

# AFRICAN IVORY

HOW SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND ELEPHANTS  
ARE KILLED EVERY YEAR FOR  
THEIR TUSKS.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

**Z**ANZIBAR—Sixty-five thousand elephants were killed in Africa last year, and more than a million and a half pounds of ivory were taken from them and shipped off to Europe. Of this fully one-third came from Zanzibar, another third from Portuguese East and West Africa, and a large part of the balance was from the valley of the Congo. Cape Colony furnished a hundred thousand pounds, Egypt three hundred thousand pounds, and a large part came from the Niger territories and Lagos. During the past six months I have been traveling through the lands of ivory and elephants. I saw tusks for sale in the Egyptian Sudan. At Mombasa I was shown \$50,000 worth of ivory in one pile, and during my travels through Uganda and German East Africa I passed many long lines of porters carrying elephants' tusks on their heads or tied to long poles, which rested on their shoulders.

## A GREAT IVORY MARKET.

Zanzibar has for years been one of the chief ivory markets of the world. There are companies here which have their buyers and traders scouring German and British East Africa, as well as the Portuguese possessions, farther south. These men take beads, cottons and other merchandise to trade with the natives, and when they have accumulated a cargo they send it on the heads of porters down to the seacoast. Much is now coming to Lake Victoria, and over the Uganda railroad to Mombasa. A great deal goes to Tabora, in the center of German East Africa, and thence on east to Bogomojo on the coast opposite Zanzibar, while other caravans bring ivory to Mogoro and it is sent thence by railroad to Dar es Salaam.

There are herds of elephants about the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, and the hunting goes on in the forests of the Great Rift valley. In British East Africa it costs \$50 for the right to shoot elephants, and a hunter dares not to kill more than two during a season. It is against the law to kill the baby elephants or cow elephants there, and the same regulations prevail in Uganda. In the British Sudan a license is required to shoot any kind of big game, and this is also true of British Central Africa. In German East Africa hunters are charged a few rupees for their elephant shooting licenses, but they must pay a royalty to the government on all the ivory they get. As it is there is considerable profit in the business, and in the German colonies a good hunter often makes big money. A single elephant may give tusks worth a thousand dollars and upward, and an old bull may produce three or four hundred pounds of the choice ivory.

## AFRICAN IVORY THE BEST.

This African ivory brings the highest prices in the markets. It is superior to any other in the size of the tusks. I have seen some which are nine feet long, and there are some which weigh as much as 200 pounds each. The average weight of a tusk is much less than this, and one of 100 pounds is quite valuable. In India the average tusk does not weigh 50 pounds, but that of the African elephant is much heavier. Many of the tusks are broken when they are brought into the market. The elephants use them for plowing up roots and tearing down trees, and also for fighting their enemies. The average tusk is strong and elastic, but it can be broken, and the ends are sometimes snapped off. Ivory tusks are always sold by weight, and the traders tell me that in buying them of the natives they have to be careful to see that pieces of iron or bits of stone have not been driven into the hollows of the horns to make them weigh more.

**PULLING AN ELEPHANT'S TOOTH.**  
Many of you have been in the hands of a dentist and have seen how he almost breaks your jaw in pulling a molar with a long root. The tusks are really elephant's teeth, and it is difficult to get them out of a dead elephant. They are fitted into a bony

socket, and the roots go almost up to the eyes. A tusk eight feet long may have two feet of its root imbedded in the skull, and if it is taken away at the head end it has to be chopped to pieces to get it out.

In addition to the tusks the elephant has six great teeth inside its mouth on each side its jaw above and below, and these are almost as firmly imbedded as the tusks themselves. The tusks are hollow about half way up. The smallest forms a big load for a man, while one weighing 150 pounds requires four porters to carry it. Such men are paid from 3 to 5 cents a day for their labor, so that the cost of transportation is not heavy.

