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# A BREATH OF THE WILDS

by  
W. ROBERT FORAN

*Foreword by*  
PRINCE BERNHARD  
OF THE NETHERLANDS



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## CHAPTER IV

## "WHITE" RHINOCEROS

THERE ARE five species, one with a sub-species, of the rhinoceros; and all belong to the same group as do the horse and the tapir of South America. Three of them are found only in Asia: the Indian (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Javan (*R. sondaicus*) and Sumatran (*R. sumatrensis*); all of these, more especially the Javan and Sumatran, have reached the stage of near extermination. In Africa alone will be found the Black (*Diceros bicornis*) and the "White" (or Square-lipped) with its two varieties: *Ceratotherium simus burchelli* of the south, and *Ceratotherium simus cottoni* of the north.

All of these have three toes on each foot, but some of the other features differ—horn, size, and general appearance. Both of the African rhinoceros carry two horns, the front one much the longer of the two. The Indian variety has only a single horn of about 2 inches in length and it looks more like a knob on the nose than a self-respecting horn;<sup>1</sup> the Sumatran, like its African cousins, is endowed with two small horns; and the male of the Javan has a single horn (longest about  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches), but the female is hornless.

The largest animal of all five species is the "White", which has a height at shoulder of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet and over. The Indian variety stands about 6 feet 4 inches at the shoulder; the Black, 5 feet and over; the Javan,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet; and the Sumatran,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

In earlier books about big-game hunting I related diverse experiences with the Black rhinoceros in Africa, also one adventure with an Indian rhinoceros. The misnamed "White" rhinoceros is not so familiar to sportsman as the Black variety, because the few survivors are now rigidly protected in game sanctuaries. I have encountered them on a number of occasions, but never shot a specimen because they are so exceedingly rare. Not many years back there existed a serious threat that this species would become extinct. Fortunately, that fate was averted, though it was only in the nick of time. All lovers of Nature can now be heartened to know that this creature is

<sup>1</sup> Lieut.-Colonel W. Rose-Smith has told me that he is sure of having seen in Assam a rhinoceros with a horn at least 6 inches long, but never saw a 2-inch horn.

showing signs of recovering from the gross persecution to which it was so long subjected.

The "White" rhinoceros, in so far as its actual coloration is concerned, has been incorrectly labelled by popular fancy. It is *not* white, but approximates to the blackish-grey one-colour pattern of the Black variety. Selous stated that, when standing in the open with the sun shining full upon their bodies in the early morning, these animals do appear to be white when viewed from a distance. I found this assertion absolutely correct when observing these prehistoric-looking giants in what is now the West Nile district of Uganda (then the Lado Enclave of the Belgian Congo). Not unlikely, when seeing them upon the open veld under those conditions, the old-time Dutch hunters bestowed upon these queerly-shaped animals, the name of *Wit rhenoster*, and this was generally adopted. On the other hand, the designation might have originated as a result of this animals' habit of wallowing in whitish clay, which is commonly found on the beds of pools and water-holes in Africa. When it emerges from its mud bath, the sun and wind combined rapidly to dry the clay adhering to its body. It then appears to be white when viewed from a distance.

The modern term "Square-lipped" rhinoceros is far more appropriate. It accurately describes, and clearly emphasises, the marked difference in general appearance from that of its common and smaller relative (*D. bicornis*). The upper lip of the former is square and not of a proboscis nature, like that of the latter animal. Moreover, the base of the anterior (nose or frontal) horn is square in the former variety, but round in the latter. For those reasons, I always prefer to employ "Square-lipped" when referring to the so-called "White" rhinoceros.

