

Picturesque Scenes at New York Aquarium During Feeding Process

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—One of the most picturesque sights at the Aquarium in Battery park is the serving out of the daily rations to the 2,000 captive sea dwellers, little and big. The 200 wall tanks and spacious floor pools are said to shelter the largest colony of fishes—215 different kinds—ever gathered under one roof in the world. The fact that 2,131,200 persons passed through its doors during the last year, an average of over 5,000 daily, stamps it as one of the most popular show places in the world.

Getting up the daily menu for the fishes equates more labor and expense than one might suppose. One attendant devotes

about half of each day to the preparation of the food and several others are kept busy the remainder of the afternoon in feeding the fishes. The food is varied to suit the fishes, and includes beef-sliced, chopped or minced—liver and fish, cod and herring mostly. Minnows, when procurable in abundance, are provided at the rate of ten or twelve quarts daily, and are simply thrown alive into the tanks where the larger fishes soon dispose of them. Shrimps to the extent of about fifteen or twenty quarts a week, four or five bushels of mussels a year, small crabs, such as fiddle crabs, stone crabs and young blue crabs, by the thousand; marine worms at the rate of 500 or 600 a month; small soft clams in quantities of from 10,000 to 12,000 during the summer season are also on the menu. The average board bill for the Aquarium's guests for a month is \$100.

Among the chief attractions of the Aquarium at present, from the fact that it is comparatively new and rare here, is the curious sea cow or manatee. From Florida, the only one in captivity in this country. It was presented to the Aquarium by A. W. Dimock and has survived eighteen months, which is the record time for a manatee to live in confinement.

The sea cows in their wild habitat are especially shy and cautious of man, diving and disappearing immediately on his approach. Being of tropical origin, the manatee requires special treatment and care. The water in the pool is kept at a suitably warm temperature, between 70 and 72 degrees. Eel grass and lettuce leaves are its chief fare. The former is used chiefly when obtainable.

The sea cow was captured in a large drag seine. Numerous attempts to take one had been made at different times for a month, and many broke and escaped through the net before one was finally obtained.

The manatee has considerable swimming space in his tile-lined pool, which is twenty feet long by thirteen wide, with a depth of four feet of water. The water is renewed daily.

The feeding of the sea cow is watched

with interest by the visitors. It is done by W. de Nyse, who throws handfuls of eel grass into the tank.

The best view of the animal is obtained when the water is run off in order that the pool may be cleaned, thus leaving the whole form of the manatee strikingly outlined. A very clear view of this strange creature is shown in the photograph here reproduced, which was taken after 5 p. m., when all visitors were out.

The picture shows the manner of giving this animal a shampoo. In this process a long handled brush is used to brush off the day's accumulation of various substances. The manatee seems to enjoy its daily rubdown and the inflow of fresh water, after which it will settle down in one corner of the pool for slumber.

Another star attraction of the Aquarium is the silver bedecked spotted moray. This extraordinary eel inhabits the caverns,

grottos and coral reefs of Bermuda and is one of the most interesting of the many strange sea marvels from this tropical isle, which is celebrated for its gorgeous colored fishes.

A whole tank is given up to the display of this brilliant coated moray. The picture here reproduced shows the long serpentine creature in a characteristic attitude as it is about to receive a strip of cod for luncheon. This, the favorite food of the moray, is passed to and fro close to its open mouth, till the animal suddenly gulps the tempting morsel.

In the ocean depths the morays are voracious and cannibalistic in their habits and are the terror of the other fishes. With their long bodies partly concealed by being wound around some ledge or crevice they lie in ambush, their jaws with lancetlike teeth open half a foot or more, in readiness to dart at and swallow the first unsuspecting victim that swims by.

They are caught in traps and also on hooks. The native negro fishermen lose no time in cutting off the head of one soon as it is landed in the boat. If a big specimen happens to get loose a panic is likely to start among the crew and they will jump overboard on the instant.

