

# Roosevelt

## The Hunter



AS A ROCKY MOUNTAIN HUNTER  
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BRINGING IN THE GAME



MR. ROOSEVELT'S  
AFRICAN SHOES



ON HIS FAMOUS BEAR HUNT  
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**E**X-ASSEMBLYMAN THEODORE ROOSEVELT shot a 1,250 pound grizzly bear in Dakota yesterday.

This item was printed in the newspapers Dec. 29, 1894. In view of all that has occurred since that date, and thinking about what is liable to take place in Africa and Egypt in the twelve months ahead, the item looks insignificant. But it is an intimation to the hunter who is soon to enter the lairs of the ferocious. The story of the killing of the Dakota grizzly is worth retelling, for it was written by the ex-assemblyman in a letter to one of his friends. Condensed, it is as follows:

Mr. Roosevelt and his cowboy struck a hot trail not far from the ranch cabin. As the trail got hotter even the ex-assemblyman became excited. He heard a growl. Instantly he brought his gun to "present arms." His eyes glared at the bear alone. That's my bear. I'll shoot you if you shoot first. The bear sat up on his haunches and took notice. It was his last look. Bang went the gun of the ex-assemblyman. Down went the bear.

The language addressed to the cowboy by the ex-assemblyman rankled in the cowboy's breast. He reproached the bear killer for the words. What followed was characteristic of Roosevelt. He apologized. Not only that, but he presented him with his rifle, holster, cartridge breeches—which had been the envy of the cowboy—and threw in the horse.

If a little incident like this was worth putting on the wires and afterward into a letter, what may the public expect when the hunt in Africa is under way?

### Some "First" Shots.

All the incidents of the western hunt of Theodore Roosevelt at different times would fill several books. In fact, they have been told in books. A few of the "first" will suffice here.

He got his first buffalo in 1883. He was established in Montana ranch in the Bad Lands of Dakota. A newspaper man who was out there and knew every foot of the country described the ranch when he said "It stretched from hell to Texas." The first night out the horses were stampeded by a bunch of buffaloes. The next day Roosevelt dropped his first bull. He was so excited with his success that, according to a witness, he fairly danced with glee and on the spot handed Joe Ferris a fifty dollar bill.

Came the time when Roosevelt was to lay low his first mountain lion. It was somewhere near Keystone ranch. The dogs had brought a lion unexpectedly to bay. The young New Yorker had no time to shoot. Whether he had a gun at the time the witness does not tell. But Roosevelt leaped from his saddle and plunged a bowie knife into the vital spot of the lion. The animal grunted once. It was his last.

A picture of the ex-assemblyman when he was on the plains in this interesting at this juncture. He had a pair of two ranches near Madison, N. D. He dressed as others on the ranches dressed. "Except," as he told a friend afterward, "I was a good rimmed spectacles and had a toothbrush. His shirt was blue checked. His overalls were blue. His hat was a brown. He never carried a hip gun, but when out far game he always had a short Winchester rifle. When his eastern friends visited him he gave them advice as to how they were to treat cowboys and poachers. The claimants were fond of him, for he acted as if he were one of them. One Fourth of July

they asked him to make a speech. When it was known that he would accept the natives came a distance of fifty miles to hear him. That speech is talked about yet by those who are alive. When the Spanish-American war was declared and it was known that Roosevelt was to take a hand in it, nearly all of the cowboys who knew him out west enlisted in his command.

No fear when he enters the jungles that he will hesitate to travel any path that leads to the game. Once when he was in the west he planned a hunt in a certain section. He was told that a part of the road was a path of crumbling rock; that it was only two feet wide and that it ran along the edge of a precipice 2,500 feet deep. He made the trip, while some who were with him hesitated.

When he was living on the ranch at Chimney Butte, near Medora, he had, in the words of one who lived with him, "enough experience in his hunts to fill all the newspapers in the country."

### Boar and Bobcats.

One of the incidents of that time has a humorous coloring. Mr. Roosevelt had an idea that he would like to bring down a wild boar, a species of game that roamed with freedom in that section. Senator Proctor of Vermont and Colonel Bill Morrison of Illinois were the guests of the eastern hunter, and he invited them to the chase. The party went into the thickets. A four legged animal crossed the path of Senator Proctor. He yelled to Roosevelt that the animal was a deer. Colonel Morrison also called attention to "a deer." The New York hunter insisted that what they saw was a wild boar. While the dispute was being waged the animal crossed the path of the New Yorker, and he lifted his gun and blazed away. He brought down his game. It was a wild boar. The guests of Mr. Roosevelt did not go out with him again.