A hundred or more years ago the Square-lipped rhinoceros was plentiful in grassy country on the open plains of Southern Africa, between the Orange and Zambezi rivers; but it was never recorded as being found to the south of the Orange river. At the present time, the pitifully few survivors of this much persecuted species in the Union of South Africa are being protected rigorously in Game Reserves of Zululand. There were reported to be about twenty of them still surviving (1929) within the Umfolozi Reserve, a triangular area of about 75,000 acres situated between the Black and White Umfolozi rivers. By 1940, however, fears were being voiced about the survival of the species there. But the Game Conservator of Zululand stated that there were no less than 300 of them in the Reserve; while a carefully carried out census in the Hluhluwe Reserve

had revealed the presence of eighteen adults and four young calves. In addition, fourteen mature beasts and three calves had been located in the "corridor" leading to the Umsolozzi Reserve. By now it is to be hoped these numbers have increased. A few members of this rare animal can still be found in the coastal regions of Portuguese East Africa and Angola (Portuguese West Africa).

It was believed formerly that the Zambezi River formed the northern limit of the habitat of this species. But the *C. s. cottoni* form of it has been located and killed in the north-eastern section of the Belgian Congo, in the southern portions of the Sudan on the west bank of the Nile, in the West Nile district of Uganda, and in a few other isolated areas of Equatorial Africa. In no instance is this species found at any great distance from water.

There are clear indications of the recovery of this nearly exterminated form of the rhinoceros. Indeed, its strictly enforced protection in the West Nile district of Uganda has furnished most promising results. The annual report (1938) of the Uganda Game Department stated that, though actual numbers were then not known definitely, "reliable observers had recorded a noticeable increase in the species since 1935".

The District Commissioner of Madi declared that this creature was then numerous in all except the more hilly areas of the district, while calves had been noticed to be unusually plentiful in the western areas of the district on the left bank of the Nile. Major B. G. Kinloch, the present Game Warden of Uganda, stated in his annual report in 1951 that the species had continued to increase satisfactorily and its future seemed to be assured. He went on to say: "Although it is difficult to estimate properly, yet it is thought that their numbers may now exceed 300; but more optimistic observers consider that 500 is nearer to the true total."

A curious and somewhat disturbing fact was that five of these animals were found dead from "natural causes", which contrasts strangely with experience of the elephant. In so far as could be ascertained, there were no reasons for suspecting an outbreak of some kind of epizootic among the Square-lipped rhinoceros, such as the sporadic incidence of rinderpest which periodically ravages buffalo and other fauna in Uganda. Those five deaths were never explained satisfactorily.

It is known that before the advent of white colonists to Southern Africa, the Square-lipped rhinoceros was quite commonly encountered beyond the Orange river. The published records of the earliest hunters and explorers in Southern

Africa teem with accounts of the slaughter of large numbers of them. During a single day's trek with an ox-wagon it was not unusual to see anything from fifty to 100 of this now rare animal. Between 1840 and 1850 they were reported to be exceedingly plentiful in suitable localities within the Limpopo River and Lake Ngami regions of Southern Africa. None can now be seen outside the Game Reserves in Zululand or in those other scattered areas further northwards (already mentioned).

If one may judge by the books of the majority of hunters at the beginning and in the middle of the last century, this rhinoceros was slaughtered with an utter ruthlessness and no long-range considerations. For example, two hunters (whose names, incidentally, are often quoted in books on natural history) mentioned having killed ninety rhinoceros during the course of one brief shooting expedition; and the majority of these victims belonged to the Square-lipped variety. Another hunter shamelessly recorded having killed sixty of the species during one shooting trip. That is not sport, but just game butchery. As such, it is indefensible. In those early years the profitable trade in rhinoceros horns had not yet begun so there existed no excuse to slay these creatures for financial gain.

The last individual of this species known to have been shot in Southern Africa was killed in Mashonaland (Southern Rhodesia) towards the end of the past century. Thereafter, it was believed to have been extinct within the two Rhodesias. About 1893, however, it was reported as being fairly plentiful in the Logamundi district of Southern Rhodesia. This creature was suspected to have survived possibly in the Zambezi Valley until 1933, for local Africans described having seen there a few specimens unlike the *bicornis* variety of the rhinoceros—a grazer and not a browser—though without confirmation I doubt the truth of this.

