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The Lion That Lost Its Way

(BY J. H. DRIBBERG)

This is not a fairy tale, though I am almost tempted to start with the traditional Once-upon-a-time. I was wandering off the beaten track in Africa, to be more precise in an obscure corner of the Lango country, when I came upon a lion cub. It was so small that it could lie comfortably in the palm of my hand, and its eyes had not yet opened. Its mother was presumably away hunting, and I was so fascinated with the creature that, sooner than allow the natives who were with me to kill it, I took it away with me. Feeding the cub was an anxious business for the first few days. Cow's milk served through an artificial teat of banana leaves did not agree with it, and in any case the amount of milk it managed to swallow in this way was insignificant. Eventually a goat was found which consented to suckle it, and in a few weeks its daily ration of milk increased to a dozen goats. It was strange how docile they were in submitting to their unwonted guest, and strange too how careful the cub was not to scratch them with its claws, sharp even at that age, as it clutched their udders. But milk did not suffice it for long, and gradually raw meat was substituted until, to its

great content, that was its only diet.

This lion—it never had a name other than "engato," which only means a lion—stayed with me for over two years, and during the whole time it never once had to be confined or to be punished, and never attempted to molest even a stranger. As a cub it could only be called kittenish. It played just like a kitten, delighting to jump on my shoulder and to lick my hair, or to chew the heels of my shoes. It early learned to climb the centre poles which supported the roof of my mud house, and that was the first time I realized that lions could climb. I came in one evening and found no lion at home, but after a long search and after mobilizing all my staff, I discovered it clinging to the top of the pole, too terrified to attempt the downward journey. This surprising feat led me to ask a few questions, and there seemed to be no doubt that lions not only climb trees, but that they thus lie in wait for passing game, the approach of which they can scent more easily from their exalted position. The belief that lions have no sense of scent is as fabulous as many other beliefs concerning wild animals.

Slowly the cub grew up. It became less kittenish. The spotted markings of babyhood began to disappear. It grew a tougher, less furry coat. It began to take a livelier interest in the world about it and made friends with my dogs. It followed me on my marches and even learned to answer to a whistle, just as a dog might. Its romps became more boisterous, but with all its growing strength it never lost its kittenish gentleness and never once unheated its claws when at play. Only at feeding time did it display a proper sense of resentment as if interference. It soon became well known to all the Lango, as it accompanied me on my travels, and could wander through any village without upsetting the equanimity of the inhabitants.

But a day came when it had to undergo a new experience, and its behavior showed such a curious blend of obstinacy and intelligence that it is worth recording. The great Panjandrum was inspecting the district next to mine and I was summoned to give an account of my stewardship. So off we set in a ninety-mile march, Engato and my dogs following along quite cheerfully. All went well till we reached the border of my district, when an urgent summons told me to hurry up, as Himself had therefore to be done in a single day.

This was too much for Engato. He was accustomed to ambling along for fifteen, or at a stretch for twenty miles a day and he would not do another inch. It was not that he was tired, but he had formed habits, and no cajoling would induce him to break them.

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My "boys" were very much put out about it, but there was nothing else to be done. So we left him there, some twenty-odd miles from Solot, the station for which I was making, and hoped for the best. We told everyone along the route that Engato was about—for he was a stranger to those people—and laid a curse on any one who should venture to disturb him. And so I reached Solot minus Engato. Three days later he strolled into Solot, late in the evening, and calmly walked on to the verandah of the Commissioner's house, as if it were the most usual thing in the world. Heaving himself on his hind legs, he flopped with all his weight across my knees, looking up with an absurd grin on his ugly face. As a matter of interest we tracked down his movements, and, incidentally, I anticipated a large bill for damages, as he had to feed himself during those three days. Considering all things, we did not think two chickens and one sheep excessive. The most interesting point in his movements, however, was that, though he came to us in the evening, he had arrived in Solot in the morning—only to find a safari starting out along the road by which he had just come. Assuming that it was mine, he had followed it after a short rest till it reached a camp some fifteen miles away, and then discovered that it was not mine at all, but that of some local official. Then this lion, who had previously refused to exceed his statutory fifteen miles, quickly turned back and returned to Solot, having in that one day covered close on fifty miles. Two problems remain which I cannot attempt to solve: how did he find his way about a strange country, and how did he manage to track me down, without in the least knowing where I was going? And if sent is the explanation, which I doubt, how was it that he was deceived by the outgoing safari? My "boys" who were delighted to see him, said that it was "bahati"—just luck—which is as good an answer as any.

