

EAST AFR. PROT.  
12166 <sup>12</sup>/<sub>13</sub>

C.O.  
1466  
Recd  
Jan 13 JAN 3

Printed  
No. 12  
cc.  
Sous Paper.  
1919  
12

Lion hunting with dogs.

Trs. report by Game Warden upon proceedings  
of Mr Paul & Rainey, an American sportsman  
It is proposed to amend the Game Ordinance to secure  
adequate protection to lions.

to J. Anderson. You may like to see.  
To Mr Butler

J.R.  
14/1

Mr Butler.

14.1.13

Copy of Mr Worsnam's report of  
15 Dec. 1912 sent to Lord Stamfordham  
with the substance of the passage of  
Mr Belfield's letter marked A.

sequent Paper

21508/113

25,946-17. 40,000. 11/11. A&E.W.  
26,404-55. 6000. 10/12.

spab  
Jan. 16  
Mr Harcourt Please see Lord

Stanfordham's reply annexed. Do  
you now wish to answer Mr. Belfield's  
letter?

29aB

Jan. 20. 13.

Draft letter for me to Mr. Belfield  
enclosing copy of Mr. Stanfordham's  
letter, saying I am satisfied by  
Mr. Woodsum's explanations and  
no further action is necessary.  
[Sir E. Grey and I are going to see  
the cinema films]

H 20.1.13



York Cottage,  
Sandringham,  
Norfolk.

19th January, 1913.

Dear Mr. Butler,

The King has read with interest the report from the Chief Game Warden of the East Africa Protectorate with regard to Mr. Paul Rainey's hunting lions with a pack of hounds.

The newspaper account which the King saw declared that this gentleman had destroyed 82 lions, and that a cinematograph firm had photographed the operations, and that these pictures were being exhibited in London.

Mr. Woosnam admits to having seen 32 killed in this manner, and the King supposes it is possible that Mr. Rainey may have killed another 50.

The report is satisfactory in showing that there is no undue cruelty either to the lions or the dogs: but at the same time it does not seem to His Majesty a very sporting method of lion-hunting.

Yours very truly,

Stamfrabham

F. G. A. Butler, Esq.,  
Colonial Office, S.W.

C. O.

1466

592

Recd  
 GOVERNMENT HOUSE.  
 13 JAN 1912  
 BRITISH-EAST AFRICA

~~15~~ 18<sup>th</sup> 1912.

Dear General,

When His Majesty the King

granted me an audience in August  
 he inquired about the fact that Sir Pitt

of an American sportsman named  
 Rainey, who was hunting lions here with

a pack of hounds and regarding  
 the fact that some too highly coloured accounts

had appeared in the public press. His Majesty

then asked me to look into the matter as my

and take steps to ensure that lions

should be hunted in an unspatsman like

and destroyed in excessive numbers.

It happened that Rainey, arrived here with

his pack very shortly after mysey, and that  
 the absence of legal authority I was not in  
 position to prohibit his hunting, I am once  
 for the Game Warden, his Woodman and do  
 him to let me have a full report on his  
 proceedings and to convey to him my  
 that he should confine his operations to those  
 occupied areas where his are a plague  
 both to us.

The nature of Mr Rainey's proceedings and  
 position as it now stands are fully set out in  
 Woodman's enclosed memo, to which I  
 appended for convenience of reference a copy  
 of the report made by him last year. He tells  
 that within the last two days Mr Rainey  
 intimated to him that he intends to confine  
 operations entirely to farm lands, therefore  
 part of his programme, which I have mentioned  
 in the report is now under discussion.

My opinion that the Game Warden is again  
 being forward the measure to which he alludes  
 in the latter part of his report, and I hope  
 getting of an amendment to the Game  
 on these lines with delight, those who are  
 in the spirit of the Prohibitory there we are  
 is necessary to his adequate protection  
 while continuing to the farmers full  
 protection than which his by dependence on  
 do.