The Square-lipped variety is more often found upon grassy plains or in wide valleys close to running or standing water, but sometimes it fancies heavy bush country. It feeds solely upon grass. Unlike the *bicornis*, it is a grazer or cropper and not a browser. In its massive bulk, general appearance and characteristic habits, this variety is also dissimilar. The Black rhinoceros is generally found solitary, in pairs, or as a pair with a calf; the Square-lipped form, on the contrary, seems naturally to be gregarious in habit. The latter normally associates in pairs, small family groups, or several large family parties. However, they are sometimes encountered roaming over the veld solitary, though this can be regarded as unusual. If we can

rely upon the accuracy of old hunting records, this particular species must once have made a habit of associating in considerable numbers within certain restricted areas; and the tally of the "bags" made within a brief period of time certainly indicate that this must have been the case. Such spectacles, however, definitely belong to the misty past. The wholesale destruction of the Square-lipped rhinoceros by mankind (as in the case of the presumed extinct true quagga) is a blot on the fair name of the earliest generation of hunters in southern Africa.

The peaceful and good tempered Square-lipped rhinoceros entirely lacks that pronounced display of impetuosity so characteristic of its smaller and far more irritable relative. Like the elephant, the former are adepts at contriving mysteriously noiseless but rapid withdrawals from any danger threatening them. Immediately their suspicions have been aroused they walk away silently. One moment, perhaps, a beast may be in full view of a hunter; the next, it has vanished like a wraith. Their departure, in spite of the huge bulk and weight, is as soundless as that of the diminutive dik-dik gazelle which can disappear miraculously and noiselessly in a split second.

Some years ago a District Commissioner in Uganda told me about an encounter which he had with a Square-lipped rhinoceros. In the firm belief that it intended to charge him, he raised a rifle to his shoulder in readiness to shoot and, luckily, the striker clicked harmlessly upon an empty chamber. He had forgotten to reload. When within only a few yards of him, the massive beast swerved aside and passed on its way without driving home an attack. A Black rhinoceros would have behaved quite differently.

A missionary in Uganda was driving his car slowly over a bad road when an immature member of the Square-lipped variety came out of the bush unexpectedly and started to prance about on the roadway ahead of the oncoming car. Knowing these animals to be comparatively harmless, he halted the car so as to avoid causing any injury to this foolish young beast. He became somewhat perturbed, however, when the cow appeared alongside of the calf and proceeded to sniff inquisitively at the stationary vehicle. He decided to drive on slowly. The youngster gave ground ahead of him and the cow fell in at the rear, snorting with acute resentment and following up close. This strange procession continued for a distance of about 50 yards, when the young animal turned off suddenly into the bush and was promptly joined by the clumsy cow. That was the last he saw of them.

A game ranger in Uganda also related how he had seen a bull of this species making advances to a cow, evidently desirous of mating with her; but, for the time being, the bull's love-making was roughly rejected and the indignant cow repeatedly prodded the would-be lover with her sharp anterior horn. Finally, she chased away the bull before he had accomplished his desire.

Nowadays, residents of the West Nile district in Uganda have become comparatively accustomed to encountering these enormous beasts during their journeys by car. Even so, they are sometimes given cause to entertain momentary qualms about the generally credited inoffensiveness of the species. One can never be really sure.

For example, a District Commissioner was out hunting elephants when he suddenly bumped into a cow of the Square-lipped rhinoceros, which was accompanied by a young calf. He warned the armed African game scout accompanying him that on no account must he shoot; and then waited patiently for the animals to go away. He assured the game scout that these creatures—even a cow with a calf—were harmless. He hoped to be proved correct. The cow saw (or winded) them almost at the same moment; and, presumably cautioning the calf to keep on its way, she turned towards the two men with her head down and no reduction of speed. The pace of the cow was faster than a lumbering trot. Meanwhile, obedient to the cow's signal, the small calf held to its original course and ignored the nearby presence of human beings.

