

TWO WOMEN WHO RUN BIG FARM IN AFRICA; IT PAYS

Story of Five Years on a South African Tract — Began with Small Capital and Developed Place — What Farming Life There Offers as a Profession for Women.

(New York Post.)
"We, my partner and I, are, so far as I know, the only women farmers in Rhodesia. An English woman, who until some five years ago was the head mistress in a large public school and is now on her way home after a trip through the United States, was the speaker.

"My friend had lived in Africa for several years when the record was broken out. Her services as a nurse in the hospital were so appreciated that she was advised to return to England. She had been there only a few months when physicians advised her to return to Africa and live in the open air as much as possible. We had been friends from our childhood, and as I had decided on giving up teaching, I went with her. After a few days I was told about in the colonies for a time, and finally decided to have a home of my own. We bought land which was entirely unimproved, and have done all that has been done in the way of making a farm of it. Of course, in the first step was building a home. In Rhodesia the farm houses are very different from what they are in other sections of the globe. Ours, which are somewhat better than those on the majority of farms in Rhodesia, are built of wattle and daub.

"To the untitled English ear, wattle and daub means nothing, and I suppose Americans are equally ignorant. Any one who has travelled in Africa will tell you that the framework of such huts is made of stems of small trees, daubed with a thick coat of mud. The mud is baked by the sun, and becomes almost as hard as cement. The roofs are formed of thick grass mats. When the wattle and the daub are laid on, the mats are closely woven and thick enough, such huts make the best sort of houses for the tropics.

Keeping Out the Ants.

"The interior, both the floor and the walls, are of baked mud. What always strikes a stranger in South Africa, is seeing people daub a hut after it has been painted. These observers ask every purpose. The reply to both questions is, 'White ants.' So far as we know out there, the green paint is the only thing that will keep the white ants from wood. In our own farm home, which is composed of a group of nearly a dozen huts, every article of wood in the furniture as well as the buildings, is painted green. It is a soft shade of green, and is most grateful to the eyes in that climate.

"My partner and I made almost every article of furniture in our Rhodesia home. In the drawing-room we made every piece, with the exception of her violin, the piano, chairs, tables, book-shelves, and cabinets, and we also painted them all green. The effect is really charming, for we have seen enough on the walls to relieve the monotony of the dull gray of the baked mud.

SMOKING AN ILLUSION

A physician who had been an inveterate smoker has discovered—or at least he has the evidence of his senses which incline him to the belief that he has discovered—that tobacco is tasteless and scentless, and that the pleasure of smoking is both an optical and a physical illusion. He has a physician's aversion, on ethical grounds, to the use of his name, and beside he is reluctant to give as his conclusion that which he learns only from his own evidence to the contrary which he may not have accumulated. What he says about tobacco refers to tobacco when used by a smoker. All smokers agree that the tobacco or the smoke has flavor and sweet odor if it is good. They say also that there are different kinds of tobacco. This physician points out that there must be some mistake here, at frequently there will be a violent dispute between veteran smokers as to the grade and character of a particular cigar or a given brand of tobacco. To one it will be the essence of purity and a delight, and to the other cabbage and quite as obnoxious.

The kinds of tobacco that the rough workers, users of clay pipes, smoke almost exclusively may be worse than brown paper to one who might be said to have a more cultivated taste. The doctor raises a question about the cultivated taste and wonders if it is not pure assumption.

"Why is it," he inquired, "that an inveterate pipe smoker will break a cigar up and smoke it in his pipe in preference to smoking the cigar as it is? That kind of smoker will tell you that he gets nothing out of the cigar. The cigar has lost its flavor for him. The railroad track laborer smokes a heavy juicy pipe, and would find gagging if they tried it. The track laborer drinks it in after his evening meal, when he has the spirit to contemplate it, as if it were the breath of heaven. No doubt it has all the fragrance to him that a 50c cigar has to the smoker who smokes 50c cigars.

"I have known men who had the 50c cigar habit—no one particular brand, but a number of brands graded at that price. Now, to these men a perfectly good quality tobacco, and the two for a quarter, which are the best that most of us can afford to buy, except on state occasions, were simply not tobacco at all, but simply some half-smelling weed.

