

last year in spite of all appearances to the contrary and in spite of the present critical financial situation.

ELEPHANT SANCTUARIES.

WILD ANIMAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA.

The conference held in London last week, at the invitation of the British Government, to consider the drafting of international regulations for the protection of the elephant and rhinoceros in Africa is understood to have finished its labours and to have arrived at an agreement, which, when ratified by the Governments concerned, will prove a substantial step in advance. The conference met under the presidency of Lord Chelmsford, and contained delegates from Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Portugal, all the Great Powers directly interested in Africa. It is understood to have agreed to recommend to the respective Governments the formation and maintenance of absolute sanctuaries for the elephant and rhinoceros in suitable localities. The shooting of the animals is to be permitted only on licences, the conditions of which are to be made as nearly as possible identical in the different territories. Absolute protection is recommended for the rhinoceros for a number of years, and the standard weight for the export of ivory is to be raised to 10 kilos, or over 22lb.

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