Notwithstanding what he had just told the African game scout, the District Commissioner considered it wiser to slip a cartridge from the magazine into the chamber of his rifle, though he had no intention of shooting unless forced to do so in self-defence. He had enough faith in the harmless nature of these beasts to hold his fire, shift the rifle to his right hand, and gesticulated wildly with the left while shouting loudly at the cow to frighten her away. It was not until she was about 50 yards distant, he said, that the cow paid any heed to this invitation to depart, which, as the game scout had joined in, had by now swelled into a duet. But when she understood the import of the alien noises and violent gesticulations, the cow promptly turned away and followed in the wake of her calf. Both rapidly vanished from sight. If this man had not appreciated how harmless are these creatures normally, he might have thought her advance was a deliberate charge instead of a purposeful demonstration. On a number of occasions, and with various species of wild

animals, I have been afforded ample evidence that these two types of reactions must be distinguished.

Except for the elephant, the Square-lipped rhinoceros is the largest of all living terrestrial animals. An adult bull is normally from 6 feet to 6 feet 9 inches in height at the shoulder; measures from tip of snout to root of tail, from 13 to 14 feet; and the girth circumference is fully 12 feet. They are adorned with two horns. The anterior one is usually more slender, much longer, and less acutely curved than that on its *bicornis* relative. Sometimes, however, the anterior horn is straight and even inclined forward, often measuring as much as 54 inches in length. The posterior horn is generally much shorter than the anterior one. On a specimen displayed in the Natural History Museum in London the anterior horn measures 56½ inches, while the posterior one of the pair is only 23½ inches in length. Unlike the Black rhinoceros, this species carries a very prominent hump over the withers and an even larger one upon the neck; while the huge and misshapen head of the beast also differs in many respects from that of the *bicornis*.

Appreciating that the Square-lipped rhinoceros ranks among the rarest of all the fauna in Africa, I always refrained from adding a specimen to my collection of game trophies. When hunting on the west bank of the Nile, where these creatures make a habitat, I was after ivory and nothing else save shooting "for the pot". During various hunts in the Lado Enclave I must have seen more than thirty of these beasts at different times, but I always deliberately avoided too close a contact with them. It was better to avoid these creatures rather than get involved willy-nilly in an argument which was likely to compel a shot being fired in self-defence. Instead of taking the life of one of these exceedingly rare creatures, I have been amply rewarded by the intense pleasure derived from closely observing their habits.

Several times during the hot hours of a day I stumbled unexpectedly upon a small family group of the species when they were dozing peacefully in the shade cast by trees, but always gave them a wide berth rather than disturb their siesta and put them to flight. I have also watched them when feeding during the early and cool hours of a morning; sometimes in groups of three or four animals, but chiefly when solitary, a pair, or pair accompanied by a calf. On an occasion in 1907 I came upon a pair with a small calf feeding in an open glade of the bush. They must either have heard or winded me before I was aware of their presence. While they stood immobile, hesitant as to

what course of action to adopt—bolt or boldly advance, three other adult specimens suddenly dashed out from thick cover into full sight. They then trotted away rapidly from the danger zone, though if they could only have known it, the danger was only imaginary. Their flight decided the family party, which promptly lumbered off in the wake of the other three beasts.

Square-lipped rhinoceros progress at a rapid trot with the head carried depressed and the anterior horn held almost parallel with the ground. Family groups furnished an interesting insight into the maternal instincts of the females of this species. Whenever they elect to bolt incontinently, the cow always runs behind the small calf and guides it in the desired direction with the tip of her anterior horn pressed gently against the youngster's stern as occasion demands. In this way she keeps the calf under control and also safeguards it from any attack from behind. On the other hand, I have observed that the calf of the Black rhinoceros invariably follows the mother when in retreat. No one has yet been able to explain this difference in technique.

Although the Square-lipped rhinoceros is generally rated as a timid, lethargic, and normally inoffensive creature, they have been known when wounded and brought to bay to charge viciously at the aggressor. They can then prove formidable foes.

Their vision appears to be as defective as that of the Black relative. The range is limited probably to a distance of about 35 yards, though some maintain it is more extensive. I am able to testify from personal experience, however, that I found it possible to approach quite openly up-wind to within a distance of 30 to 40 yards of the *C. s. cottoni* variety without, apparently, being noticed by them. Their sense of smell is acute, probably on a par with that of the elephant; but their hearing seems none too good.