"Take your own case, the case of the run of men who smoke two for a

nearest town. He is our overseer, works in the fields with the natives, attends to the herding of the cows with the natives, and, indeed, leads them in everything. When he is not under the shade of any convenient tree or shrub and slumber until he returns.

"Native women are just the same in the work about the house. They will go to sleep and sleep for hours at a time, if we do not watch them. Before that I obtained a young English woman to take my place with my partner, temporarily, of course, but now we have determined to keep her as a sort of working housekeeper. Both my partner and I have all we can do with the other branches of the farm, so some one is needed to look out for the house. We do all the buying of machinery and other supplies, and the disposing of our produce.

Farming as a Profession.

"Besides the usual farm products we sell the products of a rather large dairy for that section of the country. We also market vegetables, and in time will have fruits and poultry. Everything goes to the nearest town and fetches good prices. Our farm comprises a tract of five thousand acres of land, though we have only a small part of it under cultivation. There is a good river running through the center of the land. Our tract is one of the few in that locality on which the herds do not have to be driven a considerable distance for water during the dry season. This all came from my partner's knowledge of the country. She had lived in Africa long enough, and had had sufficient experience to know the importance of a good water supply.

"We have had numerous women consult us about farming as a profession. Though we have not made a fortune, we have increased our capital and have what strangers consider a thriving home and what we know to be exceedingly comfortable and healthful. We never advise a woman to begin with less than five thousand dollars' capital in Rhodesia. We had not so much, but if we had had we would have been much better off today. As it was, we had to get our heads slowly, most of it in the nature of an increase. Our farm implements were not what we should have had if our capital had been larger. While it has been pleasant, every article of the problem on a smaller capital, I am not sure that many women would enjoy it.

"So I say: get a good capital to start with, get a good overseer and a good working housekeeper. With those three essentials, farming in Rhodesia is an ideal life for women, provided they are fond of living and working out-of-doors. As to dress, any woman who hopes to make a success on a farm must either shorten or remove her skirts altogether. My partner wears a regulation hunting suit out of doors, and I follow her example to some extent. In the house, of course, we don our skirts and dress as prettily, and as near the fashion as our purse and opportunity will permit. We have plenty of neighbors, but in order to keep them awake it is necessary to have whites work with them. The only man on our farm—I mean white man, for the natives are 'boys'—is a slighter than old youth, who came to us from the

WHEN A WOMAN FITS GOING

Saves More Than Half Price of Dressing by Doing Her Own Dressmaking — How to do it.

The woman who can make her own clothes saves far more than half the price of a gown, for the dressmaker's bill frequently exceeds the cost of the material. It is not only on the first coat that money is saved, for if a woman is capable of making over a dress she can frequently remodel a gown and save buying a new one. To insure success in her sewing she should supply herself with every convenience. No man would think of attempting any kind of work, so poorly equipped as is a woman who is making dresses. It is a wonder that more dresses are not spoiled when all that her kit of tools comprises are needles, thread, thimbles, scissors and a sewing machine.

With the equipment that most women have it is almost an impossibility for the home dressmaker to fit herself. If she has no one to help her. She may be able to manage a waist by confined trying on, which requires infinite patience, and a great amount of time, but she can not hang a skirt on herself successfully. How often a woman will exclaim: "Oh, dear! If I could see this on some one else I could make it right."

With very little expense and a day or two of time, you can easily fit a form that will be an exact representation of the center of the land. Our tract is one of the few in that locality on which the herds do not have to be driven a considerable distance for water during the dry season. This all came from my partner's knowledge of the country. She had lived in Africa long enough, and had had sufficient experience to know the importance of a good water supply.

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BRIGAND INFESTED PERSIA

The forty years that have gone since Nasr ed Deen's first visit to Europe must have brought a good deal of change in the realm of the shah-in-shah. Of one thing we may be fairly assured, says the Montreal Gazette, that no modern ruler of Persia would date his reign with the death of those atrocious ministers of Nasr ed Deen: in his youth, he is said to have been subjected to much humiliation by a jealous father, who banished him to a remote province where, nominally governor, he was in reality a prisoner, constantly watched by spies, and in other ways the victim of the agents of paternal malice. For these servile ministers of his father's hatred Nasr ed Deen had in store a terrible retribution, when his day of power arrived. The initial act of his reign was that once he had the chief functionaries of the province where he had endured such unworthy treatment were tortured and put to death. The eyes of those unhappy people were, says Mr. Beatty-Kingston, "torn from their sockets, conveyed to Teheran in a bushel measure, and put out at the feet of the shah, who, as I was assured, vindictively, spurned them with his foot as they lay before him."