Of all the Aquarium's boarders the little sea horses, six inches long, are the most fantastic in appearance. They are so named from the close resemblance of their head to that of a horse.

The food necessary to what their appetite is somewhat odd and hard to obtain. It has been found that they can be kept in good condition only when they are well supplied with gammarus, a very minute crustacean procured by gathering bunches of fine sea moss, which it inhabits.

In feeding the sea horse's mouth is placed near the prey, for which it constantly searches, and is suddenly opened. The cheeks being inflated at the same time,

the food is captured with the brush of water. When bunches of sea moss are dropped into the tanks the fish immediately scamper to the bottom and pick out the minute life from the weeds.

The sea horse is probably the only fish having a prehensile tail which it uses in a monkeylike fashion, constantly anchoring itself to weeds, stones and sticks. The position of the body is usually vertical, especially in swimming.

These little creatures are found all along the Atlantic coast, from Cape Cod to South Carolina. There is one remarkable feature about them not known generally. Contrary to the rule with the rest of the animal world the eggs while hatching are carried by the male in a pouch, and the young are said to return to this for shelter.

Hundreds, probably thousands, of baby individuals are thus transported around by the paternal member of the family in his incubating pocket while Mrs. Sea Horse,

released of care, roams fancy free.

The clever maneuvers of the little harbor seals from the Maine coast share the popular interest with the sea horse. They are hearty eaters and have strips of cod and herring for their luncheon. These are usually thrown into the pool, but often-times when the seals come up on the platform the food is suspended over their heads for a moment and then eagerly snapped at.

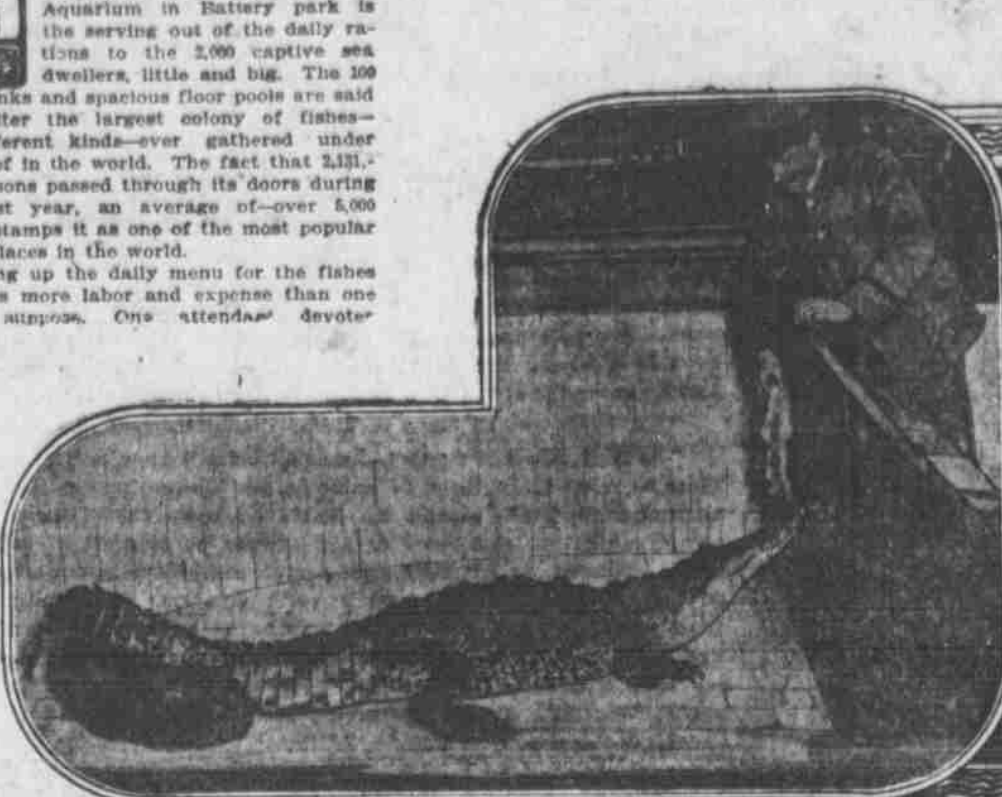
These creatures are rapidly disappearing from the Atlantic coast. Owing to their ravages upon the fish some of the New England states now offer a bounty of from \$1 to \$3 a head for the destruction of these animals in order to protect the fishing industry.

