

New Animals In Africa

A remarkable addition to the world's knowledge of natural history has been made by Sir Harry H. Johnston, British Special Commissioner for the Uganda Protectorate in Central Africa.

Ten entirely new animals have been discovered by this explorer. Their pictures and descriptions will have to be added to the textbooks used in our colleges and schools. Scientists will find work to do for years to come studying these specimens of natural history within living memory. They raise their discoverer to the proud position of the first scientific explorer of the day. They illustrate the difference between such an explorer and Stanley, a fighting explorer, who would doubtless have passed most of these animals without observing their peculiarities and without securing any specimens of them.

The most remarkable discovery of all was, of course, the okapi, now scientifically named the Okapi Johnstoni. This animal, which combines the most remarkable peculiarities of the giraffe and the zebra with others of its own, is the most brilliantly colored four-footed creature alive.

Prior to its discovery naturalists would have refused to believe that such an animal, bigger than a horse, brilliantly colored, living in large herds, existed unknown to man.

Besides the okapi, the principal animals discovered by Sir Harry Johnston are a five-horned giraffe, a new kind of genet (an animal distinctly related to the cat), an ant bear, with a remarkable nose and tail; a singing ostrich, a three-horned chameleon, a white-bearded chimpanzee, a white-faced gnu, a colobus monkey, with side whiskers, and a gray striped kobus or antelope.

The explorer also discovered a new race of pigmies living in the most inaccessible regions of the great Uganda forest. These pigmies seem to be as much like apes as men. They are called the "Wambatus."

During one of the excursions into the forest Sir H. Johnston's head native follower pointed out, high up in the branches of a tree, a moving object, which appeared to be a gorilla. The Commissioner was almost in the act of firing at the creature when he was stopped by a warning cry from the native, who said it was a man-monkey. On nearer inspection the animal-like figure was found to be a typical pigmy, armed with a bow and quiver full of arrows. On seeing the white stranger he uttered a peculiar cry, and jumping from tree to tree like a monkey, disappeared in the dark forests beyond. He was pursued and shortly overtaken, and on being assured of friendly treatment was induced to join the party. He was about three feet high and had massive limbs, a scrubby beard over face and breast, while the body was almost naked. He finally consented to guide the explorer to a district where numerous pigmy bands were living. This afforded an excellent opportunity for obtaining valuable information as to pigmy habits and customs.

Most of the pigmies in the forest interior dwell entirely in the trees, where they are secure from beasts of prey and their negro enemies. The boa constrictors are their worst enemies. They have no fixed abode and are continually roaming about in search of food, which consists of the raw flesh of animals, which they kill, and wild berries. They do not cultivate the soil and consequently go where hunting is good and food is most abundant. One of their most astonishing characteristics is their abnormal appetite for food. They eat three times as much as will satisfy a full-grown man. One was seen to devour sixty large bananas from a stalk, all at one meal, besides quantities of other things. In consequence of this habit they have a distended stomach.

The pigmies are lighter in color than the regular African natives, having a coppery hue. They keep by themselves and do not intermarry or mix with other tribes. Their average height ranges from three to four feet the women being a trifle smaller in stature. It is estimated that a million or more of these tiny beings inhabit the great equatorial forests of Africa. Few of them live for any length of time when brought into the outside world, being averse to light and sunshine. The pigmies have no religion and apparently no family ties or affections, asking nothing more than to be let alone. Possessing no records or traditions of the past, they stand today lowest in the scale of human beings.

The majority of the animals obtained by Sir Harry Johnston were shot in the heart of the great Uganda forest, the largest uninvaded game region in the world. It is equal in extent to all the New England States

including Maine, put together. This immense territory, hemmed in by mountains and covered by dense forests and tropical growths, has been for centuries the undisturbed retreat of countless wild animals, who have lived there undisturbed by the arms of the white man.

It has lately, however, been included within the territory governed by Sir Harry Johnston, the most enterprising British official in Africa. He has plunged into the wilderness and revealed all its secrets.

