

Chased by an Ostrich

(By J. Alden Loring.)

dent that happened to any member of course of their work they break to flag the bird, or to announce to us the Roosevelt African Expedition oc- through the surface in order to push that the race was over and that we curred to me before we had been in out the earth that they have ex- had won the prize of \$400. Africa a week; I was chased by an cavated. ostrich. The ostrich was not a wild It was a gently rolling country, and one, for the wild birds are far too the only trees in sight were the scat-cunning to do anything so adventur- tering ones along the edge of the in twenty yards of the tents, threw ous. We saw them feeding in pairs river where our camp was pitched. and small groups on the veldt, but I had set one trap and was on my peated the antics that he had gone they were too shy to be easily knees, digging into another mound. through a few minutes before. Finally approached.

val. It was a member of a fine flock noticed the Kikuyu boy driving the flock. he had reared from eggs brought him flock of ostriches from the enclosure by the natives. He valued the old and starting them off to pasture.

At night, Percival kept the os- saw that an enormous cock bird had triches in a kraal-brush enclosure, - left the band, and was heading in our have Sir Alfred Pease ludicrously to feed on grass, while a Kikuyu boy Of, course I had a gun ania rifle stood guard. The native was armed with which to protect myself, but the Youth's Companion. with an eight-foot pole, at the end of \$400 that I would have to pay if I which was a wide crotch. This stick killed the bird made me reluctant to he used to protect himself when an kill it. ostrich became ill-tempered and at- I jumped to my feet and looked in tacked him; he would push the fork some perplexity at the gun-bearer against the bird's neck, and hold the "What shall we do?" I said. "Run?" creature off it until became discour-

aged and was willing to "be good." disagreeable habit of running up to a and so he replied with the only Engperson, bowling him over with a blow lish word he knew:

or limbs, or great gashes cut in your away the shot gun. flesh by the bird's strong feet.

warn greenhorns of the danger from over my shoulder, and saw the ostrich tremendous breaking of trees, branches mish population, is almost the hub of the tame ostriches, and as one of Perci- swinging over the ground at a grace- and ram-pikes about five hundred dogs universe. Fur News. val's birds was noted for its trucu- ful trot; his wings were half-raised larger growth of trees. In all his lent disposition, our party had been and at every step his body rose and twenty-five years hunting Mr. O'Neil properly cautioned.

mained there only long enough to put they saw us bearing down on them the river to the railroad track. Three where we made the first camp, we rethings in working order, and then rode across the veldt for half a day to Sir Alfred Pease's ranch.

All along the route we saw, thousands of animals. It seemed impossible that in this age there could be life was so abundant. Herds of zebras, hartbeests, Thompson's gazelles and wildbeests, in separate bands and sometimes mingled together in one great herd, were feeding on all sides.

The wildebeest is a remarkable animal. Some herds are so shy that it is almost impossible to stalk them. Others seem full of spirit of playfulappearance. if trying to induce him to join them in a frolic

Doctor Mearns was once pursuing on horseback a wounded animal, when a herd of wildebeests joined in the chase, and for half a mile ran by his side, tossing their heads in the air and bucking and kicking as if they were thoroughly enjoying the hunt.

that I wore, seemed to intoxicate him It was a gently rolling country, and with ecstasy; the foolish old bird was a scarcity of water at Sir Alfred's place and his shooting box was too small to accommodate us all, Doctor Mearns and I and most of the porters camped at Potha River, about four miles away.

Three-quarters of a mile behind the camp was Percival's place. In the evening of our first day at Potha, he do not know; I was too busy watching came down and asked us to visit him for the green covers of the tents, to and see what a typical East African ranch was like. On the way I noticed pumerous small earth mounds tha looked as if they had been blown up by our Western pocket-gophers.

Now, my special work with the expedition was collecting small mammals, and naturally when I discovered these mounds I became interested. Early the next morning I shouldered a bag of steel traps and, with my rifle and shotgun, made for the spot where I had seen the gopher workings the evening before. I wore a green shirt, which was supposed to serve the double purpose of being invisible to animals and of tempering the rays of the powerful tropical sun.

We arrived at the spot, about four hundred yards from Percival's house and I began digging into a burrow

distance the finish of the race. When at last we came within shouting distance of the tents, I tried to call, but I could hardly make a sound I turned to the gun-bearer and by signs made him understand that I wished him to attract attention. He shouted long and loud. The porters came swarming from

Presently I heard him shout, and I

Although he could not understant

taking a deep interest in the race.

that I could read his thoughts:

ulousness of our position, together

twisting his head and neck about as

if he were ready to burst with

laughter.

himself flat on the ground,

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their tents, and the uproar of laughter that broke from the crowd still tings in my ears. Not one of them offered to come to our assistance, they just stood there and laughed. with a long case-knife, with the intention of setting a steel trap in the Cunninghame, however, darted back underground passageway. The ani- into his tent, and reappeared with a mals live a subterranean life, and ap- large towel. Running toward us, he Probably the most amusing inci- pear above ground only when in the waved the towel in front of him as if

loom up ahead. But I do know that we put two hundred yards between us

and the bird before he again started

after us. We were so near the camp

that the wildebeests had veered off, and now stood watching from a safe

As we entered the camp, amid uproarious mirth of the childlike porhimself on the ground again, and re-My gun-bearer, wondering, no doubt, he tired of it, and, rising, went to The ostrich that gave chase to me what new kind of white man I could feeding about the veldt as if nothing was a huge bird that belonged to an be, stood by, watching my actions. had happened. Soon his keeper ap-Figlish settler by the name of Perci- Glancing up from my work I peared and drove him back to the

During constantly reminded of that experience, and time and again was obliged to tell the story. But what wounded my sensitive feelings most was to and early each morning let them out direction in a very significant manner. cartoon the episode, and ask me to inscribe beneath it my feelings at the time and then to sign my name.

