape from an elephant had been caught and thrown into the air and came down on top of some bushes in a patch of jungle, into which he sank. He extricated him from the jungle with some difficulty and said that whereas he looked like a Hamburg steak he had not suffered any serious injury.

Most hunters aim for the brain of the elephant, while others take the heart shot; then if they do not strike the heart they usually wound the lungs. If the elephant runs away they send a man after him who follows him until he drops, and then he finishes him and cuts his tusks out. In hunting the elephant the hunter is perhaps in tall grass from six to ten feet high and may not see the elephant until he is within a few yards, and then if his shot is not a fatal one it may be hard to get out of his way. The duke of the Abruzzi, who was hunting elephants with Mr. Knowles, the governor of Uganda, had a narrow escape. He wounded an elephant, was charged and ran the wrong way; that is, into his wind. Knowles fired and floored the animal, while two natives pulled the duke out of the way.

Notwithstanding the size of the elephant a bullet from a .450 express rifle at short range will often knock him over, even though it does not kill him. The elephant tusks are very valuable, as they sometimes weigh over 100 pounds apiece. Professional elephant hunting has been stopped in British East Africa, and a hunter is only allowed two on his license.

The buffalo is said by many hunters to be the most dangerous animal in Africa; in fact, I have heard it stated that he is 30 per cent more dangerous than any other animal. Hunters have the most profound respect for the buffalo and the lion. Having listened to the stories of hunting as narrated by hunters, guides, settlers and government officials I can only form the opinion that more people have been injured by lions during the last 10 years than by all the other animals together. The buffalo is very timid, and although the hunter may come across his fresh tracks he rarely sees him except early in the morning at about daybreak. The best place to hunt him is in hilly country, and it is wise to be on a different hill with a valley between. It is as easy to kill a buffalo if one has a broadside shot as it is to kill a bull in the field, as they are very large and of the same build. If he is wounded, however, the hunter must look out, as the buffalo can charge rapidly and follow the hunter as a bull does a bull fighter. The hunter must also be on his guard if the buffalo is wounded and runs away, for he sometimes doubles on the hunter and unexpectedly charges him from behind. At any rate, I have never heard of any man being killed by one, whereas the graveyard at Nairobi is filled by those killed by lions.

The warthog resembles closely a wild boar and often has fine tusks. He is very quick in his movements, but not dangerous.

The bucks, or antelopes, are of the goat family. Some of them are very large. The elan is a magnificent animal weighing over a thousand pounds. The antelopes often carry as much lead as a rhinoceros or elephant and it is difficult to understand why they do not succumb more quickly. The best trophies, however, after a lion skin, are the heads of the various bucks. One can not but wonder how it is that, with all the animals shot on the veldt and with all the others wounded that must die, so few carcasses or skeletons are seen, as it is only occasionally that you come across one. In order to see what became of my first rhinoceros I went back in three days to take a look at his remains. There was nothing left of him but his skeleton and a piece of his hide. The lions had probably eaten the meat, the hyenas and jackals the insides. The vultures had picked his bones and the flies had disposed of whatever they could find. It is probable that the hyenas would return to eat the bones and that in a week more there would be nothing left but a few scattered fragments.

## THE JUNGLE PERILS

The insects of Africa that are most dreaded are the jigger, mosquito, tick and tsetse fly. The jigger is a wingless degenerate flea. It bores under the skin, usually about the toenail, and breeds, giving rise to a globular mass which if not removed goes on to suppuration and results perhaps in the loss of a toe, and causing difficulties and painful walking perhaps for some time. The black boys understand removing them and pick them out whole with a pin or needle. They are found about old camping grounds, in hotels and cars.

The mosquito is the same as our own. The bite of the anopheles causes malaria as it does with us, but usually in a more severe form. The most dangerous is that known as black water fever, which occurs in debilitated subjects suffering from chronic malaria. In the part where I was shooting there were no mosquitoes, but in Uganda, where I went later, there were many, especially on the steamers and Lake Victoria Nyanza. They were also very numerous in Mombasa and the coast and also on the steamers coming up from Mombasa. These steamer mosquitoes were of the malarial type and a number of passengers contracted fever on board.