All the drawings and descriptions of the animals discovered by Sir Harry Johnston have been laid before the Royal Geographical Society of London and the members of this learned institution are now engaged in studying their proper place in the animal kingdom and in deciding their relationship, if any, to known animals. As will be seen hereafter several of Johnston's specimens are related more closely to extinct prehistoric creatures than to any living one.

A large part of Uganda lies at an altitude of 4,000 feet and the climate at all times of the year is no warmer than a cool English June. There is but little variation of the seasons, and the animals live a pleasant and easy existence in this favored spot.

It was while camping in the district of Mboga that Sir Harry Johnston obtained his first view of the wonderful okapi, browsing with several members of his family upon a distant hill. Although these animals are extremely swift-footed and keen-scented they are so ignorant of man that the explorer was easily able to approach them and shoot four.

The okapi has colored stripes somewhat like those of the zebra on his legs and a long neck like a giraffe. His nose is very sharp and delicate.

Besides the combination of the features of the giraffe and the zebra in this animal, its most astonishing peculiarity is that some of its markings are bright red and others purple in color. Excepting in this animal such brilliant colors are only found in birds. The explorer's own description of the okapi, which he sent with a picture of it to the Royal Geographical Society, will give the best idea of its coloring:

"I have done this painting with the utmost care from the skin while it was in a fresh condition and have used it to assist me in delineating the exact shape of the head and to obtain the true color scheme, and the result is a faithful representation of this wonderful new creature. I wish to emphasize the color feature of this animal. I cannot remember ever coming across the skin of an animal having bright red in it. The general coloration of the skin is of the most extraordinary kind, and if the skin was not in evidence it might be thought to be an invention of my imagination.

"The following is the description of this new creature, together with its marvelous coloring: The cheeks are yellowish white and the tapering muzzle a blackish-brown. The forehead is a most vivid red, narrowing down into a thin black line, continued along the ridge of the nose to the nostrils. The long ass-like ears are of a deep reddish-brown with silky black fringes. The neck, shoulders, stomach and back are a deep reddish-brown, which in parts has almost a crimson tinge and in others blackish. The hind quarters and hind legs, down to the hocks, and the front legs from the elbow to the wrist-joint are boldly striped in purplish black and white, the white having here and there faint touches of orange. The hind and front legs from the hock downward are of a creamy color; a bold black line runs down them in oblique manner. The fetlocks of all four feet are black and cream-colored. The tail is bright reddish-brown, with a black tuft at the end.

"The nostrils are two long slits and completely covered with hair, while the lips apparently taper to a point. Being a true ruminant there are no front teeth in the upper jaw. The front teeth in the lower jaw are so small and feeble as to suggest the idea that the creature, like the giraffe, uses a prehensile tongue for furnishing food for the molar teeth to grind. If this is not the case, then the rather long lips secure most of the animal's nutriment, which consists of leaves. The build of the okapi is rather heavy in case of the male; the female is more slightly built. The creature is found only in the densest parts of the forest and travels in pairs. It is inoffensive and very easily killed or captured."

Dr. Selater of the Royal Geographical Society has expressed the opinion that the okapi is not related to the zebra, in spite of its stripes. He

thinks it is most nearly related to the Helladotherium, a form of giraffe hitherto only known in the fossil state and regarded as extinct.

Almost equally remarkable was the gigantic five-horned giraffe, the tallest animal in existence, which Sir H. Johnston shot one day.

Next in interest among the new animals is the brilliantly-colored three-horned chameleon. This strange creature has three long conical horns on its head projecting upward and forward. They give it a most ferocious and repulsive aspect. The body is covered with large granules intermixed with many tubercles. All these little divisions are of varying shades of color and this animal possesses in an extraordinary degree the chameleon's well-known power of changing its color to suit its surroundings.

Probably the most remarkable example of the monkey family caught by Sir Harry Johnston in Uganda was the white-bearded chimpanzee. It is entirely different from any known chimpanzee.