Engato had many adventures during his career with me—his remarkable friendships with other animals must wait for another occasion—but one incident, when he was little more than a cub, probably marked one of the great days in his life. I was in camp, sleeping in a tent. Engato had recently been promoted from sleeping on my bed to sleeping underneath it with the dogs. Hardly had I put out my hurricane lamp, when a full-grown leopard entered the tent, presumably after the dogs. Without a second's hesitation Engato leaped out, and the leopard was so astonished that it turned tail and fled down the path, with the cub gallantly bounding along in its wake. I had relighted the lamp before Engato returned; so I was able to see the most remarkable exhibition of blatant braggadocio. Words cannot describe the lilt and swagger with which he walked back into

the tent. He was fully conscious that he had behaved splendidly, and as he walked he hunched his shoulders forward as if to say, "So much for leopards! Trust me." —New Statesman and Nation.

IN MEMORIAM

MRS. JAMES OFFER

In the death at Mayfield of Mrs. James Offer on August 4, a life of wonderful devotion and Christian service came to an end. The late Mrs. Offer, who was about 84 years of age, had for a number of years lived with her nephew, Mr. Allen Moffatt at Mayfield during the summer and with Mrs. John T. MacLeod, Chestnut Street, City, during the winter. She had been a member of Zion Presbyterian Church. In the course of her long life she made a large number of friends, who heard with regret of her passing.

The funeral, which was largely attended by friends from the country, was held from Zion Presbyterian Church on Monday August 7. The service was conducted by Rev. Dr. R. M. Legate and Rev. Mr. Patterson. Interment was in the People's Cemetery where also are buried her husband who predeceased her by about twenty years, and her son, Edward.

The pall-bearers were, Messrs. Murdoch Ross, Gordon Evans, Allison MacLeod, James Offer, William Peardon and William Bruce.

New Machine Reads Lines

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., Aug. 12.—(G.P.)—A new servo-mechanism, a machine whose job is to direct other machines is announced at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This servo is a specialist, its act a unique ability to follow a line drawn on a sheet of white paper. Whether straight, shaky or jagged, the lines are all the same to this robot. The operation principle is much like a school teacher running the tip of a pointer along a line drawn on the blackboard. The servo's pointer is a shaft of light. Its interior mechanism registers the pointer's movements and telegraphs them to control machinery with a speed about equal to that of motion picture projection.

"Although built primarily for research use in certain calculating machines," says the announcement, "possible applications of this servo-mechanism include the automatic steering and stabilization of aircraft, the gyroscopic stabilization and steering of ships, operation of various types of recording instruments, gun control, the automatic control of industrial processes and many others."

Minard's Liniment stops standstill.

Bringing Up Father



Sponsors Plan For Settlement Of Groups Here

LONDON, Aug. 8.—(G.P.)—Declaring opinion in favor of resumption of immigration on a normal scale seems to be gaining ground throughout Canada, and asserting his plan has the broad support of the dominion and provincial governments, Brig General M.L. Hornby has circulated a new explanation of his plan for "British community settlements" in Canada.

The Hornby plan would send to the dominion small communities of selected British families, established on areas of proven good mixed-farming land of 5,000 to 10,000 acres in extent, to be sponsored by the existing voluntary migration committees of the counties and towns in the United Kingdom.

Declaring Canada, by the establishment of so great transportation, educational and other services, has already made its share of any 50-50 financing, Brig General Hornby proposes the United Kingdom make the necessary loans available to the county, city or town committees here at a low rate of interest.