The observations made to mysey, I think  
 that you may be prepared to submit  
 and report for His Majesty's information,  
 on much enjoying ourselves here. There  
 plenty of work and an endless variety of  
 opinion upon all matters of public interest  
 would be amusing if it were not also  
 to be disconcerting.

My kind regards  
 Yours sincerely  
 H. Conway Beckett.

Recd  
13 JAN '13

GAME GARDENS OFFICE

15<sup>th</sup> December 1912

Your Excellency,

In accordance with your instructions I have the honour to lay before you the following report on the question of hunting lions with a pack of hounds, as it has been practised by the American Sportsmen Mr Paul J. Rainey; and also on the question as to whether such a noble animal as the lion is in danger of being exterminated in British East Africa.

I think I may say that I am probably in a better position than anyone else to give an opinion on these questions, and I have no hesitation in saying that I do not consider that the lion is in any danger of being exterminated in British East Africa for the following reasons:-

In the first place there are in the Protectorate vast areas which are entirely unsuitable for white settlement, because these areas are desert like and extremely arid, and water is only obtainable long distances apart. Curiously enough these districts are beloved by game animals, and are also inhabited by numbers of lions, which live within a certain distance of the watering places. Owing to the watery nature of these districts they are seldom visited by sportsmen and consequently remain practically undisturbed. In the second place very large areas have been set aside in this Protectorate as Game Reserves. The Southern Game Reserve has an area of 10,695 square miles, and the Northern Game Reserve has an area of 25,000 square miles. In these Reserves great numbers of lions and other carnivorous and game animals are living and breeding absolutely undisturbed.

You with regard to the question of hunting lions with a pack of hounds, I do not believe that there is any subject which has been so grossly misrepresented to the public, or about which the majority of sportsmen know so little, and as far as I am aware the only pack of specially trained hounds which has ever hunted lions in Africa is that belonging to the American Mr. Paul J. Rainey. Let me say at once that I hold no brief for Mr. Rainey or any other of the sportsmen who visit East Africa and I treat all alike, in fact I prosecuted Mr. Rainey last year for shooting a female Giraffe and he was heavily fined. But at the same time I always like to see the true facts of any case justly represented, and for this reason I am dealing with the present subject in rather more detail than may appear necessary, and I trust under the circumstances you will forgive this.

There is a fundamental difference between English and American methods of hunting. In England we draw a covert and spring a fox from his lair and the hounds then take what Americans call a "hot trail." In America I understand that hounds are cast across country until they strike what Americans call a "cold trail" that is to say where a coyote has passed during the night. This trail is then followed until the hounds "jump" the quarry, perhaps in covert, and follow the trail to the kill as in England. But in America the best part of the hunt is considered to be the following of the "cold trail" up to the point where the quarry is found or "jumped" and the actual "kill" is a matter of secondary importance. This is the method which Mr. Rainey adopted with lions and which proved so successful, but it is of course essential that the hounds should be carefully trained to follow only the scent of lions and leopards or it is obvious that in a country so full of game, hyaenas,

and jackals, the pack would speedily be separated in all directions and lost. If possible a "kill" is found, that is to say the remains of an animal which lions have killed during the night. The hounds are then cast about round the hill until they strike the scent of the lions, and then they follow to the place where the lion or lions are lying up. Sometimes this is a long way from the kill sometimes only a short way, and as soon as the lions are brought to bay they are shot with as little delay as possible, otherwise they will probably kill or badly maul many of the hounds. On the open plains it is usually not difficult to despatch the lions, especially if there is only one lion or perhaps two, the chief difficulty is to avoid shooting any of the hounds or slightly wounding the lion, when it at once becomes infuriated and far more dangerous. ~~When~~ a pack of lions is encountered, perhaps as many as fifteen or more, the conditions are made very much more dangerous and difficult both for men and hounds. It is not correct to imagine that the presence of the hounds will absolutely prevent lions from charging as those who have had experience are well aware. When the lions are brought to bay in thick brush or long grass or in a reed swamp the whole aspect of the situation is changed and a battle of several hours may take place before the lions are disposed of, and the danger to men and hounds is of course greatly increased.