It was while Vice President Roosevelt was in the west on his recreation trip that he got interested in bobcats. In an article entitled "With the Cougar Hounds," printed in Scribner's, the vice president told that the dogs which were employed in hunting bobcats climbed trees in chasing the game. But it was added that the trees were dwarfs, and thus it was easy for the dogs to get into the branches. This happened in the northwestern part of Colorado.

In his three weeks' hunt in the Rocky mountains the vice president killed four brown bears. He also bagged fourteen mountain lions, some of them having gone down under his knife. At a farewell dinner to his hunters and several guests the eastern hunter appeared in a frock coat. One of the hunters said it was all right, as he had proved himself to be one of them, but it was well for him that he had not worn the velvet garment when he first arrived, for at that time there was some talk that he was a dupe. After the dinner the host invited his guests to his display of skins. He picked out one as his favorite, because, as he explained, it was the skin of the first bear he had shot. When one of the hunters was asked why the natives liked Roosevelt, he replied: "He never grows old. He is just. He is always ready for anything that we plan. And he knows when to put on a white shirt and when to take it off."

After the vice president had returned from his last western hunt, while he was in office, he was asked by a friend in New York if the mountain lion had strong teeth. He told the following to prove that it had:

"The wood of the stock of my gun was the hardest known. You couldn't drive a tinny nail through it with a sledge hammer. See these marks in the stock? Well, they were made by the teeth of a lion. If I hadn't had the gun handy to run down his throat, that fellow would have killed me, by the great bear."

It wasn't the biggest lion I killed, either, but he was the fiercest wild animal I have ever run against, and

you know I've met grizzlies and panthers too.

"This fellow—the one that left the marks of his teeth on the stock of this rifle—was the tenth I killed."

"We killed fourteen of the lions altogether, and I got twelve out of the fourteen. That was a pretty good record, wasn't it?"

"The biggest lion killed was a whopper. Say, you wouldn't believe me if I told you how big that fellow was."

"He weighed 250 pounds, and I got him with a straight drive shot at 200 yards and an elevation of 50 feet. I will show you where I plunked him right between the eyes. That was the proudest shot I made. When we went to measure that chap and weigh him the fellows who had been hunting lions in the Yampa country for twenty years said he was the biggest lion they had ever seen, and I guess he was."

"It was a bully good thing that I got him at the first shot at that distance or he would have been interesting for me, as he was headed right my way."

The hunt in Mississippi in 1902 afforded more amusement than game. The dogs went astray. There was some wrangling between the white and blacks. The denizens of the tangled wood were flushed. The trip was enjoyable in every way except in the way that was desired. But the big hunter from the west, as Mr. Roosevelt was called, made a host of friends, and the old guides who had promised so much were grieved at the outcome. Mr. Roosevelt's prowess as a hunter was proved on a smaller scale in other states. He has been in the sport in Maine, New Hampshire and in Virginia. Men who live in the woods and track game for a livelihood unite in saying that Mr. Roosevelt is the best specimen of the genuine hunter that ever came out of civilization.

**The Hunt of His Life.**

Now comes the hunt of his life. His plan to travel 2,000 miles in the recesses of Africa and in Egypt has excited the comment and expectation of two continents. The undertaking, no matter what the result may be, is stupendous. The party that will invade the depths of the African jungles will consist of from 200 to 300 men. The cost of the expedition of those who will go from the United States will be about \$2,000 a man. The outfit for the expedition will be made up of tents, guns, ammunition, rifles, blankets and leather hunting suits, waterproof bags for clothing, medical supplies, surgical apparatus, sleeping bags, every known type of hunting and skinning knives—almost such a supply, on a small scale, as would be required by an army that invades a new country. In fact, many of the articles will be such as no army ever required. The tents will be green, because white tents show African game where to attack their enemy. Four types of guns have been provided for

the hunt. For the various game that will be attacked there must be various weapons. For the elephant there is a weapon that will fire a lead slug over a half inch thick and two inches long. It is the shock caused by this slug that stops the elephant. The most deadly gun carries a bullet weighing 300 grains. It has a muzzle velocity of 2,000 feet a second, striking a blow of 2,000 pounds. It is the highest type of emergency and long distance weapon. This is the gun that the ex-president will have put in his hands by the head gun carrier when the big hunter from the United States meets his first menacing game.