L. B. Spencer has in the laboratory and in the balanced aquariums many minute fresh water and salt water forms of life which are daintily fed on bits of beef. His collection is especially rich in examples of living coral and fine sea anemones.

This nature study department, supplemented by Mr. Spencer's short lectures and object lesson talks, furnishes a popular educational attraction which is well attended by teachers and school children.

The Florida crocodile is about the most indifferent and irregular of the Aquarium's boarders, as days and even weeks will pass without its taking any food. When rations are to be served the animal is roused from stupor by being punched. Its anger is shown by growling, accompanied by opening its ponderous jaws, in which the attendant swiftly lodges a big fish.

In the floor pool containing the nine large sea turtles of four different kinds the star is a giant green turtle from Florida, weighing 33 pounds. His shell is as big as a small dining table. The size may be judged from the East Side boy seated on his back. This turtle and his mates are fed on a choice menu of clams, eel grass, lettuce and whelks.



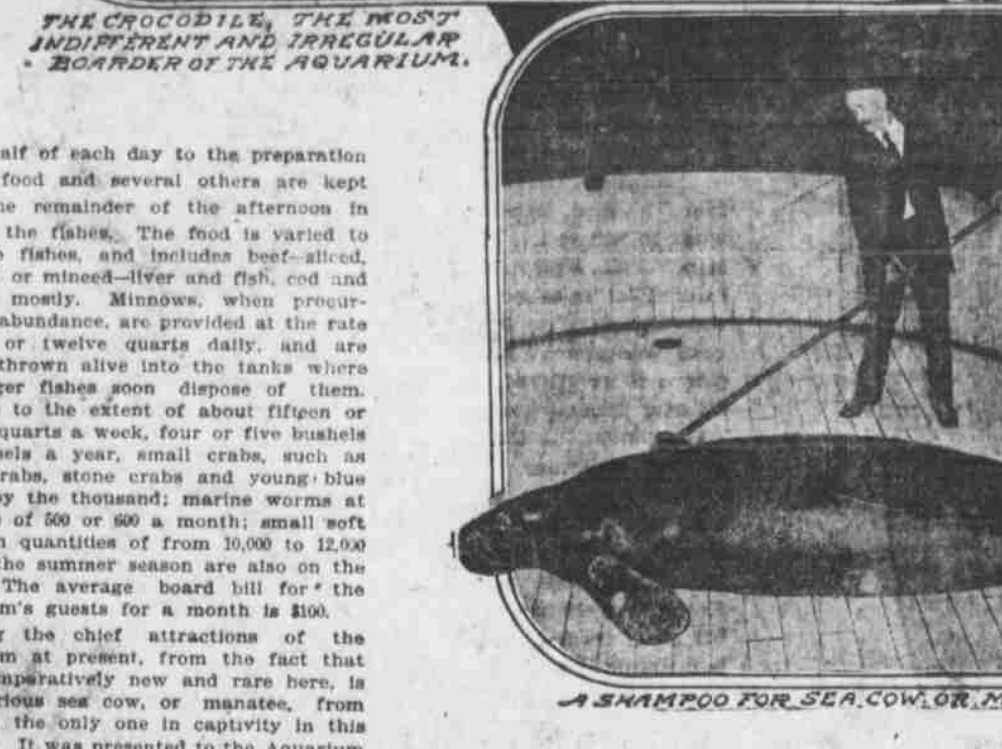
THE CROCODILE, THE MOST INDIFFERENT AND IRREGULAR BOARDER OF THE AQUARIUM.



