

WHAT SALT LAKER SEES IN AFRICA

Orson M. Rogers Writes Interestingly of Ostrich Farming in Cape Colony.

SOMETHING ON FEATHERS.

The Big, Ugly, Ugly But Extremely Valuable Birds As They Really Are.

The "News" has received an interesting letter from Orson M. Rogers, a young Salt Laker who is filling a mission in Cape Colony, South Africa. Mr. Rogers wrote the letter in Port Elizabeth and it tells of ostrich farming and other things equally as novel. The letter follows:

"Ostrich farming forms one of the chief industries in South Africa. When properly carried on it is a source of wealth to the farm owners, but there are of course cases of failures, as there are in all other pursuits. But on the whole the owners of ostriches are among the wealthy people of the country."

HAVE GOOD DIGESTION.

"An ostrich farm may be the size of Liberty Park or ten or twelve times that size, or more, and is enclosed by a wire fence. It may seem strange to people at home to think birds are kept in pens by only a string, but there are two, but that is all it takes to confine ostriches to the limits of a man's property. Large tracts of land that seem no good for anything else are just the places to raise this kind of birds. It makes no difference whether they be on the land the cactus, aloe, or merely weeds and shrubs. Anything that is all over the land and makes things look somewhat impure, is good to eat, aside, makes good food for the ostrich.

"A good sized farm has several hundred ostriches. They require very little attention or care, and don't need elaborate barns or sheds for their protection. In fact, about the only improvement a man need make, is the fence, and a good roof for plucking the feathers. Up to date we have not been instigating incubation to raise more birds than they otherwise could, and some plant and other grains that the birds will thrive better.

HUMAN OSTRICHEES.

"It is interesting to see young ostriches hatched in pens. They are born with a mother to take care of them, and to lead them to the feeding grounds, so, in the absence of a real mother, a little kaffir is substituted. It is an uncommon sight to see a little girl with her brood of 15 to 20 ostriches to rear. They soon learn the sound of her voice, and recognize her when she comes. If it should start to rain, the human foster mother would call the feathered children to her, and would then lead the little things to shelter. The little kaffir stays with her family of birds all day, only leaving them when they have gone to sleep. She would then go back to the nest, eating for a few minutes, and then go back to the nest again. It is necessary for the young negroes to care for their charge for a few weeks, or until they become large.

EGGS SELL READILY.

"Feathers do not form the only source of revenue from ostriches. The eggs are sold in great numbers, mostly in wholesale lots by bakersies. For culinary purposes ostrich eggs are mixed half and half with ordinary hen's eggs. Too strong to use alone, they make very rich eggs when so used. The bakers pay on an average 18 cents apiece for ostrich eggs. The smaller ones cost 12 cents each, while the larger ones cost the equivalent of 18 to 20 cents. They are good for a few minutes, but the larger ones are good for a few hours.

"An ordinary ostrich lays more eggs than a common hen, and sets on 16 to 20. They hatch in 42 days. The first three of four eggs laid are not good for hatching. They are called "fat eggs," and the hen absolutely refuses to set on them. She will lay only one of the rest, having nothing to do with them. For cooking purposes the fat eggs are as good as any, and look exactly like fertile eggs to a man, but if they are smugged into the nest, the hen will detect it and will angrily kick them out.

BIRDS ARE VALUABLE.

"Ordinary ostriches are worth about \$50, but thoroughbred prize takers, for breeding purposes, are worth from \$2,000 to \$5,000 a pair. The birds are plucked for the first time at the age of nine months, the feathers being only good for feather dusters and similar articles. Then they are plucked every nine months thereafter. The male is more productive of feathers for plumes, he having white and black feathers, but the female bird does not have good plumes. An average plucking is worth \$25 to the owner, but exceptional cases are worth many times that.

FEATHER TRAFFIC BIG.

"The buying and selling of ostrich feathers is an extensive business and is carried on much like mining stocks. Port Elizabeth is the center of the trade for them, and so vast is the amount of business done that there has been a large hall, about the size of the National Guard armory in Salt Lake, erected for the feather market. The feathers are bought by auction, bidding going on from a few shillings to several guineas. In the last sale over \$14,000 (\$17,000) worth of feathers were sold weekly. Buyers are here from the principal cities of the world, so the competition is quite keen, but although this is a center for the feather industry, and the most important place of production, good plumes cost nearly as much as in Salt Lake City, that is, by retail.

EXPLODES OLD STORY.

"You have all read in your geography books how ostriches are run down by men on horseback, and how, when they are nearly caught, they will bury their heads under the sand thinking because they cannot see they are not seen. I think you should know that that is a myth. I have talked with many men who have chased ostriches for business, and who know as much about hunting ostriches down, probably, as anyone, but I have yet to see a man who can confirm that old geography story. The ostriches will keep on running until they are caught, but according to the men who ought to know, they will never bury their heads in the sand of any other place.

SOMETIMES DANGEROUS.

"They say, however, that ostriches are very dangerous birds. Many men have been killed by them—literally torn to pieces by the infuriated birds. During the last month or two, however, the birds are very dangerous. They will not allow anyone to come near them or the nest. One can help it. They have only one means of attack, which is effective when they can use it, by striking with their great



BIG FISH STORY FROM CATALINA

Deep Sea Inhabitants Afford Rare Sport to Two Salt Lakers.

FOUGHT A SHARK ALL DAY.

At the End Phil S. O'Mara Landed It And Won Gold Button in Light Tackle Club.

Ostriches have two toes on each foot, and one nail and one great, large toe with a big claw, or hook, on it which they can once strike. They have a huge hook of a toe they tear him all to pieces, but they can strike only straight to the front. When men have to go near them, they take a long stick with which to grab the neck, which is an ostrich's tender spot. They strike them when they are vicious that are striking them to see if they will stand, and then they are led into a stall and firmly held. It is a dangerous occupation to pluck ostrich feathers, and men so engaged, have to be on the alert to save their lives. The birds are swift, and are hard, and are able to swim far great distances. They never chase men out of the field, seeing to give great sport in so doing.

STATE ST. HARDWARE FOR LAWN MOWERS, HOSE AND POULTRY NETTING 232 STATE.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

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