BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
BIRMINGHAM

Importation of Wild Animals

THE return of Colonel Roosevelt and party from Africa, with the cargo of animal specimens which had been killed during their invasion of the jungle, caused a New York dealer in wild beasts to talk interestingly of the business in which his firm is engaged. There are nearly a dozen firms in New York city that carry on an immense business in the transportation of animals fresh from the jungle. And this number, of course, does not include such immense foreign animal firms as the Hagenbacks. It is a paying business, as indeed, are all businesses where the demand exceeds the supply. The demand for wild beasts is far greater than the supply, and as a consequence prices are good, and the dealers men of wealth. The extent of this demand may be appreciated when one considers that most of the great cities in the United States have zoological parks or menageries, and that the animals are constantly being purchased by them. Then there are private collectors and circuses and the like, that are ever ready to pay the highest prices for desirable animals. The animal dealer who could secure and bring to this country three or four gorillas would make a small fortune. But no dealer has ever succeeded in doing this. The gorillas die in a few weeks in captivity; they could not stand an ocean trip for a day.

A rusty old German liner lumbers noisily into Quarantine, and then lies motionless on the tide. An officer, with broad, red, bewhiskered face, stands at the head of the companion ladder, and he smiles a peculiar smile, as a husky screaming ululation rises from below. "The animals are getting hungry," he explains; "you know we have several hundred of them on the 'tween decks. Want to see them? All right." In another minute probably the most competent animal man in the world is at our side. He is not a trainer, or even a tamer, he is more. He is a sort of animal cook, and his special business is the personal management of wild animal tours. He receives them—lions, tigers, leopards, elephants, everything else—at Hamburg, where they have been brought fresh from their native wilds, and not only superintends their shipment aboard a vessel bound for New York, but he sails with them to make sure that they arrive safely and in good health. And he sure that if the tiger gets off on his diet and needs a nice fresh live rabbit to tone up his system, this man will be aware of the fact almost before the tiger is—and, ergo, a nice big jumping bunny is sacrificed in accordance with the precepts of wild beast materia medica. Then, too, one can never tell just when the big boa is going to rouse from his last gorge; when he does he wants a toothsome young goat, and he wants it quick. It is a part of the animal man's duties to anticipate the boa's appetite with all possible expedition.

He is a quiet, unassuming man, with stoop shoulders and bushy whiskers; and he leads the way to the 'tween decks without a word. Perhaps the uninitiated may believe that a tour through the animal section of a freight-carrying vessel is an unimpressive experience. Well, let them try it and see! This can be said at the outset—it is somewhat different from a menagerie. It means something to come into close proximity to a hundred and odd wild animals that have been ruthlessly snatched from their lairs in Africa or Asia, or elsewhere, and clapped into little barred boxes, not as large as dry goods cases; slammed in and out of dark holes in the vessels of several seas on the way to Hamburg; then finally placed in the stygian 'tween decks of a German hooker.

The swinging cross seas of the North Atlantic have not improved their tempers, or their nervous systems, and the visitor at Quarantine is quickly impressed with that fact. The howls and whines and the barks cease abruptly as the strangers enter. For they bring the smell of land, and the great beasts sniff inquiringly, and hungrily, too.

The cages lined both sides of the gloomy space, with a little passageway between the boxes. Perhaps this passageway was three feet wide, not more. The cages were piled two and sometimes three deep. In the bottom cage, for instance, would be a tiger; in the next above a smaller animal, say, a leopard or a lynx, and above that a parrot, or a bunch of neerkats. Think of it! A three-foot passageway, with ferocious animals, stretched along for 100 feet on all sides. Talk about nightmares! The reporter's hair stiffened out like so many pieces of wire, and he wished most fervently that he had not come. It was more agreeable, he felt, to see these animals in a menagerie where the cages are ample and the bars an inch thick.

"Better keep in the middle of the aisle," says one of the animal men; "these fellows sometimes reach out for you."

Words such as these, of course, hardly tended to reassure.

It really was too dark to see much. One caught a view of the cages stretching away in gloomy perspective until lost in the darkness, of rows of glowing green eyes and great teeth with the flash of red tongue writhing between. A zebra switched the reporter with his tail and he turned, only to jump almost out of his skin as an elephant touched him on the other shoulder with his trunk. He was hardly over his scare when, zip! a leopard reached out after his coat tail.

In one way this lower deck section was a good place to visit; the joy and relief in being able to leave it furnished the biggest and most absorbing sensations that this monotonous world has held for the reporter in the last few months at least.

Bartels & Co., are the largest dealers in wild beasts in this country.