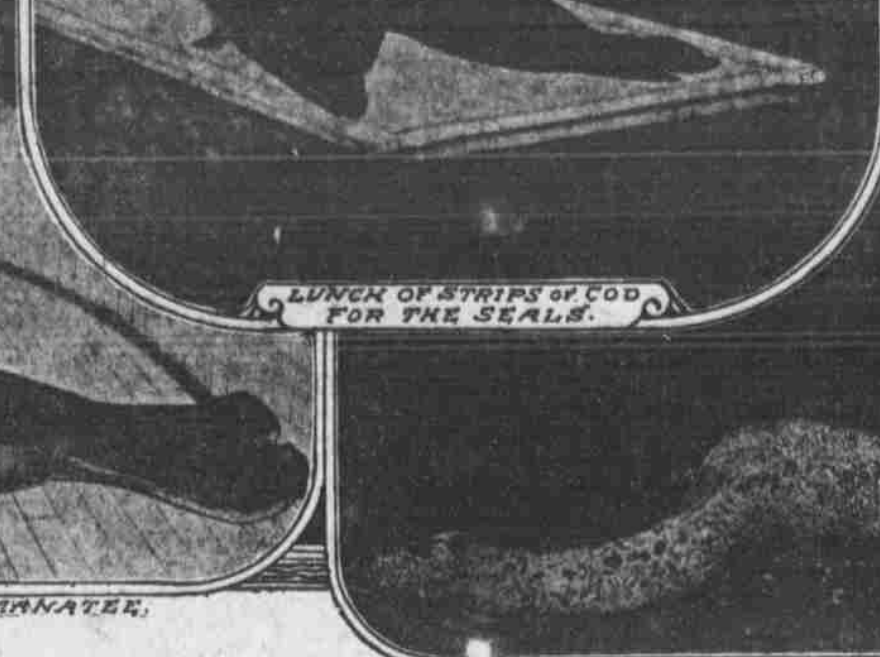
LUNCH OF STRIPS OF COD FOR THE SEALS.



AN EAST SIDE LAD ON THE GREEN TURTLE FROM FLORIDA.



A SHAMPOO FOR SEA COW OR MANATEE.



SPOTTED MORAY IS KEEN ON STRIPS OF COD.



SEA HORSE AND THE TINY CRUSTACEANS IT CONTAINS FOR THE SEA HORSE'S.

Great Things Are Predicted for the New East African City of Nairobi

NAIROBI, British East Africa.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—Have you ever heard of Nairobi? It is the metropolis of this faraway colony, and the place which the English think is to be one of the greatest cities of Africa. They are already speaking of it as a Chicago in embryo, and are prophesying that it will have a vast white population. The town is not half a dozen years old. Three years ago it had hardly a house. Today streets have been laid out over an area about ten miles in circumference; hundreds of buildings of tin, wood and stone have been erected and the place has almost 15,000 inhabitants.

Nairobi lies in the very heart of British East Africa. It is little more than half way inland from the coast on the road to Lake Victoria, and, as the road lies, about 100 miles from Mount Kenya, which rises to an altitude of 18,000 or 19,000 feet, off to the northward. I can see Mount Kenya from here on a bright day, and some distance down the railroad, when the sun is just right, one can get a glimpse of the two peaks of Kilimanjaro, which lies to the southward. In the German possessions, a distance of 150 miles or more, Nairobi itself is just about as high as Denver, and, like it, is situated at the western end of Great plains, which rise in an altitude of 5,000 or more feet above the sea. They are so high that the equatorial sun is conquered by the altitude, and white men can live and work upon them the year round. The country is in fact a white

man's country, and with care people of our race can thrive upon thousands of square miles of it.

I struck these plains after a twenty-hour ride from the Indian ocean by railroad. They make me think of my west as it was fifty years ago, and I doubt not in time they will be settled by ranchers and farmers, just as is the western part of the United States today. This country is an empire in its undeveloped possibilities, and the English do right in putting a high value upon it. But I shall write more of that in the future.

City Built of Tin.