Mr. Rainey's pack consists of two parts; one, about eight or ten true hounds which have first class noses and have been carefully trained. These hounds are known in America as "Pot-lickers" and are really the descendants of original imported Irish fox



hounds, which have maintained life to a great extent as scavengers in towns and around native villages, essentially living by their own wits and picking up what food they can, hence the name "Pot-licker". They have become lighter in build than English hounds and have smaller feet and they do not easily become foot-sore, a great advantage in Africa, and I am inclined to think from what I have seen of the way they follow a cold scent that they have exceptionally fine noses.

The other part of Mr. Reiney's pack consists of almost any breed of dog which has blood and will fight, and these he calls the "fighting dogs".

The "Pot-lickers" or true hounds are laid on to take the trail of ~~an~~ and as soon as the hounds get near the lion or it is located in a patch of bush or ~~an~~ camp, the fighting dogs, which if possible have been on leash up to this time, are let go and the lion is brought to bay and shot as soon as possible.

There is no question of the lion being torn to pieces by the hounds and it is difficult to believe that any one could believe such a story. The worst that can be said for this method of hunting lions is that it greatly minimizes the danger to the sportsman and that it is possible with a well-trained pack of hounds to kill every lion in a district. I must admit that I consider shooting lions single handed, mounted on a good pony, the finest sport of all, but it is untrue and unjustifiable to condemn hunting lions with a pack of hounds as cruel and unsportsmanlike, for there is frequently a good run and a big

fight and considerable danger at the end of it. Those who are loudest in condemning this method of hunting lions are without exception, those who have never been fortunate enough to take part in a hunt and who consequently know nothing whatever about the subject.

I have seen thirty one lions killed in this way, and at no time was there anything unsporting or cruel, either from the point of view of the lions or the hounds. I found also that Mr. Rainey looked after his hounds properly, and took great care of them. He had a covered in mule wagon, which followed the hounds as close as possible and which had water barrels fitted beneath it so that the tired hounds could be given water at the end of a ~~day~~ hunt, and put into the wagon and taken back to camp.

With regard to the lions which were killed along the edge of the Southern Game Reserve last year, I enclose a copy of my original letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, in which the whole matter is clearly explained.

I ought also to mention that Mr. Rainey had a doctor with him and after a "kill" any wounded dogs were properly dressed and attended to.

With regard to the present position, Mr. Rainey is again visiting the Protectorate this year, but I have had an interview with him and clearly explained the situation to him and I have told him that the Government neither wishes, nor intends to allow, all the lions to be exterminated in the shooting grounds and unoccupied areas. And although there is at present no law by which sportsmen can be prevented from killing an unlimited

number of lions, or from hunting them with packs of hounds, I have asked Mr. Rainey not to go into the valuable shooting grounds and kill lions which are doing no harm to anyone, but to devote his time to hunting in the occupied areas and among the farms, where he will be able to kill numbers of lions and leopards which are doing great damage to domestic stock. I am glad to say that Mr. Rainey has agreed to do this and he has promised me that he will not kill more than six lions in the shooting grounds or unoccupied areas and in view of the fact that his party hold several £50 game licences I consider that it is quite reasonable and that he is entitled to kill six lions.

I am giving Mr. Rainey assistance in advising him as to which farms and districts to visit, and I am instructing the resident game rangers in the various districts to do the same. I am also obtaining permission from farmers for Mr. Rainey to hunt on their land and they will welcome him and his hounds.