"A large wild animal dealer," said our informant, "imports considerably more than a hundred large wild animals each year. For instance, our record for one year which I happen to have at hand, shows that we imported in that period 20 elephants, 35 camels, 20 tigers, 5 lions, 45 leopards, 20 pumas, 18 panthers and hundreds of birds and monkeys and small things. Cubs—lion and tiger and bear cubs—are in special demand with wealthy families. They are reared and petted like kittens, but in the end they outgrow their playfulness and the families who bought them from us are only too willing to pay us to come and take them away when they attain any sort of growth. We have received many orders for hippotomi, but the beasts are hard to capture and they do not live through the voyage. In fact, menageries throughout the country have to depend of late years upon the progeny of the hippopotami in Central Park, New York, for specimens.

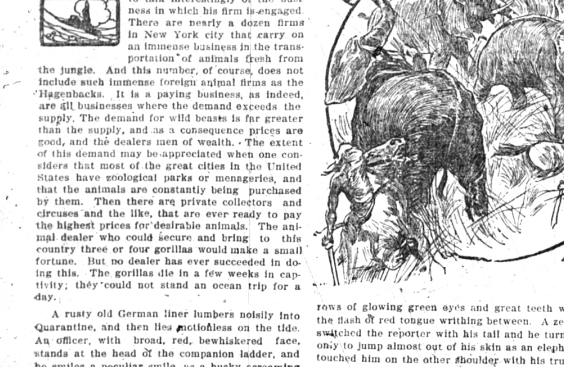
"Like all animal dealers, we maintain expert animal catchers in all parts of the world, and it is these men who fill the ships which arrive here.

The Hagenbecks have two collecting stations, one in Calcutta and the other in Aden, Arabia. From this point the animal catchers go forth and spend months in the wilds, returning to the stations with their catch. We ourselves send catchers direct from this country—at present we have men in South America, on the hot sands of Africa, in the Himalayas, and elsewhere, filling our orders. One of them was recently in Arabia on a camel hunt, two are now in the East Indies trapping tigers, and so they are spread about in places where wild beasts abide.

"Sometimes we receive an order for a large number of elephants. We telegraph this order to our catchers in the elephant country, who, after organizing the natives into a hunting band, proceed to collect the desired number. A huge inclosure is built in one of the main elephant paths, and at night when the big animals come to feed they are driven into the inclosure or keddah by means of fires and shouts and the firing of guns. Beaters on tame elephants then ride into the inclosure and rope the beasts, and in a short time they become accustomed to being led about. Elephants are naturally mild, and were this not the case they never could be captured, because of their great, hulking strength.

"The natives also captured elephants in pits, a barbarously cruel method in which more than 50 per cent are killed by the fall. The animal catchers take tigers and lions in pits also. They dig a hole, cover it with matting and place on this matting a dead goat. At night the lion or tiger steals from his lair, sees the goat and springs upon it. The matting, of course, gives way and down into the pit goes the roaring beast. Then the catchers run up and throw nets into the pit and the struggling animal soon becomes hopelessly entangled. Nooses are then lowered into the pit and the beast is dragged out to the cage. Six out of every ten are killed in this process. Leopards and jaguars and the smaller animals are caught in traps just as mice are caught, and monkeys are also trapped. Such great beasts as the rhinoceros and the like are not captured by the animal men, but are secured from native potentates, who give them away as a mark of special esteem or barter them for brass and other trifling but showy gewgaws.

"We take comparatively few lions from the wilds now. It is cheaper to buy them in captivity. Polar, grizzly and Russian bears also are mainly bought and sold in captivity; but only a few wild beasts are taken in their lairs."



FOOD IN LONDON IS CHEAPER.

"For many years," said a man who came back from a European tour the other day, according to an exchange, "I have been in the habit of getting into an argument with friends after my return about the prices of food in the best restaurants in New York and London. I have been contending that New York restaurants were putting up their prices all the time and some of my friends have tried to convince me that you could get a meal cheaper at the higher priced restaurants in New York than in London.

"I determined this time to collect some real data for comparison and as a result I have kept the bills of many meals I had in London. It is my intention to duplicate the meals I had over there at some of the restaurants here, item for item. I did this with one of them the other day and demonstrated that for such a meal London is a lot cheaper than New York.

"Here is the bill for a luncheon I had at one of the most expensive hotels in London:

	s.	d.
Hors d'oeuvres varies	0	9
Pilaffe of sweetbreads	2	0
Asparagus	2	0
Cheese (Neufchatel)	0	6
Coffee	0	6
Beer	1	0
Totals	6	9

"Now, six shillings ninepence at $4.885 to the pound is $1.65. As for the dishes themselves they could not have been surpassed anywhere. For the hors d'oeuvres I had a dozen different dishes to select from.

"Did you ever find hors d'oeuvres varies on the bill of fare of a New York restaurant? Try it. Of course you may get them at a table d'hote, but I mean on the carte du jour of a restaurant where you pay separately for each thing you eat.