This letter is to be devoted to the tin town of Nairobi. I should say galvanized iron, for that is the chief building material. There are no saw mills or planing mills here worthy of mentioning, the forests have not been exploited, and about the only lumber available is that which is brought from our country and Norway and landed at Mombasa. The ocean freight rates are heavy, and in addition there is the cost of bringing the lumber here by railroad. As a result the most of the buildings are of galvanized iron, which comes here in sheets from England and Belgium. Almost all the buildings are of iron, which is put up just as it comes from the factory, giving the whole town a silver gray color. The post-office is of iron, the depot has an iron roof, and the same is true of the governor's offices. Many of the houses have iron ceilings and iron walls, and the chief retail business section is a collection of one-story

iron booths, open at the front, in which Hindoos stand or sit surrounded by their goods.

My hotel is half iron. The government treasury nearby, consisting of a shed not more than fifteen feet square, is of tin and has a tin roof. I could chop it to pieces with a butcher knife; and the only sign of safety about it is the negro policeman who, gun in hand, stands outside guarding the door. The office of the land surveyor is of tin, and so are the police headquarters and the houses in which the supreme court is held. The more fancy dwellings are now being painted, and some stone and brick buildings are rising.

Largely Cow Pastures.

The Nairobi of today is largely cow pastures. It is a city of magnificent distances. Every place of importance seems several miles from any other place of the same character, and the patches between are often grazing ground. The houses are of one and two stories, and they are scattered along wide streets which run for an indefinite distance out into the prairie. The chief ways of getting about are on foot, on horseback or in jinrikshas, the latter being by far the most popular. The jinrikshas are much like those used in Japan, save that they are larger and wider. I am told they are made in America. They are pushed and pulled by black Africans, two to each vehicle. One man goes in the shafts and the other pushes behind. They are clad in a single cotton cloth which flaps back and forth as they run, exposing

their nakedness. The streets are unpaved and they are frequently masses of dust. Along many of them eucalyptus trees have been planted. These have grown rapidly, and the roads are now shaded by their dreary foliage, the leaves of which hang down as though they were mourning.

Among the Black Africans.

I have given the total population of Nairobi as 15,000. I doubt whether it has 1,000 whites. Of the remainder about one-third are East Indians and the others are the queerest Africans you can imagine. I speak of them first, because they are everywhere. You wait upon you in the street; they carry burdens for you, and they clog your footsteps when you go outside town. Many of the natives wear dirty, greasy cloths, not more than a yard wide and two yards long. They hang them about their shoulders and let them fall down on each side, so that they flap this way and that in the breeze. Some wear breech cloths, and some do not and not a few are bare to the waist. In the early morning when the air is still sharp many of these people are clad in red flannel blankets, and they go strolling along with their legs bare to the thigh. I have already spoken of the ear plugs. Some have the holes in the lobes of their ears so stretched that I can put my flat through them. The loops are so long that when a man takes out his ear plug he hangs the loop of skin over the top of his ear to prevent it catching onto something and tearing. The loop looks just like a leather strap about as wide as one's little finger nail. I have handled many of them, twisting them this way and that to be sure they are genuine.

I see a squib in the Globe Trotter, a newspaper of Nairobi, which fits the native costumes here. It is: "A London tailor says that any gentleman can be clad for \$25 (\$125). The native gentleman of Nairobi can be fully clad for 2 annas (about 5 cents) including the small."

This African smell is everywhere. It loads the market places, and I verily think it might be copped up into blocks and sold as a new kind of phosphate. The natives cover themselves with hair oil and body grease, and the combination of this when it turns rancid and of the natural effluvia which exhalates from their persons is indescribable. Others of the natives smear their faces with a mixture of grease and red clay; they cover their hair with the same material, so that they look more like copper Indians than Africans.

East Indian Traders.