The tsetse fly is a disagreeable insect, resembling a crab. It fastens itself to the surface of the body, sticks its head under the skin and fills itself full of blood. After its removal a small papule or pustule remains. In Uganda the tick bite causes a fever that on examination of the blood shows a spirillum to be present, as the result of which it is called spirillum fever. It somewhat resembles malaria in its attacks. It has complications, nervous conditions, especially of the eye and facial paralysis. It lasts about two months and leaves the patient weak and debilitated. The mortality is very slight.

The sleeping sickness has been known for a long time, but has only lately excited general interest. Since leaving Africa I have been asked many questions regarding this trouble by the people that I have met in Italy, France and England. It is the result of a bite of one form of tsetse fly that inhabits the shores of the great lakes, as the Victoria Nyanza and Albert, and the streams flowing out of them, as the Nile. It is said that after the bite the onset of the disease may be from one month to several years.

The patient has fever for a few days, which subsides, only to recur again in a few days or weeks. There is also weakness and lassitude. Besides this the patient has enlarged glands in the neck and a tremor of the tongue. The stage may last from two months to a year. It is due to the parasite the trophozoite in the circulation, usually used.

In the next stage the trophozoite has reached the fluid of the spine and brain and gives symptoms which at times closely resemble paresis. The patient may be drowsy and apathetic, with later tremor of the face, epileptic convulsions, also perhaps maniacal. The patient grows weak and dies of inanition. During the latter part of the sickness he falls asleep while chewing his food. When not under treatment it lasts on an average six months in a white case and 18 months in a black. Several hundred thousand natives have died and there are now from 20,000 to 50,000 under treatment. The treatment generally used is arsenic or arsenic and mercury. Atoxyl is the form of arsenic usually used.

The steps taken to stop the disease are to segregate all cases in camps where the fly will not live. This particular form of fly lives on the shores of clear water, where there is plenty of shade, and it is never found 50 yards away from the water. The health officials are consequently cutting away the brush and grass from the shores of the lake, moving the people back into the country and planting citronella on the lake shores, as the flies can not live under those conditions. The other variety of tsetse fly is not dangerous to man, and I have often had them on me. One variety causes disease in cattle. This particular fly is inactive during certain hours, and the Massai herders rush their cattle through an infected strip of country into a healthy country beyond at this time. Doctor Seaman has made an exhaustive study of the tsetse fly and is preparing an important article on the subject.

Dr. Guiteras and Seaman with Their Gun Bearers



Reconnoitering from the Top of an Ant Hill

there is a dry river bed, near a zebra pasture and not far from the water. He starts out at night on a hunt and usually kills either a zebra or a buck. After feeding he goes to some stream to drink and then lies down on a rock in the sun for a while, after which he goes into some quiet, shady place and sleeps during the day. Very often a kill is seen—that is, the body of an animal killed and partly eaten the night before. The lion often goes back toward evening after having had a good rest and starts to feed again, thus affording a good opportunity for the hunter to bag him.

Sometimes lions are baited by putting out a live animal tethered, or one that has been killed, and shooting the lion from a blind when he begins to eat it.

The percentage of lions that charge is rather small. One man who has killed 20 lions told me that he had never seen a lion charge but once. The percentage of persons that are mauled is also small. One firm of outfitters for hunting expeditions reported that between 200 and 300 lions had been killed by the hunters that it had sent out during the last season without having suffered the slightest injury.

There is considerable luck in lion shooting. Some men have lived in lion countries for years and have done much trekking without having seen a single lion, whereas others have seen and killed one almost immediately after their arrival. One man saw 14 together and retired without shooting. Another was talking with his fiancée one day and when she said, "Oh, Jack, I wish you would kill a lion." "All right," said Jack, and he sallied forth. He went to a nearby river and saw eight lions on the other side. He raised his rifle and fired, one dropped and the others went away. He fired again, but the animal did not stir. He finally concluded that it must be dead, crossed the river with some natives, skinned the lion and returned with the trophy. In another case, one of the porters told a friend of mine that there was a lion in the river bed. They beat the river bed and seven came out, five of which he shot. I know another man who was nine months in Africa shooting and always in a country where he was surrounded by game. The presence of lions was constantly reported to him, and yet he never saw a lion, although his one desire was to shoot one.

## KILLING ELEPHANTS

The elephant is the largest animal in Africa and travels usually in a large herd. Such a herd is considered by a hunter who is a recent arrival in Africa as a dangerous proposition, and yet we hear of professional hunters who are hunting the ivory who