## DEAD IVORY.

Have you ever heard of dead ivory? There is a vast quantity of it still left in Africa, and thousands of pounds are shipped to the ports every year. Dead ivory comes from animals which have died a natural death, or from tusks which have been gathered by the chiefs of the villages and stored away. Ivory has always been an evidence of wealth in Africa, and some of the petty African kings have piled up ivory as our misers hoard money at home. Some of them have buried it near their villages and others have made stockades of ivory tusks about their dwellings. During recent years some of such ivory has been gathered together, but there is said to be much buried yet to be unearthed. In addition to this is the ivory of the elephants which have died natural deaths. This is composed of the enormous tusks of aged elephants which have dropped in their tracks or have been killed by lions and other wild beasts. Their bones lie where the huge animals fell, and the earth and leaves have covered them so that they are frequently hidden from view. I am told that the pygmies have killed many elephants with poisoned arrows, but not knowing the value of the tusks, have left them lying idle where they fell. Some of this dead ivory has been injured by the forest fires, but that imbedded in the mud or covered over with vegetation is still of great value.

## ELEPHANT MEAT.

I met the other night an old elephant hunter who has made thousands of dollars in ivory. He has not only shot elephants, but eaten them, and he tells me the meat is not at all bad. A good sized animal often weighs as much as five tons, and when one is killed the natives come in for miles around and have a great feast. They cut up the huge beast with axes and knives and tear the meat off in strips and smoke it as we smoke beef. They make elephant steaks and roasts, and they cook the trunks and feet in holes in the ground. The foot is considered a delicacy. It is prepared by making a fire in a hole and laying the foot on the burning coals. Some sticks are then placed over the mouth of the hole and a layer of green leaves is spread upon them. Thick deposit of earth is placed on top and the meat is allowed to cook and steam for several hours. After it is taken out the skin is removed, when the jelly-like interior is ready for eating. I am told that it is so tender that it can be scooped up with a spoon. The ordinary elephant steak is black in color, and when cooked it looks and tastes a little like corned beef.

## A GREAT IVORY TRUST.

The European nations which have colonies in Africa are trying to keep the elephants from being destroyed. This is especially so of Belgium, which has some of the best ivory monoliths. A great part of the ivory still living are in the valley of the Congo, and so many have died that it is expected that ivory will grow more valuable from year to year. It is now the amount sold brings in millions of dollars, and most of this comes from the auctions at Antwerp. In that city there are several hundred thousand pounds of ivory on hand, and sales are made about four times a year. These sales are duly advertised and buyers from everywhere come in to attend them. The other chief markets are Liverpool and London.

During a recent visit to the Colonial Museum at Brussels, I saw one of the earliest elephant's tusks ever found. It beside it it reached high above my head. The biggest ivory tusk ever discovered was brought to Tabora, in German East Africa, in 1836, and was shipped from there to Hamburg. It was

The Ivory Markets of Africa—Live Ivory and Dead Ivory—Pulling An Elephant's Tusk—A Great Ivory Trust and Something About Mammoth Ivory—New Movements in German East Africa—Queer Natives of Tabora and Shirati, on Lake Victoria.



AFRICAN IVORY BRINGS THE HIGHEST PRICES.

Photographed for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.

almost ten feet in length.

The ivory dealers here tell me that the best of the ivory goes to America, and that the second and third class tusks are consumed in Europe. The fourth grade ivory is sent to East India for filigree work, and the poorest of all goes to China, where it is used for inlaying furniture and boxes. The very best quality of ivory is employed in making piano keys and fan sticks, and also for the little statuettes cut out by the Japanese. Much of the product goes into billiard balls, knife handles and combs and fancy articles. During a visit I once paid to Sheffield England, I was shown about \$100,000 worth of ivory which had been brought there to be used for knife handles, and I saw them sawing up the tusks into strips for this purpose. In such work every scrap of the material is saved, the shavings and dust being valuable for making ivory black or artists' pigments.

## MAMMOTH IVORY.

Some of the most remarkable ivory used within recent years is that which has come from the mammoths found in the tundras of Siberia. This is from huge animals which lived ages ago, but whose bones, protected by the frozen soil of northern Asia, are as good today as when the animals died. It is even said that in some cases the entire carcasses of the mammoths have been found, their frozen flesh, skin and hair having been thus kept for these thousands of years. The first of this frozen ivory was found over 300 years ago, and about 70 years since the annual output was estimated at over 100,000 pounds. It is said that more than 1,000 mammoth

tusks were sold in the year 1872. At present the greater part of said ivory is going to China. It does not compare in quality with our elephant ivory, the greater part of it being poor, while some is absolutely worthless.