These Africans do all the hard work of Nairobi. They are hewers of wood and drawers of water. I see scores of them loaded with iron and brass jewelry of various kinds, carrying baskets of dirt on their heads, loads of wood on their backs and pushing and pulling carts and wagons through the streets. The most of my trips from one place to another are made in two-wheeled carts hauled by natives so clad.

I find the retail business of Nairobi done by East Indians. This was also the case at Mombasa, and I am told it is so in every settlement on this part of the continent. The Hindoos have made their way along every traveled route, and their little stores may be found in every large African

village. They have trading stations upon Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika. They are very enterprising, and as they live upon almost nothing they can undersell the whites. They handle cotton of bright colors and of the most gorgeous patterns. They sell wire for jewelry, and all sorts of nickknacks that the African wants. They deal also in European goods, and one can buy of them almost anything from a needle to a sewing machine. Here in Nairobi there is one long street which is devoted to the Hindoo market. The stores are all open at the front, and the men squat in them with their gay goods piled about them. These Indians dress in a quaint costume not unlike that of the English clergyman who wears a long black coat buttoned up to the throat. The only difference is that the Hindoo's trousers may be of bright-colored calico, cut very tight; and his head may be covered with a flat skull cap of velvet, embroidered in gold. Moreover, his feet are usually bare.

White Population.

This is a British city, notwithstanding its African and Asiatic inhabitants; and the ruling class are the English. They are divided up into castes, almost as much as are the East Indians. The government officials rank at the head. They are the swells of the town. They dress well and spend a great deal of time out of office hours playing tennis and golf, which, strange to say, have already been introduced into this part of the black continent. They also ride about on horseback and in carriages, and upon very low salaries man-

age to make a good show. Allied to them are the sportsmen and the scattering element of dukes, lords and second sons of noble families who have come out here to invest or to hunt big game. They are usually men of means, for the prices of large tracts of land are high and it also costs considerable money to fit out a game shooting expedition. In addition there are land speculators, who are chiefly young men from England or South Africa. They dress in riding clothes, big helmet hats and top boots. They dash about the country on ponies, and are especially in evidence around the bars of the hotels. There are but few white women here. Several of the government officials have their wives with them, and now and then a titled lady comes out to hunt with her friends. I have met three women who have themselves shot lions.

Nairobi has English doctors, dentists and lawyers. It has one photographer and two firms which advertise themselves as safari outfitters. These men supply you with tents, provisions and other things for shooting trips, and they will give you porters who will carry your stuff and chase the lions out of the jungles so that you may get a shot at them.