The itinerary proper begins at Na-

ples. It traverses historical ground. It reaches into dark and mysterious places that are the habitat of the species mentioned in holy writ. There are depths where the atmosphere is foul with poisonous miasma, forests that breed insects that are venomous.

According to present plans, about six months will be spent in the fastnesses of Uganda. That's where the dwarf Negritos shoot arrows steeped in poison at any who invade their country.

### What He May Slay.

Questions have been asked ever since the expedition was planned as to what the mighty hunter from the United States may kill. His license limits him

to two male elephants, two rhinoceroses, ten hippopotamuses, twenty-one antelopes of various species, two earth hogs, two earth wolves, ten chevrotons, two colobus or other fur coated monkeys, two marabou storks, two aligators, two ostriches and one chimpanzee. In addition, he may slay, without license, lions, leopards, crocodiles, reptiles and any birds except vultures. He may not kill zebras, giraffes, female or young elephants or Johnston's okapi. Of these he hopes to bring back a specimen of the latter animal, for, in spite of flaming circus posters, not one of this type has ever been seen outside of the wilds of Africa.

Every species in the country to be visited is endowed by nature with defensive instinct. Even the natives who inhabit the country are often puzzled to know how to circumvent the stratagem of these denizens of the tangled and almost impenetrable forests. The best equipped expeditions, the most alert natives, the best laid plans of men accustomed to danger, often count for naught when they come face to face with the cunning and strength of African animals.

In his African-Egyptian hunt the ex-president will be confronted at every turn with new conditions and situations. When in the west he sat every broncho that he mounted. He was always at home in the saddle. In the expedition in the equatorial belt he will frequently mount the trained elephant when he hits the trail of the behemoth in its lair. He will also before the finish of the expedition have to perch on the dromedary. This will occur when he reaches the dreary atmosphere of lotus land.

Unless the present program is changed Mr. Roosevelt will, having traversed the heart of the British protectorates of Uganda, continue northward to Gontokera, across the headwaters of the Nile, the outpost of British Sudan. At this point Mrs. Roosevelt will join her husband in a journey down the Nile. The official photographer of the entire hunt will be Kermit Roosevelt. The United States party will sail from New York about the middle of March.

### PASSING OF INDIAN DANCES.

Of all the Indian fiestas that of the eagle dance is perhaps the most important. During this ceremony a young eagle, the symbol of power upon earth, is killed, and its spirit, laden with mesquite, joins that of the dead chief. This ceremony has recently been held

for the last time in the history of the people. It has always been a fiesta of rare occurrence, being held only in commemoration of the death of a ruling chief or a person of great importance. The fiesta has not been celebrated for more than twenty years, and this final one marks the death of the last of the hereditary chieftains of the tribe and in consequence the passing not only of this time with its sacred trust of legend and history, but of this peculiar and mysterious ritual of the death of a chief.

The death of the last hereditary chief of the southern California Indian as an entity, for with this ancient custodian the wealth of their traditions was buried, excepting fragmentary records gathered by a few enthusiastic ethnologists. This ancient man had a son to whom he could intrust the sacred mission. He was over a hundred years old and had practically outlived his own descendants, for in 1860 he had four sons. This in itself is a pathetic example of "civilizing influences," a fact which is emphasized at the spectacle of the dances, when the gap between the little group of eight or ten dancers, all over ninety years of age, wiry, athletic, tireless, and the laughing spectators of their own people, young fellows none of whom are over forty, is especially noticeable.

### TEMPER OF ELEPHANTS.

Every wild animal fears his trainer or his trainer's weapons. One of the best believes he is the physical superior of man his career as a performing exhibit is ended, else he ends the career of his trainer.

Elephants furnish the best illustration of this fact. Despite the story book shrewdness of the fox, the elephant is the wisest animal in existence.

Though clumsy and bulky, he may be made to do the most difficult tasks but as he grows older he grows wiser and some day realizes his brute mastery of man.

Then he is retired from the arena, because no trainer of sufficient courage to handle him can be found. It is a safe wager that there is not a male elephant fifty years old performing at the present time.

Bullivar, a giant pachyderm which children rode upon fifteen years ago, had been for some time before his death this past summer chained up at the zoo in Philadelphia, with his head and hind legs crossed and bound with iron.

