



THE END OF A RAIDER
(See Letter "Shooting of a Proclaimed Rhino")

SHOOTING OF A PROCLAIMED RHINO

SIR,—I was interested in your article on "Preservation in Assam," and thought you might care to have some account of a proscribed rhino.

This rhino had left the Government Breeding Sanctuary of Assam, and had settled down without a mate in the jungle close to my garden, and had lately been in the habit of making nightly visits to a village where some of my labourers live.

These beasts being Government protected animals, something obviously had to be done about it, so I wrote the sub-divisional officer and suggested a drive to try to induce the beast to go back to the sanctuary. The drive took place on the morning of Saturday, January 14th, 1933. I had two police constables with me as witnesses, and about 30 coolies, we formed a half-crescent and drove through the jungle where we knew him to be lying up. All went well for about an hour and a half; the line got close up to him, beat kerosine tins, and off he went; but finally getting fed up he stood and charged and broke up our formation.

Nobody was hurt, however, and as I had had quite enough I called off the beat and wrote the sub-divisional officer, giving him the facts of the drive and at the same time petitioned him for a permit to shoot.

The permit (proclaiming the rhino as dangerous to human life, and giving the horn, etc., to the person who shot it) was granted.

After several fruitless days, I got up to him, and heard an animal splashing about, so I completed the journey on my tummy, to find our friend in a good position only 22yds. off. He looked up, and I thought he was going to bolt, but he didn't, and he turned his head slightly away from me and took a step with his off fore, which gave me the sight of a lightish mark in his skin, at which I fired. My rifle is a 577.500, and the solid bullet went through his lungs, up his neck and smashed the base of his jaw; he stumbled, recovered himself and made off into the jungle. As he went up the bank I aimed at his spine and my rifle misfired.

After a pause we followed the blood tracks for about the length of two tennis courts, and that took us half an hour to do, and then we found him dead. I fired at him from behind a stout tree to make certain, and again this time two misfires. I quickly changed the ammunition, and this round went off O.K., and there being no movement from the foe, all was well.

The time was a little after 4.30 p.m., and now comes the interesting bit. Thirty or more coolies had arrived by this time, and we were sitting quietly when from about a quarter of a mile or more away in the jungle a weird row issued forth, and some of the coolies started for trees as they thought the mate of the rhino was on the warpath.

The noise came from half-a-dozen elephants and was not their ordinary trumpeting, but was half-squeal, half-wail, and then quiet. These elephants (also Government protected beasts) had been doing a lot of damage round about, and I have a permit to shoot one. They collected close to the dead rhino that night and then cleared off in a body. It is, however, early yet to say whether they have gone for good or if they intend to return.

Is this the normal experience for this sort of thing? I mean with regards other animals seeming to know that a jungle tragedy has just taken place?

I should very much like to have others' views on this interesting subject.

Yours faithfully,
Y. D.

Numalighur,
Assam, India.

FIFTY-POUNDERS FROM NORWAY

SIR,—In the notes under this heading in your Christmas number, you say, after recording three such fish: "It is quite likely that more were caught." It may interest your readers to hear of some of them.

Last season on the Namsen the following big fish were caught on rod and line: Four fish weighing over 50lb.; twelve fish weighing between 45lb. and 50lb.; twenty fish weighing between 40lb. and 45lb.; forty-one fish weighing between 35lb. and 40lb.

The 50-pounders were caught by the following English sportsmen: Major Whimper, Vibstad, two, 53lb. and 52lb.; Lieut.-Col. N. G. Pearson, Tørrisdal, one, 51½lb.; Mr. G. B. Bainbridge, Moum, one, 50½lb. On the Bjøra three fish over 40lb. were taken.

Namsos, Norway. Yours truly,
L. JOHANSEN.



A PROBLEM IN ACOUSTIC
(See Letter "A Goat's Ears")

A GOAT'S EARS

SIR,—While walking one day in the hills near Simla I chanced to see a goat with ears over 15in. in length, which struck me as being so unusual that I took a photograph of it.

The owner of the goat stated that others of the same kind were to be found in parts of India, but neither I, nor any of my friends to whom I have shown the photograph, have seen one before.

Yours faithfully,
H. N. O.

Simla. [The Kashmir breed of goat is noted for its long, pendulous ears.—ED.]

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