The sponsor of the plan quotes from a letter sent by Hon. W. A. Gordon, Canadian minister of immigration at the end of June, in which the minister said: "In my judgment there can be no two opinions as to the importance or desirability of furthering British settlement in Canada as rapidly as conditions will allow. I am interested in and sympathetic with any practical scheme which will encourage the successful transfer to and establishment in Canada of the right type of British settlers."

The Canadian provincial governments, too, he asserts, are favorable. "In the course of my recent visits to the capitals of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, and during my conference with the premiers and members of their cabinets," he says, "it was made clear to me the provincial authorities are warmly in favor of a large increase in the proportion of British immigration into Canada as soon as economic conditions warrant the admission of immigrants on a normal scale. The government of Ontario in particular sees no reason for any further delay."

Brig. General Hornby points out there are economic reasons why a denser rural population, particularly in the prairie provinces, would be advantageous to Canada. Western Canada alone, he says, could easily accommodate and absorb many hundreds of thousands of British families without much, if any, appreciable additional capital expenditure on public services.

"The United Kingdom," says the memorandum, "has families available and to spare. If she would send them across the Atlantic and make satisfactory arrangements for settling them on the land some at any rate of the present difficulties, both of the Mother Country and of Canada, would be solved. The influx of families would of course be on a small scale at first, but would gradually increase in proportion as progress is made with arrangements for establishing in mind that proper settlement of the newcomers is the crux of the problem."

Brig. General Hornby also takes into account the large increase in non-British immigration to Canada coincident with the decrease in British immigration, during the past 10 years, declaring it is evident that if vigorous measures are not immediately taken to counteract the growing preponderance of non-British settlers in the Prairie Provinces, the Canadian West will completely lose its already fast-disappearing British character.

These are the principles outlined in the new scheme:

1. The initial selection of migrants is the foundation of successful overseas settlement. This selection can be carried out best by those who know the characters of the intending migrants best—their fellow citizens of the same community. Those who select the migrants should accept responsibility by undertaking to establish the selected migrants overseas, and by returning to their Old Country homes those who do not succeed.
2. All new settlement from the British Isles should be in the al-

ready-developed districts, in close contacts with established markets, not on outlying and not yet fully opened-up areas.

3. New settlers require close supervision and support, both agricultural and financial.
4. In order that supervision may be effectively exercised the farms and other holdings occupied by new settlers should be grouped as closely as practicable.
5. New settlers should be established first as tenants of fully-equipped farms on a crop-share rental basis until they have found their feet. They should not be loaded down at the outset with debt, incurred by purchases of land, of equipment and of livestock. They should not be encouraged to purchase lands for themselves until they have proved their capacity to farm as tenants, and have saved some money.
6. New settlers who do not "make good" should be returned to the United Kingdom by those who sent them out to Canada.

Brig. General Hornby declares the objective of the plan is to establish what he called "Foundation Community Farm Settlements," small communities of selected British families, established on areas of proven good mixed-farming land of 5,000 to 10,000 acres in extent. In sponsoring the new settlements by the existing county and town voluntary migration committees the object in view is to bring into play the very strong county and town spirit which exists throughout the United Kingdom.

Each committee would acquire by purchase a block of from 5,000 to 10,000 acres of well situated farm land suitable for mixed farming. The land would be held by the committee in perpetuity, it would not be sold to the individual settlers but would be worked by them on a rental basis, the rental being a proportion of the annual produce. Each committee would select a settlement manager or supervisor from the district from which the settlers come and through this manager would subdivide and develop the area into suitable farm holdings of varying sizes. This manager would have the assistance of a field foreman and other staff with local Canadian experience.

In order to safeguard the committee's interest in the matter of land purchase it is proposed the Canadian government be asked to nominate an advisory committee in each province, whose function would be allowed to become public charges, at least during the five year period during which the settler is acquiring legal Canadian domicile.