When progressing at a fast trot this animal can outdistance the majority of men running after them; but they can be ridden down on horseback with comparative ease. (I had this on the personal authority of F. C. Selous.) It is one of the chief reasons why *C. s. burchelli* fell such easy victims to the old-time hunters in southern Africa. Mostly, those men did their hunting when mounted on horses, as in the days when bison were hunted over the prairies of North America.

Kermit Roosevelt, second son of President Theodore Roosevelt, hunted this creature afoot around Rhino Camp on the

west bank of the Nile early in 1920; and he actually kept up with a group of them when making off at a fast trot. Moreover, he finally ran up alongside the bull and shot it dead. I know of no other hunter who could truthfully make a similar claim, but can vouch for its accuracy in this case as I was attached to the Roosevelt *safari* at the time when it happened. Incidentally, the place-name "Rhino Camp" owes its origin to my cabled news despatches to the United States, this being given as the place of filing the message.

An ivory poacher (Fleischer, an Austrian) of my acquaintance during the first decade of this century, when after elephant in the Lado Enclave, killed several of the Square-lipped rhinoceros. He assured me that, when they were being hard-pressed, these beasts would break into a lumbering gallop. An individual, though unable to run with a hind leg fractured by a bullet, could travel at a gallop over a considerable distance when suffering from a fractured shoulder.

He told me about an incident when he found it imperative to kill a most aggressively-natured cow of the species, which was accompanied by her young calf. After the cow had been shot, the calf refused to desert her body and stubbornly resisted all efforts which he made to drive it away from the spot. The small orphan charged boldly whenever Fleischer approached too near. Only by strenuous labour and with the help of a number of African villagers, was it possible to capture and rope the calf securely.

Other elephant-hunters in the Lado Enclave told me of identical experiences with calves of this species; and still more have mentioned somewhat similar adventures with calves of the *bicornis* variety. Indeed, it happened several times when a family party of the Black rhinoceros persisted in wrecking my *safari* while marching over the veld. They had to be wiped out in order to preserve our lives and personal effects. Fleischer told me that this particular calf of the Square-lipped variety captured by him did not survive more than ten days in captivity, but he put this down to feeding it wrongly through ignorance of the correct diet needed.

F. G. ("Deaf") Banks and Quentin O. Grogan, could both claim to share a unique distinction—having ridden for a short time on the back of a part grown Square-lipped rhinoceros. I know of no other similar episodes. For some years they were members of the small and select band of ivory poachers in the Belgian Lado Enclave on the west bank of the Nile. Both set out to capture a youngster of the species. "Deaf" Banks rode

his calf for a short distance before being thrown off, and the part-captured small beast escaped from him.

Quentin Grogan had been commissioned to capture two calves of this species for the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Although he saw literally dozens of them in the Lado Enclave, his enterprise was not successful. This was not through lack of effort on his part. Once only did he come upon a calf small enough to be manageable. At the time, however, Grogan was unprepared, being short of porters and having to move his camps by double shifts. He had with him no ropes or any kind of tackle which were needed. He decided to try and throw the youngster with the aid of a gun-bearer, who was his sole companion. He shot the cow. The calf refused to leave her body. They succeeded in driving it away for a short distance; returned to the carcase; and then concealed themselves against the cow's stomach between the fore and hind legs. Sure enough, back came the calf; a little suspiciously at first but gaining in confidence; and then coming right up to them. Grogan had arranged beforehand with the gun-bearer that he would grab hold of the ears of the calf, the African was to hold him round the waist, and then both suddenly leap upon its back. All this was accomplished in a matter of seconds. But the calf started away at a lumbering gallop, and they all went off together into the bush. Unfortunately, the young beast crashed its way through a thick clump of thorn bushes and left the two men in the middle of a bush. The calf cleared off at once, and they did not see it again.