## ZANZIBAR VS. DAR ES SALAAM.

The Germans are now competing with the British for the transcontinental trade of Central Africa. The old slave route began at Ujiji, on Lake Tanganyika, and came across German East Africa to Bogomojo and thence by boat to Zanzibar. The slave traders loaded their slaves with ivory tusks and made them carry them across country. When they got them here they sold both slaves and ivory to the Zanzibar merchants. In such cases many of the slaves were female, and were used to supply the harems of Arabians, Syrians and Turks, as well as of Egypt and other Mohammedan countries of North Africa. Such merchandise was known as black ivory, in contradistinction to the elephant's tusks, called white ivory. Since Germany has gotten possession of the mainland opposite here the ivory trade has been diverted to Dar es Salaam, and a large part of the product now goes there. This trade will increase with the building of the railroad which is now being pushed on toward Lake Tanganyika. It will go to Tabora and from there probably on to Ujiji, with a branch to the Victoria Nyanza. The shipping of Dar es Salaam is rapidly increasing. That port has a good harbor, and the largest steamers are now calling there.

The Germans are rapidly exploring their colonies, and they are finding

some strange things away out here in the African wilds. They have aboriginal slaves, and they are divided up into many nations and tribes. Some of the most intelligent are about Tabora, and it is from there that the colony expects to get the labor to cultivate the plantations along the seacoast. The natives of that region have a king and subordinate chiefs, and women are so highly regarded that they are sometimes elected as the chiefs of their respective villages. These people believe in spirits, and they think that the dead live again, as spirits. Every chief has a hut in which the spirits are supposed to dwell.

They have medicine men and witch doctors, and they think that a good medicine man can change him into a wild animal at will and thus torment his enemies.

## EDUCATION OF THE NEGROES.

The Germans are ruling these people to some extent, and they are establishing schools to teach them. The missionaries are also at work in different parts of German East Africa, and the government has high schools and manual training schools with European teachers who use colored assistants. This work is just in the beginning, but it promises to grow. Fifty-two colored teachers are already employed and the schools have several thousand pupils.

There are but few whites in the interior of that colony, and almost none excepting officials. In Tabori there are eight foreigners, of whom six are military officers. In Ujiji, on Lake Tanganyika, there are only four white men, two are civilians, one being a doctor and the other a trader. At Usambara, at the head of the lake, there are four Europeans, and at Bismarckburg on the southern end there are only two, both of whom are officials. At Mwanza, on Lake Victoria, I found about 20 Europeans equally divided between the military and civil branches of the government.

## AMONG THE WASHASHI.

There is a queer town on Lake Victoria belonging to the Germans which I have not mentioned in my previous letters. I called there during my tour around the lake. It is known as Shirati, and it lies near the boundary of British East Africa. The country about it is beautifully rolling. The hills slope gently up from the lake, and upon them stand hundreds of thatched huts, an Indian business section and a fort belonging to the Germans. The people are somewhat like the Kavirondo and a little like the Masai. They are dark brown in color, are well formed and of a good height. I talked with one chief who was fully seven feet tall, standing like a giant above his fellows, who averaged, I judge, about five feet six.

The Washashi, like the Kavirondo, do not worry over their wardrobes. Those I saw were almost naked. Many of the women had only a string of beads about their waists, and some wore fringes of beads two or three inches long hanging from their waist belts. The men were often clad in a single goatskin, which was shifted so that it covered now the back and now the front of the person. All wore jewelry. I saw many dandies who had on great

coils of wire, and one whose arms and legs were wrapped with brass wire the size of a lead pencil. Another man had coils of this wire on his upper arm and that so tight that the flesh seemed to be growing over them. I counted the strands on one woman's calf. It had 18 parallel strands of the thickness of a lead pencil, from whose the swelling began to the knees. Otherwise, the lady was bare to the fringe apron which ran around her waist.

Many of these natives had shields of enormous size, made of skins fastened to a framework and painted in bright colors, and they had head dresses of ostrich feathers which looked odd in contrast with their nude bodies beneath. They all carried spears, and were celebrating a war dance.

