



WORK-ANIMAL FOR THE TROPICS?

Elands are quiet and well-behaved in zoological gardens, but how they might respond when first efforts were made to train them to harness is another question.

sandy north coast. Chimus were among the people swept into the great Indian Empire forged by ambitious Incan Indians a few centuries before America was discovered. When Spaniards invaded Peru, they collected four million dollars from one Chimu city alone. Spaniards thought the Indians pitiful savages, because they admired fine metal for its beauty and did not measure their wealth in gold.

Dr. Luis E. Valcarcel, director of the National Museum of Peru, is most impressed by the three gold idols. He concludes that all three represent the same Chimu character, and that is the first Chimu king, who was so great and good that when he died rumor said he flew off to heaven.

By tradition, this king, named Naymlap, came to Peru riding with his attendants in a fleet of rafts. They settled the north coast, and near the landing place they built a temple, with a statue of the king done in green stone.

That the idols represent the Chimu national hero is shown by: the large and very green turquoises decorating the statues; human features, replacing the animal fantasies popular in Peruvian idols; and two stiff little wings sprouting from the upper arms.

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In air conditioning, drying the air is often as important as cooling it.

ZOOLOGY

Montezuma Had no Zoo— Writer Had Imagination

MONTEZUMA, lord of the Aztecs in Mexico, didn't have any fine zoo for his entertainment. That was just a yellow journalism story perpetrated back in 1684.

So the Bureau of American Ethnology declares, on bringing to light a seventeenth century yellow journalist named Antonio de Solis, who wrote a book on the Mexican conquest without bothering much about facts.

Solis got his zoo story by combining and embroidering records, say the Bureau ethnologists.

Diaz, soldier of Cortez, had described a collection of birds, rattlesnakes, and animals kept at the Aztec capital, presumably for sacrifice. Haklyut, the historian, described discovery of American bison. Solis scrambled these facts and made Montezuma a glamorous figure in zoo history, the collector of a wonderful exhibit of rare beasts.

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ZOOLOGY

Suggests Domestication Of Big African Antelope

FARMERS in Africa may some day be able to harness big antelopes to their plows, and have their meat to eat and their hides to make into harness and boots. Domestication of the eland, an antelope bigger than most oxen, is suggested by Prof. Caesar R. Boettger of the University of Berlin, as a possible solution to Africa's cattle-pest problem.

The tsetse fly, Africa's most dreaded insect, is making parts of the continent uninhabitable because it carries the germs of a disease deadly to domestic cattle and other livestock of non-African origin. It deprives the natives of their chief form of wealth, and makes farming impossible to white settlers.

The native fauna of Africa are not totally immune to the tsetse-borne disease, ngana, but they are highly resistant to it. They survive when ngana wipes out whole herds of domestic cattle.

Chief obstacle to be overcome in using the eland or some other member of Africa's rich population of large hoofed animals is their alleged untamability.

None of them has ever been domesticated in modern times.

However, Prof. Boettger believes that the difficulty lies not so much in the psychology of the animals as in that of the natives. They have just never taken the trouble to try, he thinks, and he points out the success of the Belgian efforts in the Congo, in making good work-animals out of the supposedly untamable African species of elephant.

Once in the remote history of Africa antelopes were kept in man-tended herds, Prof. Boettger states. Monuments of the oldest dynasties in Egypt show herds of three antelope species kept within enclosures. Antelope-keeping became a lost art, however, long before the end of antiquity in Egypt; perhaps because imported cattle were easier to manage and more profitable.

Immediate success could not be looked for, perhaps. But, probably, our Neolithic ancestors had to work on cattle, horses, and other animals for many generations before they became tractable and really worth their keep.

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