Shortly afterwards there occurred an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United States, when the entry of all grazing animals was prohibited. As the Square-lipped rhinoceros is a cropper, Grogan abandoned the commission.

Until comparatively recent times this variety of the rhinoceros genus was about the *only* large terrestrial species of African fauna that had never been maintained in captivity. A calf intended for shipment to a zoological garden in Europe only survived for a few months at the Zoo in Khartoum. Its death was not attributed to any special difficulties experienced in keeping it alive, but almost certainly resulted from the ignorance of Africans capturing the calf in the first instance. Had it been feed and properly treated then, there would have existed a reasonable chance of the youngster's survival under expert management. But the beast was never able to recover fully from its initial treatment; it languished gradually, and ultimately died.

With a special permit granted by the Government of the Sudan before that country was granted its independence, Carr Hartley, the famed wild animal collector at Rumuruti in Kenya, captured four calves of this species; and under the conditions of his licence two of them were handed over to the Game Department of the Sudan. The other two were taken to Hartley's farm at Rumuruti to await possible buyers from Europe and the United States. While with Hartley they became absolutely tame, could be ridden by visitors, retained perfect health, and were treated as pets. Raymond Hook, of Nanyuki, also captured another small calf.

It is comforting to feel assured that today the danger of extirpation of this species has been arrested satisfactorily. During 1936 it was reported that ten specimens (*C. s. burchelli*) had been enticed into a Game Reserve of Zululand by means of a bait consisting of treacle. One would not suspect that a rhinoceros possessed a sweet tooth, but seemingly it does. The *C. s. cottoni* variety occurs only on the west bank of the Nile to the north of Lake Albert; in the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province of the Sudan; in the north-east regions of the Belgian Congo; in the Southern Sudan; and within limited areas of Uganda. As far as is known at present, nowhere else on the African Continent can *C. s. cottoni* be located with any certainty. They are never known to travel to a greater distance than forty miles from water.

In North Uganda this creature is now stated to be increasing steadily as a result of the rigorously enforced protection and this has been noted over a fairly long period of years. Specific areas in Uganda have been set aside where the species could also be safeguarded in terms of territory. Square-lipped rhinoceros sanctuaries were created, coincident with Crown Forest Reserves so as to make it possible to control them adequately.

About twenty years ago a Game Ranger of Uganda undertook to carry out a census of this species, and he reported the presence then of about one hundred individuals in North Uganda. Twelve years later he reviewed the situation once again and found that a 50 per cent. increase had occurred. It might be well to mention that the period of gestation is believed to be about sixteen months, while only one calf is born at a time; no instances of twins have been known. Thus the increase in a short span of years was heartening.

From the most recent reports available, we may feel tolerably assured that this species has been saved for future generations to enjoy watching and studying. Much hard work has been done in the attempt to repair the mischief perpetrated by the

earliest hunters in Africa, and no greater justification for the creation and continued existence of the various Game Departments in Africa could be mentioned than the outstanding achievement in saving this particular species. Men like Captain A. T. A. Ritchie (the former Game Warden of Kenya) and his successor, W. H. Hale; Captain C. R. S. Pitman (the former Game Warden of Uganda) and his successor, Major B. G. Kinlock; S. B. Teare and Major "Monty" Moore, V.C. (former Game Wardens of Tanganyika); and Colonel A. Forbes (a former Game Warden of the Sudan) have performed a magnificent service to all lovers of nature.

Anyone who has hunted in an African territory lacking a similar type of national effort at game conservation will be able to appreciate more readily what has been achieved elsewhere in this direction; far better, too, than some armchair critics of a thoroughly wise scheme in operation. At any rate, the policy followed has been proved sound in both its conception and practice.



charged by both bulls and cows at various times, and on several occasions compelled to face up to the panic stricken stampede of a large herd. Those nerve racking experiences naturally conveyed to my mind an exaggerated impression of the great rapidity of the approaching menace. Under such conditions, I venture to suggest, no man is in a proper frame of mind to estimate accurately the speed of an attack, because his paramount concern is self-preservation by killing or sidestepping the would-be destroyer. Those are the only thoughts, and well I know it, of which the brain is conscious during such tense moments.