Fight With Enraged Moose

(Moncton Transcript) John O'Neil, the well known Monc-

Kent Junction to visit his old hunt- a large number of exemptions. Almost ing grounds and try his luck for deer English, he must have known by my A cock ostrich when peevish has a tone that I was asking a question, and other small game. He was armed with a number 12-inch double barrel the public streets, though valuable anshot gun, and went into the woods on imals are never allowed to run loose Tuesday afternoon, down to the of his foot, and then dancing on him.

"Yes."

Unless a man has one of those forthed poles when he is attacked by of traps, but snatched the shotgun. The gun-bearer grabbed the rifle, and an ostrich, he is likely to be seriously the took with him from his forther working terriers, show terriers to their working terriers, show terriers be fortunate enough to see a deer, he loaded his gun with two bullets, the only two he took with him from his forciers' journals and go everywhere. It injured by the bird's powerful kicks. off we started. It was fully half a pack. He stayed at the river till fanciers' journals and go everywhere. It In such a case the best thing to do is mile over the gently rolling velit to dusk. On his way out he had to is the home of the Sealyham breed of ter In such a case the best thing to do is mile over the genery to him to do it he genery to he will be a supplied to the genery to him to do it he genery to he will be a supplied to he will be a supplied to the genery to he will be a supplied to he will be a supp pounded black and blue, and badly we could reach it, but the thought of ing often filled his water bottles there nel recently sold by auction realized £200 having a fractured skull, broken ribs speed. Yet I did not dare to throw ing excursions. Around this brook but £250 is not an unusual price for a for a distance of some yards there is single dog, while £60. £70, and £80 are a dense growth of young alder trees almost common. The quaint old town, We had a lead of three hundred and other small bushes. Before com-It is the duty of safari managers to yards. At intervals I looked back ing to this brook Mr. O'Neil heard a yards away where stands a much sank as if it were resting on springs. declares he never heard such cracking A herd of about twenty-five wilde- of trees by moose. He was unable to beests were just ahead of us; when call. An old portage road leads from they divided to let us pass. Then they men, one of whom was Mr. Warman, the game warden of Kent County, lined up on each side, about a hundred yards away, and dashed along had passed along the road about five minutes ahead of Mr. O'Neil. They parallel with us, tossing their heads, saw a big bull moose, and not being bucking and frisking, and evidently armed, they tried to fright n him off. for all kinds of Harness work and Boot The moose was a good distance away but seemed to show fight, and the It was plain that the ostrich was men immediately left the vicinity. not exerting himself. Perhaps he Mr. O'Neil was hurrying along the thought it would be more fun to run road so as to get a glimpse of this us down and tire us out than to end denizen of the forest, as by the crackthe race by a sudden burst of speed, ing of the trees he considered him to be a formidable beast. When going With each stride, his feet reached out up a slight incline in the road anlike those of a race horse, and as he other big bull stepped out of the drew near I saw that his bill was thicket on to the path, about fifteen half-open. With his extremely small yards from Mr. O'Neil. This was the big bull seen by the three men rehead mounted on his snake-like neck, ferred to. ness, and will caper about a hunter s his open mouth gave him an idiotic apparently waiting to try conclusions with the other big fellow that was a choice line of rushing his way. Seeing Mr. O'Neil, When he was within forty or fifty he roared, as only an enraged bull yards of us he suddenly began surgcan, tossed and poised his immense ing back and forth, and it seemed antlers, preparing to charge. It was a battle to the death, Mr. O'Neil having no rifle to kill big game, was in "I've got you. You can't get away" a very precarious position, being And he did have us. But the ridic-

alone, and not even a large tree He fire and luckily hit the sight. with a nearer view of the green shirt moose directly back of the ear, and felled him to the ground. The full soon regained his feet, still roaring and charged again, when Mr. O'Neil fired his second and only bull t lifted his wings over his back, and which passed through the monster's began rocking from side to side, and lungs. The animal fell a second time, but regained his feet and hobbled away into the thicket. Lighting a match O'Neil looked among his ammunition for a stray bullet, but could find nothing but cartridges.

How long he continued to act so 1 Undaunted, he dropped his gun, and armed with a small hunting knife, ne gave chase. He had only the light of the moon to guide him, and after sev eral minutes search he saw his victim on the ground in a position as if to rise again. On looking closer, O'Neil saw that one of its front feet was thrown back in such a way that the moose could not quickly rise. Mr O'Neil then sprang on the animal's Pints, Quarts and Two Quarts back, grasped the immense antlers and quickly dispatched him with his

bunting knife. The antiers have a spread of fully fifty-three inches in width, with twen-ty-three points, which are now on exhibition in Mr. O'Neil s great furnishing store, 611 Moin Street Moncton. The carcass, when dressed and viewed by old moose hunters, was declared one of the finest ever seen in that section of the country. Mr. O'Neil having already several mounted heads, only brought back the antlers from which he intends to have made an unique chair.

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