"In Paris there is a restaurant in the Avenue de l'Opera, where you can have about twenty different varieties of little fish and cold salads and appetizers for about 15 or 16 cents. It took me a long time to find this in a first-class house here, and then when I did so it was in a restaurant which is not usually considered among the most expensive in the city. Here hors d'oeuvres varies masqueraded under the title of 'buffet russe.' They charged me 50 cents for it, as against the 18 charged in the London restaurant.

"My pilaffe of sweetbreads tasted exactly like that I had in London and cost exactly the same, 50 cents. I ordered some asparagus. On the bill of fare they had asparagus with Hollandaise sauce for 40 cents, but I wanted it cold, with French dressing. They did not tell me it would be any more, but for it they charged me 70 cents. For the Neufchatel cheese they charged 20 cents and for the coffee 15. The robbery came on the beer.

"In London if you want a little pitcher of beer they serve you an excellent brew of Pilsener or Wurzburger in a little sealed vessel holding a pint for a shilling. I asked the waiter to bring me a small pitcher of beer on draught, knowing they did not serve the beer as in London. He brought me a pitcher and charged me 70 cents for it.

"Now my bill came to $2.65, or exactly $1 more than the same food and drink had cost me in London. I gave the New York waiter a quarter and he scarcely nodded. I gave the London waiter sixpence and he thanked me so that I could hear him."

CONDITION PRECEDENT.

"The religion of some people is too lenient," said Bishop Heslin in a recent address in Nantucket.

"Some people suggest to me, in their view of religion, a little girl whose teacher said to her:

"'Mary, what must we do first before we can expect forgiveness for our sins?'

"'We must sin first,' the little girl answered.—Nashville Banner.

UNFASHIONABLE EVENT.

Among other events, we shall have a sack race for ladies. Professionals barred.

"What do you mean by professionals?"

"Those who have been wearing tube gowns."—Answers.

Hats On or Off in Church

Public Advised to Exercise Patience Until the Day of Cartwheel Headgear Is No More.

Press and pulpit are still harping on the one string in the fruitless effort to diminish the size of women's hats, in other words, to regulate the fashions in women's headgear. Male correspondents are also having their tannings in the endeavor to solve the knotty problem of persuading the fair sex not to follow style, but to follow man's idea of what the women of the country ought to wear. These combined efforts, however, will have as much effect upon womankind as Mrs. Partington's endeavor to keep back the ocean with a broom. Fashion rules supreme, her votaries are legion, and will follow her dictates, whether it be large hats or small hats, switches, coronets, puffs, "rats" or curls. The masculine gender might as well hold its peace. It will do the world no good to rail about women's hats; women will have their own, way in this matter, let public and press scold as it will. One clergyman was foolish enough to state for publication that "big hats were a hindrance to the salvation of souls." Let him bar his pews to the fashions of the day in women's gear and he will have very few souls to his credit. The only sensible remark made by a clergyman on the subject is attributed to a New York divine who said women may wear hats as large as they desire in his church, "if necessary a woman may have a whole pew to herself." Exercise a little patience, friends, the styles will shortly change, when small hats and big sleeves will return to bother us.—Millinery Trade Review.

The Test.

"Doctor, my wife has lost her voice. What can I do about it?"

"Try getting home late some night."

Real Estate Exchange

OF WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL

Exchange Bank Birmingham Michigan

The following is a partial list of Farms, City and Village Lots, and Real Estate generally which we have for sale. As our list is constantly changing we request that parties will write us if they do not see what they want in this list.

5

Elegant house, and lot 61 feet front by 99 rods deep (6 acres) on East Maple road, with city water and every modern convenience—furnace, bath, etc., all in good condition—for sale at a bargain. Will exchange for a good piece of property for portion of the purchase price.

297

Whitest exception, the finest farm for stock dairy or fruit-farming in the country. On the line of the Rochester electric R. R. 12 miles from Detroit. 2 flowing wells; good of nearly an acre of shade trees; running water in pasture lots; 2 acres clover, 3 acres timothy, 3 acres oats, 2 acres corn, 2 acres potatoes, 2 acres meadow, 1 acre orchard, 1 acre garden, 1 acre currants and raspberries; 2 acres pasture; 2 acres wood; 2 acres timber, 340 rods of fencing; 2 miles to school; 1 mile to church; 1 mile to creamery; 1 mile to cheese factory; 1 mile to milk station; 1 mile to express office; 1 mile to telephone; 1 mile to telegraph office; 1 mile to electric station; 1 mile to steam railroad station; 1 mile to steam railroad switch; 1 mile to electric railroad switch; 1 mile to electric railroad station; 1 mile to electric railroad switch; 1 mile to electric railroad station; 1 mile to electric railroad switch; 1 mile to electric railroad station