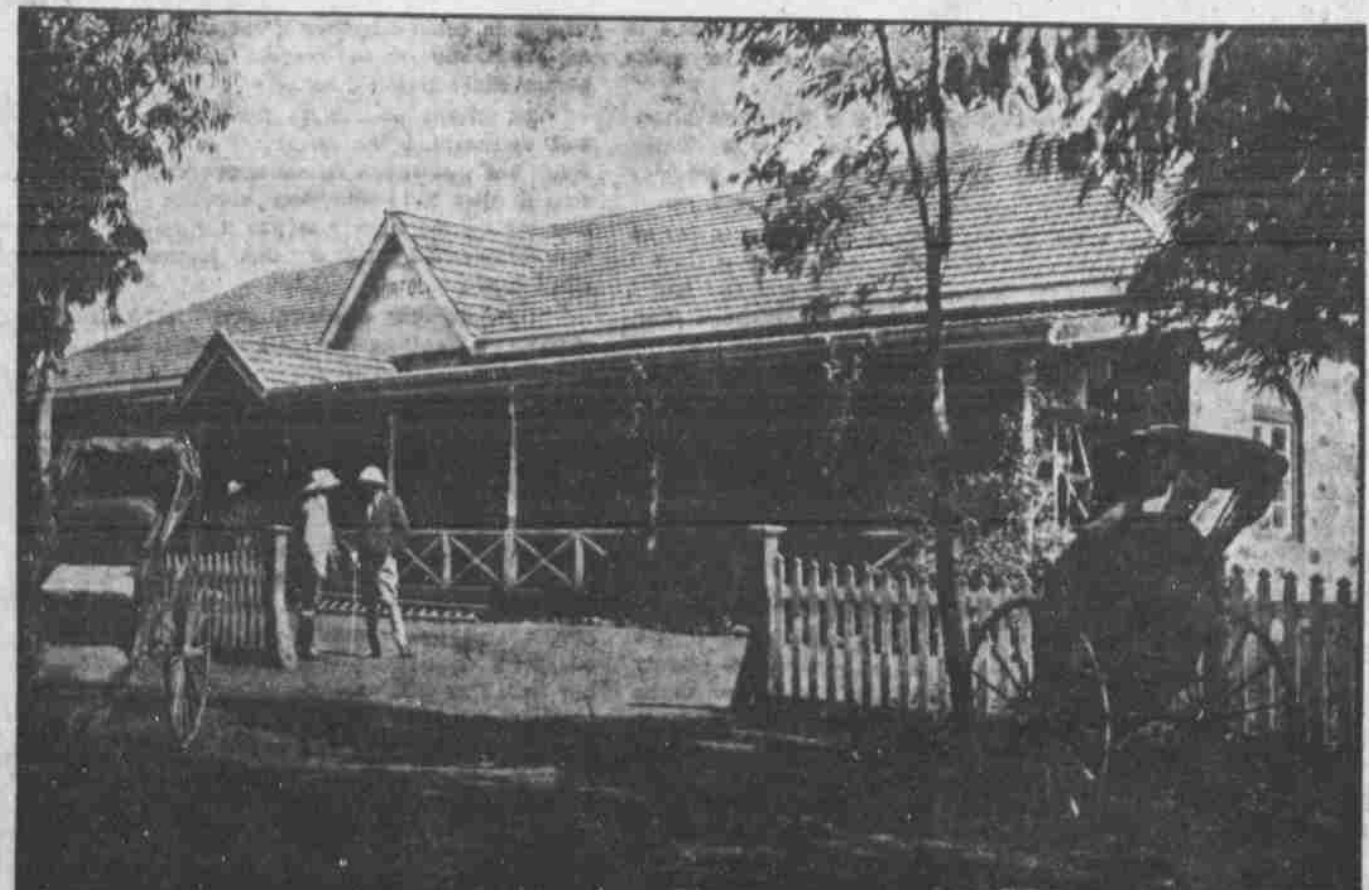
Nairobi Newspapers.

It seems strange to have newspapers away out here under the shadow of Mount Kenya, within a half day's ride on horseback of lion and rhinoceros hunting. They are all banking on the future of the town and all claim to be prosperous. They are good sized journals, selling for from