KNITTING IN SOUTH

The knitting industry was among the first manufacturing operations undertaken in Hongkong, this being brought about owing to the large demand in South China for cheap knitted wear such as cotton hosiery and singlets, which are the two items in which the knitting factories of Hongkong specialize, states the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways. The industry first started with one knitting machine set up in ordinary Chinese houses, the machines remaining the property of the promoter who rented them to families and purchased the output. Today the bulk of the output in Hongkong of cheap cotton knitted wear comes from well organized knitting mills. Many of the mills have installed Chinese-made knitting machines, copies from British and American types. The local machine costs approximately one-third of the British and American makes, but is not as reliable. The majority of the Hongkong knitting mills use electric power. Chinese women during recent years have made rapid strides in the art of knitting by hand and this has created a demand for knitted wool. There is a market in Hongkong and South China for Canadian knitting mills for the higher grades of silk hosiery and light weight good quality knitted cotton garments and already some of the Canadian knitting mills are securing some of this trade, although the demand for high quality goods is limited and is catered

Tasmania

NEW STATE GOVERNOR

Tasmanians received with satisfaction the news of the appointment by the King of Sir Ernest Clark as Governor of the State. Since the retirement of Sir James O'Grady two years ago, Tasmania has not had a Governor, and the Lieut.-Governor and Chief Justice (Sir Herbert Nicholls) has done all the official work. Sir Ernest Clark has held important positions in the British Public Service, and was chosen as a member of the British Economic Delegation which visited Australia in 1929.

PRODUCTION OF IODINE

A variety of kelp which has been found at Blackman's Bay, in Southern Tasmania, is believed to be so rich in iodine that there may be prospects for the establishment of an industry in the State for the extraction of iodine from seaweed. Professor A. H. B. Wallace, of Sydney, who has been collecting specimens of seaweed from Southern Tasmanian waters, found at Blackman's Bay a new variety of kelp belonging to the same family as that growing on the Californian coast, where iodine-producing weeds occur. The sources of the world's iodine supply are in dried-up lake beds in Germany and Chile, where there are vast potassium and sodium compounds. The development of seaweeds from which iodine is obtained is carried on assiduously on the Californian coast. The kelps around Tasmania are rich in potassium, and may be used as fertilizers. Professor Lucas is of the opinion, in fact, that if the German supply of potassium ever fell off that commodity may be extracted from local seaweeds. In Japan, incidentally, seaweeds are in great demand, and are sold in bundles like other vegetables. They are rich in vitamins, and are considered a great delicacy. During the war, when the Germans were too busy to grow cabbages, they consumed large quantities of seaweed. The iodine kelp which Professor Lucas has discovered, is being subjected to tests by the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

BIG SHIPS FOR TOURISTS

The stimulus given to the Tasmanian tourist trade by the general exemption from the restrictive clauses of the Federal Navigation Act to British passenger liners has been of immense benefit to the State. There has been a remarkable increase in the number of tourists who have visited the State, and Hobart in particular; for example over 2000 arrived within one week, and two weeks later overseas liners brought another 1500 persons to Hobart. All this has been made possible by the action of the Commonwealth Government in granting temporary concessions to British passenger ships, and provided those exemptions are made permanent, big companies such as the P. and O. and Orient intend to continue to take advantage of them. All interests in Tasmania, therefore, are concentrating on determined endeavors to obtain lasting relief from legislative restrictions which for many years have operated in a manner detrimental to the State's welfare.

50 YEARS AS LOCAL PREACHER

PLYMOUTH, Eng., Aug. 12.—(G.P.)—Alderman G. P. Dymond, ex-mayor of Plymouth, who at the Methodist Church Conference at Westminster was elected vice-president of the Conference, made an interesting statement as to his family's connection with the British Methodism for 200 years. He said: "Next year he would complete 50 years as a local preacher. His father served for 53 years in the ministry. A brother who died last year served 45 years in a mission field, and a younger brother was serving the Methodist Church in West Africa."

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