

eye of you host by peppering him of his guests, and you will soon be able to contribute your fair share to the bag. F. d. V.

THE WHITE RHINOCEROS

SIR,—In March this year the *Times* published a letter from Sir H. H. Johnston on the white rhinoceros, in which he stated that this rare animal, which to-day only exists in a comparatively small area of the African Continent, had been removed from the list of protected animals, and, owing to the "blood lust" of the Sudan officials, its numbers in the Sudan had been reduced in five years from between 2,000 to 3,000 to less than 100. He writes that "after Roosevelt's rediscovery of the animal the Sudan Government of those days had sufficient soul and knowledge to place it on the list of protected beasts. Recently, however, the blood lust seized their officers again; protection was seemingly removed or shootists mocked at the laws, and big-game sportsmen and natives combined have in five years almost exterminated the wonderful beasts."

In fairness to the officials of the Sudan I would be grateful if you could find space in your columns to publish this letter refuting these gross misstatements, and thereby removing any misunderstanding as to the sportsmanship of these men, who, almost without exception, are the very best type of sportsmen and do more to further the interests of game preservation without publicity than some of the visitors to the country, who spend a few weeks of concentrated slaughter and then hasten home to publish their experiences.

The regulations, which have been in force since 1922, regarding the rhinoceros, both the white and black species in the Sudan, are as follows:

The black rhinoceros, which is found only on the east bank of the Nile, is entirely protected.

The white species, which is found only on the west bank, is protected as far west as the 29th degree of longitude, beyond which one only may be killed on a special licence.

Rhinoceros horns are only accepted in transit from the French and Belgian territories if accompanied by a certificate, signed by the consignor's Government, that the horn was legally acquired. During nine years (1914-1922) only 30 rhinoceroses of both species were killed by officials and visitors.

Since 1922 both varieties have been placed on the list of protected animals, and every effort has and is being made to prevent the natives destroying them. It is impossible for any man to estimate with any degree of accuracy the numbers existing in the country at the present day, but there is no doubt whatever that they are increasing, and will continue to increase, under the surveillance and protection of the "bloodthirsty" officials.

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