The houses of Shirati are round huts with thatched roofs and walls of upright sticks chinked with mud. The interior of each house is divided into two compartments, one for the men and the other for the cattle. The cooking fire is made in the center of the hut, the blaze being usually started by means of friction, just as our Indians made fire before Columbus came. The people sleep on the ground, using pillows of wool.

Outside many of the huts I saw granaries. These are tall, round wicker work baskets made of cane or plaited rushes, chinked tight with cow

dung. They are raised upon poles a foot or so from the ground, and have conical roofs of thatch. There is a little door at the top of each granary, through which the corn is put in or taken out.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

## G. B. BURHANS TESTIFIES AFTER FOUR YEARS.

G. B. Burhans of Carlisle, Centre, N. Y., writes: "About four years ago I wrote you stating that I had been entirely cured of a severe kidney trouble by taking less than two bottles of Foley's Kidney Cure. I am now able to do my work, and I am glad to say that I have never had a return of any of these symptoms during the four years that have elapsed, and I am ever indebted to you for the cure. I am ever, Sir, your obedient servant, G. B. Burhans. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co., 'The Never Substitutes'."

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GEN. HENRY GRANVILLE SHARPE.

Gen. Henry Granville Sharpe, the commissary general of the United States army, was made a brigadier general in 1905, and since that date has been stationed in Washington at the head of the great supply bureau. General Sharpe was born at Kingston, N. Y., in April, 1858, and was the son of an army officer. He graduated at West Point in 1880, but resigned in 1881. He re-entered the army that year as a commissary captain and steadily rose in the branch of the department until made its chief. He was noted for the ability he displayed in providing for the needs of our troops while the troubles lasted in the Philippines and also organized the supply work in Porto Rico and this country when the Spanish war broke out.

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Today it is almost an impossible thing to get a tan order filled, as the wholesalers are pretty well sold out and factories are starting on next season's business.

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See List of  
General Re-  
ductions on  
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Yours Shoely  
**HIRSCHMAN'S**  
SHOE PEOPLE.

106  
South  
Main  
Street

## INCREASED COST OF MAINTAINING ROADS

The following information concerning the increased cost of the maintenance of English roads in recent years, out of all proportions to the increase of population, etc., is furnished by Consul Frank W. Mahlin of Nottingham:

The causes of the increase in cost of the maintenance of rural English roads are two. The changes in the character of vehicular traffic and the enormous increase of the traffic. On the Nottinghamshire roads, it is officially stated, there are ten vehicles now where there was one twelve years ago. Central counties like this seem to be the worst sufferers in this regard, for they catch outside travel from every nook of the compass. An official record indicates that about four-fifths of the automobiles traversing the main roads of this county are from other countries. The average cost per mile of maintaining the Nottingham county roads was \$225 in 1891, \$276 in 1901 and \$322 in 1907. Thus, while the cost increased but \$1 in ten years under former traffic conditions, it increased \$46, or 17 per cent, in six years under the present conditions.

Reports regarding some other counties show a much lighter cost and a greater rate of increase than in Nottinghamshire during the same few years. The cost of maintaining all the roads of Hampshire is said to have risen in ten years from \$126,000 to \$310,000. The foregoing figures are astonishing, but they partly to be derived from official records. The total cost of maintaining the rural roads in this county last year was \$107,000, an increase of about 17 per cent during the last decade. The increased cost of road maintenance for all England since 1900 is stated to be about 20 per cent per mile per annum. A most vexing problem for road officials is what kind of road to make. Ordinary macadam is displaced by the spongy weight of traction vehicles, but is claimed by many drivers to be the best kind for horse traffic. Smooth composition roads seem durable for motor vehicles, but are objected to by many horse drivers as slippery and dangerous. At present no kind of road appears satisfactory to both elements, but experiments are being made in this county which it is hoped will eventually result in satisfying the reasonable requirements of every kind of traffic.

## QUICK RELIEF FOR ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Foley's Honey and Tar Food immediately relieves asthmatic sufferers in the worst stages and if taken in time will effect a cure. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co., 'The Never Substitutes'.



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