Finally let me assure you that no one is more alive to the importance of the situation or more anxious to prevent the undue killing of lions than I am myself. In fact eight months ago I laid before the Executive Council of this Protectorate a bill to prohibit the hunting of lions with packs of hounds except on the farms and occupied areas and to include lions in the game list and limit the number allowed to be killed, except of course on the occupied areas. Unfortunately

owing to the importance of the matter not being fully realized the bill was not passed. However I am now bringing the bill up for further consideration, and as my proposals are now more clearly understood I trust the bill will be passed.

at first glance the suggestion of protecting vermin, as lions are frequently but wrongly termed, appears monstrous, but as soon as it is clearly understood that such protection only refers to certain districts the situation is entirely altered. In my opinion the lion is the finest game animal in Africa, and the greatest attraction to sportsmen and consequently a source of considerable revenue in game licences to the Protectorate. My proposals also have a double advantage, for not only will they prevent the killing of many valuable lions in the shooting grounds, but they will have the effect of confining the operations of any packs of hounds or gluttonous sportsmen, to the farms and occupied areas, where the destruction of lions and leopards will be welcomed.

I have the honour to be

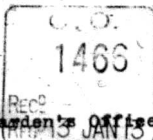
Sir

Your obedient servant.

R. B. Moornain

Chief Game Warden  
East Africa Protectorate.

No. 85/12.



601

March 18th. 1912.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No.S.1596 of February 20th 1912, enclosing a copy of Colonial Office despatch No.55, with reference to hunting lions in the Southern Game Reserve.

2. The account given in the newspaper has, as is usually the case, been grossly misstated and distorted.

3. It was not at all a case of Mr. Rainey "being lucky in obtaining the permission of His Excellency, the Governor to hunt lions in the Reserve". There is no question of anyone, whether titled or wealthy, being granted permission to hunt in the Game Reserves and I trust there never will be.

4. The description of the lions "succumbing in a few minutes of the vicious tearing bites of the dogs" is of course ridiculous and is entirely a piece of Journalistic imagination, and quite untrue. The dogs used by Mr. Rainey in no way resemble mastiffs. They were a small lightly made breed of American fox hounds and were used to follow the trail of lions and the lions when found were then shot, at no small risk to men and hounds. The 26 lions said to have been killed in one day is again a misstatement. This number, together with one cub caught alive, in all 27, was the total number killed during the 12 days' expedition:

The Hon'ble  
The Chief Secretary,  
Nairobi.

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5. I should like the true facts of the case to be clearly understood. This expedition to kill the lions along the edge of the Reserve which borders on the Machakos district, now occupied by farmers, was undertaken entirely on my recommendation and sanctioned by His Excellency for the following reason:-

During the previous year farmers, and especially Ostrich farmers, had suffered very serious losses from lions, many of which undoubtedly came out of the Reserve. In one case six lions broke into the Ostrich pens of Messrs. Lambert & Wilson and killed in one night 51 Ostriches, which at a low valuation of £10 per bird amount to a loss of over £500. Captain Slatter's farm had been twice visited by lions resulting in the loss of 31 Ostriches. Messrs. C.D. & H.Hill and Mr. T.Deacon and others had also suffered in the same way. The Settlers in this district had therefore asked that some measures might be taken to destroy these lions and it had undoubtedly become necessary that immediate action should be taken.

The only method of dealing with the problem successfully was the use of poison. There are many objections to strychnine poison under any circumstances and I am most strongly opposed to using it in the Game Reserves, because not only does its action continue for some time after it is intended, but it kills besides lions great numbers of smaller carnivorous animals and raptorial birds.

It so happened that at this moment Mr. Rainey visited the Protectorate with his pack of hounds and it appeared to me far better to make use of him to destroy these lions which were doing so much damage to farmers than

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than to use poison, and at the same time save the lives of many lions which he would otherwise have killed in districts where they do no harm and where they are in fact valuable game.

I therefore suggested to His Excellency that Mr. Rainey should be invited, I might almost say employed, to destroy these lions, and the desired result was accomplished by this means in 12 days, whereas it would have taken some months and much trouble to accomplish it in any other way. In fact there is no other way in which these lions could have been got rid of in so short time and with so little damage to the Reserve.