Within comparatively recent years much valuable data has been forthcoming as a result of bold experiments carried out at the elephant farms in the Belgian Congo. Wild elephants are rounded up there by Azande *mahouts* on trained animals, assisted by others riding on horseback and men working on foot. Time and again, wild elephants have been run down and roped successfully. Even when in full flight, men on foot were able to keep up with the beasts selected for capture. They clung to the tails of those animals marked down, gradually gained mastery over them, and then roped the captives to stout tree boles.

To a lesser extent, perhaps, the speed of the rhinoceros has also been the subject of much wild and uninformed speculation. During the course of many encounters with the black rhinoceros I never once had any reasonable chance of checking up on the pace at which it was travelling. Frankly, all my faculties were preoccupied too fully with far more important considerations. I will concede, however, that the rhinoceros does convey the impression of covering the ground at a much faster rate than in reality. Opinions expressed about the speed of this ugly and stupid creature are as conflicting as those regarding the elephant. I have read emphatic statements that its speed is as high as from 35 to 40 miles an hour, the former being the most popular guess. The lower figure must be wide of the mark, while 40 miles an hour verges upon the utterly fantastic.

The rhinoceros has been ridden down on horseback on very many occasions. The pursuit was never unduly prolonged. The "Buffalo" Jones expedition in Kenya during 1910 not only rode down, but also expertly lassoed and tied up to a tree a rhinoceros bull in the Kedong Valley; and the cowboys engaged upon this "stunt" safari were riding cow-ponies imported from a cattle ranch in New Mexico. Two of the cowboys, Means and Lovelace, assured me that the feat presented no real difficulties.

But their main problem, which had to be solved afterwards, was how to release the beast to freedom on the veld.

Colonel Marcuswell Maxwell related in 1938 how an aged rhinoceros bull seemed to have been endowed with an unusual turn of speed. He paced it against the speedometer of his car over a level plain when the beast was in determined pursuit of the vehicle. Over a distance of about a quarter of a mile the rhinoceros kept up with the car, which was travelling at 28 miles an hour according to the speedometer's recording. Some time previously a rhinoceros cow had been paced similarly by him at 35 miles an hour over a longer distance but down a slight incline.

Marius Maxwell, the famous wild life photographer, estimated<sup>1</sup> the speed of a charging rhinoceros at 20 miles an hour; but I do not remember him saying how its speed was calculated. I suspect this was by visual estimate. Another car driver in Kenya recorded that his speedometer registered 35 miles an hour while keeping just ahead of a rhinoceros bull in hot pursuit of the vehicle. During 1934 Murray Blake stated that he had been chased over a considerable distance by a rhinoceros bull when driving by road from Mombassa to Nairobi. His car started at 10 miles an hour, increased to 15, and then, in spite of the rough going, accelerated to 20 before the enraged beast abandoned its pursuit.

It will be noted how these rates for the Black Rhinoceros differ, even when all were checked against the speedometer of a car—20 to 35 miles an hour.

The "White" rhinoceros is not so fast moving as its relative. I have already related how Kermit Roosevelt ran down on foot one of these mammoth creatures. Not once did he lose sight of the quarry, but the pursuit endured for about an hour in a temperature of roughly 120 degrees. It is regarded as a creditable performance for any man to run 10 miles across country inside the hour, and Nurmi's world record in 1928 was 50 minutes 15 seconds. It is doubtful if any white man could maintain anything like that speed for an hour under the severe climatic conditions that existed in the Lado Enclave. The fact that the White rhinoceros bull, though first wounded, was run down by Kermit Roosevelt indicates the speed of this creature is not especially notable. I have seen estimates quoted of 35 to 40 miles an hour for the species, but they must be fallacious.

In any case, the "White" rhinoceros is a larger and heavier beast than the common Black variety. This must necessarily

<sup>1</sup> *Stalking Big Game With a Camera* (1924).