

BUSHMEN AND BISONS

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Bushmen is the name given one of the South African tribes now under the suzerainty of the British Empire. Bisons are wild animals to be found in the U.S.A. and Canada.

One may well ask what comparison can there be between these people living in the South African wastes and the wild beasts of North America. Well, the fact is the cultured civilizers who have shouldered the "white man's burden" of educating and enlightening the backward peoples regard both the bushmen and the bisons as exceedingly rare but interesting types of animal life. When the Europeans colonised America in the early days, the Bisons were exterminated in their thousands. It was only at the end of the Nineteenth Century that somebody woke up to the fact that the number of bisons in the country had been depleted to about a thousand in all. Urgent steps were taken to prevent their complete extermination and special breeding grounds were set aside for them where hunting was prohibited. Since that time there has been a gradual increase in the number of bisons and to-day there are already several thousands.

The Bushmen too were persecuted by the European civilizers and their numbers rapidly diminished. The Boers took the lead in cutting down this defenceless race; regular hunts of the Bushmen were organised. They were driven far into the deserts of South Africa where there is little food or water to be had. At times they can only eke out a miserable existence feeding on wild-plant roots. No wonder there are only a few thousand Bushmen left. But the anthropologists assert that the Bushmen are the last descendents of the stone-age people and bourgeois scientific thought believes that their preservation is extremely important.

So we find the "Cape Times"(o) writing: "As this race(Bushmen)

(o) "The Cape Times" is a daily newspaper controlled by the Big Bourgeoisie of South Africa.

is extremely interesting historically and ethnographically, many believe they should be preserved. The Government has been urged to enact the same measures for their protection as are used to prevent the complete extermination of wild animals," and the Government heeded the voice of its citizens who are always so anxious to preserve anything of educational value. That enlightened gentleman, Mr. GRIBLER, Minister for Agriculture, made it known that he was very sympathetic to the idea of preserving the Bushmen and was prepared to arrange for their habitation in a segregated area of the Kalahari Desert. "I feel sure," declared the learned Minister, "that the Bushmen should be preserved as we preserve game."

In South Africa, by the way, not only the Bushmen, but all the natives are regarded more like cattle than like people. All sexual intercourse between whites and blacks is considered a criminal offense and delinquents of both races are punished for "such an unnatural act". It was only at the end of 1929 that a judge in Pretoria, the capital of the South African Union, dealt with the case of a farmer who had been living with a Negro woman, declaring that the defendant was a sexual pervert and that had he only the power he would castrate a man of that type. The farmer was bound over to be forcibly cured of sexual perversion so that society would be safeguarded against the spread of such a hideous evil.

The "monkey" trial in America, the treatment of colored peoples as if they were no better than cattle and the merciless extermination of entire races and tribes, are all examples of modern bourgeois civilisation. In fact, it is bourgeois culture at its height. Only in Soviet Russia, in the land of the Proletarian Dictatorship, has science and culture been given their rightful place as the handmaidens of the Great Work undertaken to build up a new Social Order for all the peoples, irrespective of race, color or stage of cultural development.

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