# Special Sessions of Congress

## When They Have Been Called and What They Have Accomplished

**P**RESIDENT TAFT'S first proclamation will call for an extraordinary session of the Sixty-first congress to meet March 15. The object of the special session will be to consider a revision of the tariff. The call is in accordance with promises made during the presidential campaign which resulted in the election of the Republican candidates for president and vice president. What steps will be taken in the matter of revision cannot, of course, be fore-shadowed. Nor is there any precedent by which the wisest can guess what time may elapse before the work is accomplished. Mr. Taft thinks the work can be done by June 1. According to the constitution, if the special session is unable to agree with respect to the time of adjournment the president may adjourn both houses to such time as he shall think proper.

The power of convening congress on extraordinary occasions has been exercised by John Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, Pierce, Lincoln, Hayes, Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt. The extraordinary session called by President Taft will be the seventeenth since the constitution was adopted. There was one special session each in the administrations of John Adams, Madison, William Henry Harrison, Pierce, Lincoln, Cleveland, McKinley and Roosevelt. There were two in Jefferson's administration, four in Madison's, two in Hayes'.

The last special session before the one to be held in March under the call of President Taft was in November, 1903. It was called by President Roosevelt for the purpose of passing an enabling act for the Cuban reciprocity treaty.

The "extra" session which preceded that called by President Roosevelt was held in the McKinley administration. It assembled under his proclamation March 15, 1897. The call was issued March 6. Speaker Reed presided over the proceedings of the lower house. At this "extra" session the Dingley tariff bill was adopted after a long debate which lasted until midnight of July 19. It went to the senate the next day and was discussed until July 24, when it was adopted by that body. President McKinley signed the bill the same day.

The "extra" session convened by President Cleveland met Aug. 1, 1893. It was the first of the Fifty-third congress. Its principal object, as desired by Mr. Cleveland, was the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman silver act. The repealing clause introduced by Chairman Wilson was debated until Aug. 28. The bill was passed by the house and subsequently by the senate with a slight amendment, which was concurred in by the house. No other business of importance was transacted at this "extra" session.

A recapitulation of the special sessions shows that four had as their object some ultimate legislation relating to war already inaugurated or in immediate prospect, and one called by Jefferson was decided upon to start

any threatened complications arising over the purchase of Louisiana from the French, to which Spain was opposed.

The first special session was fathered by John Adams in 1797. It undoubtedly precluded war with France. The first called by Jefferson has been referred to in the foregoing paragraph. The second special called by Jefferson met Oct. 26, 1807. It lasted until April 25, 1808. The attack upon the Chesapeake by the Leopard and the capture of alleged deserters from the British navy under the "right of search" claimed by Great Britain, together with unsettled differences with Spain, were the occasion of this "extra" session. Liberal appropriations for gunboats and for coast and harbor defenses were made, and important measures relating to the judicial and public systems were passed.

The special sessions called by Madison were held in 1809, 1811, 1813 and 1814. They related almost entirely to foreign complications. The special sessions called by Van Buren and later by "Tippecanoe" Harrison bore largely upon the financial conditions of the country.

Some of the treasury laws passed at the special sessions under Van Buren and Harrison are still recognized methods of handling currency. President Harrison did not live to see the action of the special session called by him. The session was barren of results so far as legislation was concerned, but it witnessed the breach between Tyler, who succeeded Harrison, and congress.

The special called by Pierce met Oct. 18, 1856, and finished its work on the 30th of the same month.

The "extra" session called by Lincoln met July 4, 1861. It had to do almost exclusively with the troubles growing out of the war for the Union. During short recesses of a few days at a time, the special finally passed into the regular session the 1st of December. It was then that congress appropriated \$500,000,000 to put down rebellion and authorized Lincoln to call out 100,000 troops.

Then there was a lull in special sessions until Hayes became president. The first "extra" in his term met Oct. 15, 1877, and the next was called on March 18, 1879. Both had as their object the passing of appropriate resolutions until Hayes became president.

The last "extra" in his term met Oct. 15, 1877, and the next was called on March 18, 1879. Both had as their object the passing of appropriate resolutions until Hayes became president.

There were no important results from either session. Indeed, if pointed out, the session of the day may be ascribed, more on the point of giving up his idea in selling one of the sessions up to the day before the proclamation was issued. Had he done so there would have been no regular session in the United States until congress met in regular session and appropriated money for its maintenance. The special session furnished the needed relief.

The last "extra" session in the Hayes administration closed July 1, 1879, after much bitter feeling had been expressed.

"Extra" sessions have been called at intervals of from six to ten years. The list covers the period from 1797 to 1895.

—FRED MANK.