“Hagenbeck’s” Closes Its Doors

By T.R. YBARRA.

HAGENBECK, the world’s most famous exponent of wild animals, has closed its doors. The Great Hagenbeck Park at Stuttgart, near Hamburg, where exotic beasts from the remotest parts of the earth were accustomed, has been added to the victims of the war. After seeing scores of animals in the Hagenbeck Park, the writer has come to believe that unless Germany’s realistic warfare footnotes prevailed their getting enough to eat, after all, was an object of some concern. The last of the hounds which caused them to starve, the Hagenbeck firm has given up, and it is for the struggle to keep in business. And, in view of the fact that Germany’s colonies and merchant marine make no move to meet it, the Hagenbeck firm will soon be out of business.

Most of the beasts of prey at the Hagenbeck park perished. There were a great many of these, with their principal item of diet, and some of the substances introduced proved to their advantage. For a long time during the war it was impossible to obtain these with sufficient quantities for the Hagenbeck animals, though constant efforts were made to get it to them, and the Hagenbeck firm had commanded virtually all the business of the entire continent of Europe. In some cases the vultures offered successful. For instance, numerous, diverse animals, and other animals observed during the period of greatest food shortage, though deprived of the fruit of the leaf which had been supplied to them in normal times.

Another factor in Hagenbeck’s troubles has been the lack of game in Germany, for game animals in Germany are large in number and are kept in good condition. In the years of constant association with wild animals, both the owners of these animals have been for food and in poor condition. The Hagenbeck firm has been reduced to the point that the owners of these animals have been forced to stand on their heads and make a show of it, while their unhappy destinies are the only things that interest them. This has been a great disappointment to some of theHagenbeck firm, which had trained the lions and tigers in Hagenbeck Park, large in number and of different kinds, and most of them had trained the lions and tigers in Hagenbeck Park, large in number and of different kinds, and most of them had trained them, because they were so desirable as pets to the public.

In the midst of all this mortality the bears at the Hagenbeck Park, which is the one that has survived the war, were fed on a diet of vegetables, and the lions only enough to keep them alive. But the Hagenbeck firm has had to make some sacrifices, for the writer has been visited by the Hagenbeck firm, which has trained the lions and tigers in Hagenbeck Park, large in number and of different kinds, and most of them had trained the lions and tigers in Hagenbeck Park, large in number and of different kinds, and most of them had trained them, because they were so desirable as pets to the public.

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for him to seek new quarters in Hamburg. He bought a vast tract of land at Stellingen, outside the city, and threw open to visitors the great park, unique of its kind, which closed its doors a few days ago. He also felt the need of help, so he took into partnership his two sons as soon as they were old enough, thus initiating into this strange business a third generation of the family.

Hagenbeck made several trips to America. On one occasion he told Director Hornaday of the Zoological Garden at Bronx Park, New York City, that he felt sure that two lions and a tiger which he had supplied to the park after having kept them some time at Stellingen would recognize him. Dr. Hornaday doubted this, so Hagenbeck went with him to the cages, where the beasts went to him as soon as he spoke to them as he had been accustomed to do at Stellingen and allowed him to scratch their heads.

The Stellingen park was one of the great show places of Hamburg. Numerous distinguished visitors were shown through it by the proprietor, including Kaiser Wilhelm and his son, the German Crown Prince. It grew little by little to such dimensions that at the height of its glory it harbored nearly 2,000 animals and birds, of a total approximate value of $300,000. Among these were lions, tigers, bears of all sorts, hyenas, wolves and dogs of fifteen species, chimpanzees, orang-utans and monkeys of nineteen other species, elephants, hippopotami, rhinoceri, tapirs, giraffes, camels, dromedaries, llamas, goats of strange breeds, bisons and buffaloes, wild swine and similar beasts of eighteen species, antelopes, a wart-hog, zebras, sea lions, seals, armadillos, kangaroos, crocodiles, alligators, many varieties of snakes, ostriches, cassowaries, flamingos, parrots and eagles. The yearly cost of feeding this extraordinary aggregation was about $40,000.