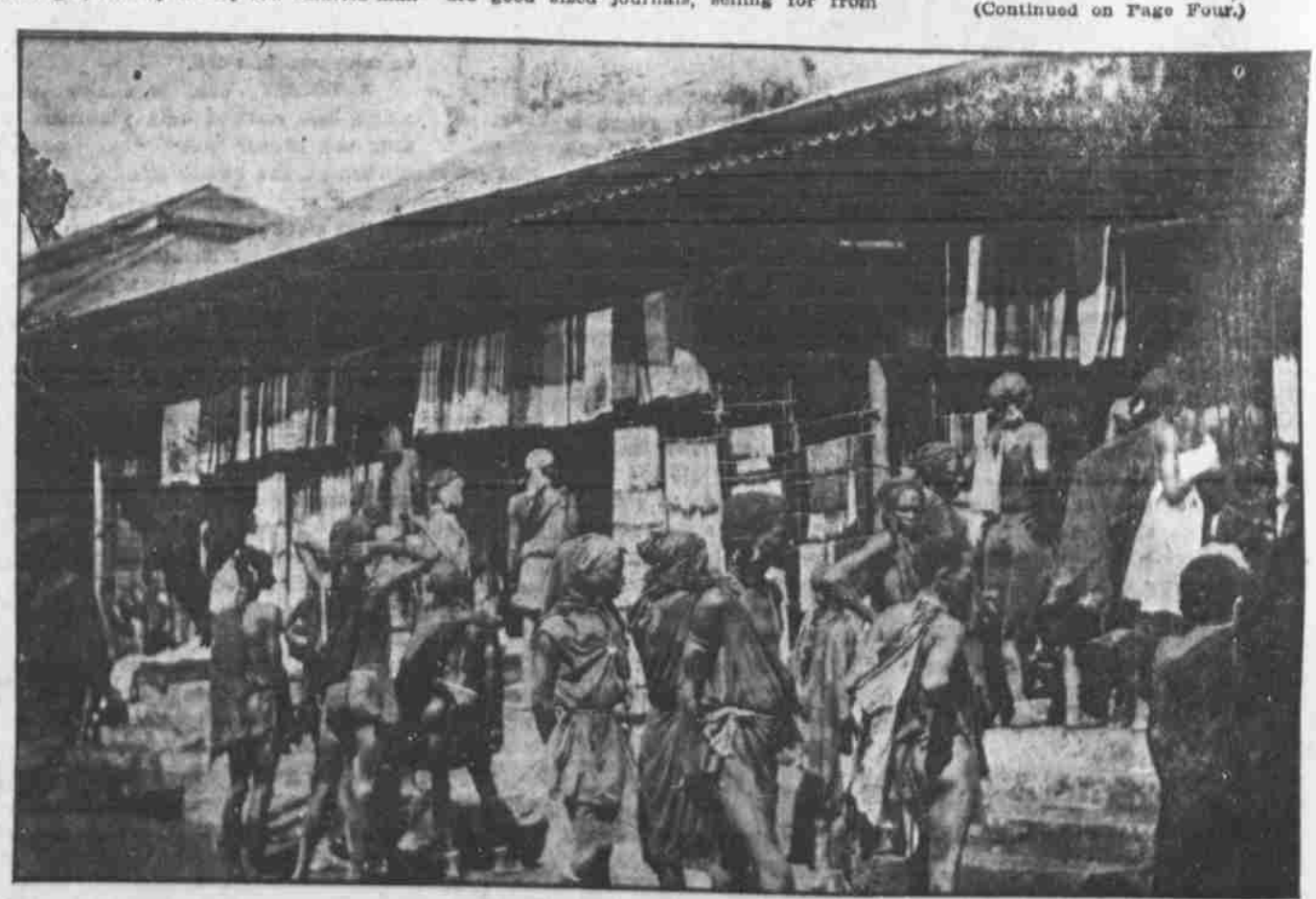
2 to 3 annas, or from 4 to 6 cents each. They have regular telegrams from the Reuter agency, which gives them the big news of the world, and they furnish full reports of the local cricket, polo, tennis and golf matches. This week's Star reports the meeting of the East African Turf club, and in the Globe Trotter I see the story of a cricket match which was held last Saturday between the government clerks and the townsmen. As to the advertisements, the most of them come from the local merchants and some are odd to an extreme. One in the Globe Trotter of today is signed by a well known American circus company, and states that it wants to buy a white rhinoceros, a giant hog, some wild dogs, and a white tailed mongoose and bongo. Another advertisement is that of the Homestead Dairy, showing the improvements made along farming lines and others state that certain merchants will outfit hunters for shooting. There are many land sales advertised, and also machinery, American wagons and all sorts of agricultural implements.

One of these newspapers of Nairobi is edited by an American. It is known as the Globe Trotter, and has a good circulation. The editor's name is David Garrick Longworth, but I am not sure that he is a relative of the president's son-in-law. He is certainly enterprising, and partakes of our president's character in his love for wild game. He came out here originally to buy lions, giraffes and rhinoceroses for Barnum and Bailey's circus, and he still

(Continued on Page Four.)



HOTEL AT NAIROBI, WHERE MR. CARPENTER STAYED.



IN THE BUSINESS QUARTERS AT NAIROBI.