On another occasion the explorer shot a large anthropoid ape standing five feet high and evidently of a new species, but resembling the gorilla.

While exploring Mount Ruwenzori, which is 20,000 feet high and has just been found to be the highest African mountain, Sir Harry Johnston discovered another new animal in the shape of a new species of the genet. This animal is related to the civet cat, but the new specimen was twice as large as any previously known species. It measured six feet long, including the tail.

The new gnu discovered by Sir Harry Johnston is a sort of buffalo standing about eight feet high and having a broad head with a muzzle of great width fringed with long bristles. The face is white, which differentiates this animal from the known type. The neck has an erect mane and the long tail is covered with black hair. The horns are cylindrical and set on top of the skull, curving slightly backward near the tip. This gnu is an extremely wild animal.

The curious ant-bear discovered by Sir Harry Johnston is nine feet in length, having a nose three feet long and a body and tail each of the same length. With this gigantic nose and a tongue of proportionate length, he is able to eat 10,000 ants in a minute.

A most remarkable discovery was

that of the singing ostrich. Of all animals the common South African ostrich is the most silent, rarely uttering any sound except a hoarse cry under the influence of fear or great excitement. The Uganda ostrich, on the other hand, has an enormously developed larynx or voice box. This organ is very plainly visible in the upper part of the bird's throat, which looks as if the ostrich had swallowed a thick section of pipe and was unable to get it more than half way down.

The ostrich's voice has the power of a steam siren, but fortunately it possesses some of the melody of the true singing bird. Nevertheless it is impossible to sleep with any of these birds in the neighborhood, for they make the welkin ring with their choruses. They exist in large droves of fifty or a hundred in Uganda. Their feathers are much handsomer and larger than those of ordinary ostriches, and they would be of great value in the market.

Uganda comprises six provinces and covers an area of 150,000 square miles. This territory was first brought to the knowledge of the world by the explorers, Speke and Grant, in 1862. Henry Stanley was the next visitor, who, in 1875, passed through that country and succeeded in persuading the savage King Mutesa to allow the introduction of missionaries. But they never established themselves in the interior.

King Mutesa died in 1884 and was succeeded on the throne by his son, Mwango who caused Bishop Hannington of Eastern Equatorial Africa to be killed shortly after he entered the forbidden country. The vicinity of this king's house was always blood stained with the constant slaughter of wives and slaves. He beheaded his wives for forgetting to shut the door and pages were horribly mutilated for treading on the tail of a pet dog. By Anglo-German agreement a British protectorate was formed in 1894 over the kingdom. After long warfare Mwango, who was constantly causing uprisings, was finally expelled from the country. Since he has been exiled Uganda has enjoyed peace.

About one-fifth of Uganda is covered more or less densely with rubber-producing trees. There are also several species of the real gutta percha trees. The samples of the rubber sent for examination to England have brought 75 cents to \$1.25 per pound,

roughly prepared. Some of the other products of marked commercial value are coffee, gum copal and shellac. The land is full of fiber plants: cotton and indigo grow wild, as well as sugar cane. Vegetables of all kinds and fruit trees grow and flourish everywhere. Wheat, oats and barley are grown. In 1894, before British rule, some 800 miles of difficult country separated the kingdom of Uganda from the nearest port—Mombasa.

The journey from Mombasa, on the east coast, to Uganda occupied some three to four months and had to be accomplished mainly on foot, and every river on the route had to be forded or crossed by swimming. At present a railroad comes within ninety miles of Lake Victoria Nyanza, in Uganda, and the intervening distance has been covered by a good road. A steamship has been put together on the lake, so that the mails now reach the heart of Uganda in less than twenty-eight days.

Uganda, it will be seen, is quite a land of wonders, and it possesses an extremely enterprising administrator in Sir Harry Johnston. After he had put the political affairs of the country on a satisfactory basis and had established good relations with the people, he started out on a thorough scientific exploration of the unknown interior, especially in the vicinity of Mount Ruwenzori, and obtained the remarkable zoological results already enumerated.

