



**ONE OF THE LAST,
NEARLY EXTINCT,
SOUTH AFRICAN WHITE
RHINOCEROSSES,
IN THE UMFOLOZI DISTRICT,
ZULULAND, NATAL.**

THIS unique photograph, of which our readers have the first published view, was sent to us by Mr. Herbert Lang, from Pretoria. To the left of the bull the outline of a cow rhinoceros can be seen. When rushing up with him, she raised a cloud of dust which nearly spoiled the picture. Of the hundreds of thousands of South African White or Square-lipped Rhinoceroses (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) swarming in former days over much of the Union Territory and Southern Rhodesia, only about twenty are left alive. Unfortunately the Umfolozi triangle of some 130,000 acres, containing the last refuge of these monsters, was abolished nine years ago as a Provincial Reserve. Though they are still protected as "Royal Game," poachers cause too much havoc amongst this slow-breeding race. When, last August, a whole family was killed in a dastardly manner and left rotting in a wallowing hole, a considerable stir was caused in South Africa and abroad. The anxiety about the future of the few remaining White Rhinoceroses increased even more late in September, for the Union Government then published their intention of clearing several Zululand Reserves, including the Umfolozi area, of all game, as an experimental measure against Nagana, a pestiferous disease causing losses among neighbouring farmers' live-stock. The question was raised whether these White Rhinoceroses could not be transferred to Kruger National Park in the Eastern Transvaal. Since much doubt was expressed by experienced naturalists as regards their capture, transport, and future safety, this project has been practically abandoned. Meantime the possibility of their being wiped out has aroused the people of Natal, who realised in the nick of time what a formidable loss such a destructive measure would mean. A special branch of the Wild Life Protection Society of South Africa was hastily formed in Durban to champion these relics of an ancient fauna. Representations made to the Union Government were favourably received by the Minister of Lands, the Hon. P. G. W. Grobler, whose devotion to the great natural treasure of wild life, as the founder of "Kruger National Park," is well known. There seems now good reason to believe that Natal, by the generous assistance of the Government, will be enabled to provide for the preservation of these White Rhinoceroses in a national park. During the present Parliamentary session definite decisions are expected. In a later issue we hope to present other remarkable photographs and data of these creatures, which will show what a fine and extraordinary spectacle awaits visitors to South Africa. The future manxuary line amid charming scenery easily accessible by rail and motor-car. There is hope that the marvellous petroglyph of a White Rhinoceros published in our number of July 14, 1928, left by Men of the Stone Age as an heirloom to the posterity of South Africa, will always be supplemented by troops of its living descendants. At present they must be considered the rarest mammals in the world and an absolutely unique treasure among the gigantic fauna surviving from bygone ages. In our number of November 17, 1928, we published some photographs of exceptional interest and charm, taken along the western shores of the Nile south of Redjaf, by Mr. P. G. R. Seligman, showing specimens of the much-hunted northern race of this Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum colossi*).

AT ONLY FIFTEEN FEET FROM THE PHOTOGRAPHER THE CHARGING BULL STOPPED, AS IF TO REMONSTRATE: "WILL THIS CIVILISED WORLD PROTECT THE LAST OF OUR RACE—OR SHALL WE ALL BE EXTERMINATED?"