In 1873 the shah traveled as an Englishman. Mr. Beatty-Kingston gives an animated account of the effect on the Persian monarch and his princely court of the sight of the British flag. He had been sent to meet and escort him to Dover. "The wonder and awe of my Oriental fellow-passengers as these sea-giants drew nearer amply repaid me," says Mr. Beatty-Kingston, "for a sleepless night and many other inconveniences that I suffered while dancing attendance upon the shah through a fortnight of exceptionally trying weather." Nasr ed Deen learned some of the lessons by his European travels. When in 1890, he fell by an assassin's dagger, he left to his son a monarchy which only firmness, foresight and gradual sacrifice could save from disintegration and aggression.

Changes were, indeed, in store for the Persian monarchy, which were no more foreseen than other events in the development of Asia, which have given food for thought to reflecting men everywhere. But, nevertheless, the conditions which prevail in Persia have, in some respects, undergone little improvement in made only too clear by an account recently published in the London Times of a journey in the Southern Provinces. In olden times, as we read in an ancient book, a traveller to a Persian city, far from the capital of today, was guarded by an angel. Ages afterwards an adventurous Venetian trader pushed his way through Southern Persia and the invasion of that region by the British, no safer than they had been a millennium and a half before. Marco Polo and his companions were, in fact, assailed by brigand bands of robbers, who did not escape. And now, after centuries, which have been centuries of progress in other parts of the world, the account that we read of Southern Persia is anything but reassuring.

"From Ispahan south to the Gulf," says the special correspondent of the Times, "there is at present no road for the ordinary traveller. Both the Bahktiar road to Mohammerah and the Shiraz route to Bushire are at the mercy of the brigand bands of robbers, who delight in looting and suffer no caravan to escape them." He was told, on reaching Ispahan, that if he went on without escort, he would be taken from the capital, and some of them might be taken to the Gulf. If, however, he would wait a few days he might be able to go safely to Bushire by accompanying the new governor of Persia. This high official had just reached Ispahan with 500 men, two Swedish officers, and four Russian guns. When he moved southward

years the company held complete sway in the Arctic regions. Wonderful stories are told about the exploitation of the Labrador fur trade. The Labrador Indians, among other inhabitants of that far northern land, were the means by which valuable furs were brought down to the trading posts. Europe was the great purchasing center, as well as the point for distribution.

Then certain Americans began to see commercial opportunities. Labrador, although part of the continent with the United States, seemed as far away as the Orient. Besides, the Hudson Bay Company was looked upon as being so irrevocably entrenched that it took a good deal of courage to invade that company's territory and enter into competition.

Communication with Labrador today is far in advance of what it was a quarter of a century ago. The first gasoline launch, in fact, did not reach the trading posts until four years ago. To the Indians the coming of the carless craft was little less than startling. They were convinced finally that far from being an enemy, the motor boat was meant to be their friend, in that it facilitated traffic and would bring them bigger returns on their produce.

To those who are accustomed to think about Labrador as a barren country it will be a pleasant surprise to learn that there is considerable farming going on there today and the hay crop in season is not behind what is found on farms in a more southern latitude. In the principal trading settlements there is increasing interest in all that appertains to agriculture, and many products formerly brought entirely from outside now are raised in the country itself.

LABRADOR HAS GREAT FUTURE

At a time when it is being discovered that Labrador holds out agricultural possibilities little dreamed of a generation ago, the invasion of that region by Americans some years since renewed interest, because of the effect of the American initiative upon the present and future development of the British possessions.

The Hudson Bay Company has a history replete with adventures and expeditions and money-making. For many

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Was Helpless—Now Well.

Trenton, Mo.—"About two years ago I had female trouble and inflammation so bad that I was literally helpless and had to be tended like a baby. I could not move my body or lift my foot for such severe pains that I had to scream. I was very nervous and had a weakness.

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