Will Dance Next Week.
The members of St. Andrew's society have decided to have a little dance next week principally for their own amusement and a few of their most intimate friends. It will occur on Friday evening, February 28, probably in the A. B. hall, though the latter point has not been fully decided upon. A meeting of the society will be held at the Empire hotel tomorrow evening to arrange the details. The affair will be strictly invitation and the number issued will be limited.

If your clothes need pressing, cleaning or repairing see R. I. Goldberg, The Tailor, at Hirschberg's.

For Sale.
THREE-QUARTER interest on lower half, left limit hillside, 27 Gold Run, at a bargain. Apply R. N. Robertson, Log Cabin Hotel, South Dawson.

EMIL STAUF

REAL ESTATE, MINING AND FINANCIAL AGENT
Agent for Harper & Laidlaw, Ltd.,
Harper's Addition, Mining Claims,
The Imperial Life Insurance Company
Collections Promptly Attended
Money to Loan
Gold Dust Bought and Sold
N. C. Office Bldg., King St.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

LAWYERS

PATTULLO & RIDLEY - Attorneys
Notaries, Conveyancers, etc.
Rooms 7 and 8 A. C. Office Bldg.
WM. THORNTON - Barrister, Solicitor,
Notary Public, Commissioner of
the Admiralty Court. Office, Post
Office, Rooms 3, 4 and 5. Telephone 10.
Box 863.

SOCIETIES.

THE REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS
of the Yukon Lodge, No. 79, A. F. & A. M.,
will be held at Masonic hall, King
street, monthly, Thursday, on or
before full moon, at 8:00 P. M.
J. A. WELLS, W. M.
J. A. DONALD, Secy.

...J. J. O'NEIL

MINING EXPERT

Quartz mines examined and
reported on. Correspondence
solicited.

Address - General Delivery, Dawson.

Regina Hotel

J. W. Wilson, Prop. and Mgr.

Dawson's Leading Hotel

American and European Plan
Cuisine Unexcelled. Newly
fitted. Throughout—All Modern
Improvements. Rooms
by the day, week or month.

2nd Ave. and York St. Dawson

HICKS & THOMPSON

PROPRIETORS

FLANNERY HOTEL

First Class Accommodations
Warm, Comfortable and First
Furnished Rooms. Excellent
Well Cooked Meals.
BOARD BY DAY OR MONTH.

Hicks & Thompson STAGE LINE
HUNKER AND DOMINION
Freighting to All Creeks

INVEST BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

Lone Star Stock Is the Best Investment
Ever Offered to the Public.

We claim we have the mother lode. Can you deny these facts. The mines are situated at the head of the two richest creeks on earth—Eldorado and Bonanza. Gold is found on every claim on Bonanza creek, and on Victoria Gulch to the quartz mines. If it did not come from this ledge, where did it come from?

The gold found in the creek is the same as that found in the ledge.

The gold is found in slide matter on Seven Pup. Where did it come from?

The best pay found in Gay Gulch is at the head of the gulch, below the quartz mines. There are eight gulches heading at the Lone Star mines. They all carry gold. Where did it come from?

Lone Star stock is the best investment

ment ever offered to the public. Buy now. The books will soon be closed and you will be too late. Don't let the man who knows it all tell you that there is no quartz in this country. The fools who make that statement have no bank account, which is the proof of their wisdom.

Every placer camp in the world turned into a quartz camp.

Cripple Creek was a placer camp. The men who knew it all were there. They made the same statement. A carpenter found the quartz after the wise men had left.

Have you ever visited the Lone Star mines? If not, you have no right to even think. Go up and satisfy yourself. Yours for business and a quartz camp. LEW CRADEN.

LONE STAR MINING AND MILLING CO.

LEW CRADEN, Acting Manager.