This expedition was not undertaken in a reckless manner nor without due consideration for the sanctuary of the Reserve, and I personally supervised the whole proceeding. The object being to kill as quickly as possible the lions which inhabited the edge of the Reserve along the Railway Line. There are certain places which harbour lions along the edge of the Reserve and in which they breed and it is from these places that the lions come and make raids among the farmers. These places are well known to the Game Department and it was to these places that I conducted Mr. Rainey and his hounds with as little disturbance to the Reserve as possible. If the expedition had not been carried out in a businesslike way it would certainly not have been so successful in so short time.

As to any damage having been done to the Reserve I think I need only draw attention to two facts to entirely dispel any illusion on this point. The area of the Southern Game Reserve is 10,695 square miles and during this lion hunt the expedition was at no time more than 8 miles from the boundary of the Reserve which is formed

by

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by the Railway Line. From this it will be realised how infinitesimal the effect has been upon the Reserve. There are many thousands of square miles in which lions are breeding in numbers absolutely undisturbed, and the edge of the Reserve which borders on the occupied areas will always be kept only too well supplied with lions and there is no question that if the Reserve is to remain as a practical possibility in contact with numerous ~~farm~~ farms it will always be necessary to keep down the lions along this edge of the Reserve. This will be among the duties of the Game Rangers and in ~~future~~ I hope it will be possible to prevent lions from congregating in such numbers along ~~the edge~~ of the Reserve.

6. With regard to the question of cruelty to animals raised by the Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals, I think most people are in sympathy with the objects of this Society. I am particularly so myself, but I am bound to say that in this case the attentions of the Society have been conspicuously ill-paced, in fact it is hard to realise that the matter has not been brought up as a huge joke. It has been said that it is only a small step from the sublime to the ridiculous and I think the present case quite justifies the proverb. The very idea of dogs of any kind tearing a lion to pieces in a few moments is too utterly absurd, and if meant seriously only exposes an almost incredible ignorance of the strenght and ferocity of a lion, to whom even a large dog is no more formidable than a rat to a terrier. Even if it was possible for dogs to tear lions to pieces, which it is not, it would certainly be a great feat on the part of the dogs and could hardly be included in the term "cruelty to animals". If this

would



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would be considered cruelty to animals it is difficult to understand how the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals countenances fox hunting and hare hunting, for in these cases the fox or hare really is torn to pieces in a few moments.

David  
7. It is a curious coincidence that Mr. <sup>David</sup> Davies, M.P., happened to arrive at Messrs. Wilson's farm at the time when the lions killed the 51 Ostriches previously referred to and I have no doubt that Mr. David Davies would be willing to give the Secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Mr. George Greenwood, M.P., an account of what he saw and tell them something of the gentle ways of lions.

8. I think these two gentlemen can hardly realise what it means to live, as some farmers are doing in British East Africa, under the constant dread and horror of nocturnal attacks from lions, or they would hesitate before raising such <sup>a</sup> question as the present.

9. When this boundary of the Southern Game Reserve is properly fenced I hope it will do away with much of the trouble with lions as there will then remain inside the Reserve to a very great extent.

I have &c., &c.,

Sd/- R. B. WOOSNAM.

Game Warden

Downing Street,

27 January, 1913.

Dear Mr Belfield,

I am much obliged to you for your letter of the 18th of December, enclosing Mr Woosnam's report on the hunting of lions with dogs by Mr Paul Rainey.

I found the report most interesting and I duly submitted it to the King in accordance with your wish. I enclose a copy of the reply which has been received from Lord Stamfordham, the King's Private Secretary.

I am satisfied by Mr Woosnam's explanations, and I do not consider that any further action in the matter is necessary. I see that the result of Mr. Rainey's expedition is a great outcrop of vivid posters all over London, and numerous notices in the Press, advertising his Cinematograph Show. I propose to go and see the show myself, and I am sure that it will be most interesting.

I hope very sincerely that you are finding the new life in East Africa agreeable to you and to your family, both in the matter of health and <sup>in the</sup> interest which I am sure you will find in the very varied task which has fallen to you.

Yours very sincerely

(-Ed). H. Harcourt.