

## How Bill the Bull Can Be Helped

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### Cattle Standardization Board Proposed



Since the day when Homo clubbed the first Bovo to death and called in the tribe to participate in a feast of juicy beef, Bill the Bull has been contributing energy for the human being to consume in his march to the goal of comfort, happiness and good health.

No other animal can transform humanly useless vegetation into humanly useful food faster than Bill the Bull, so since the day the human animal tasted the first beefsteak, man and Bill have marched side by side, ever climbing toward better things. Bill has been the greatest contributor to the position man occupies in the animal kingdom today. The ergs of human effort Bill has supplied through his calories are uncountable and the ergs of his own labor applied to the soil so that other necessary calories could be obtained by man are also uncountable. So Bill has a place in the life of a people second to no other animal—he is easily first.

Here in the Philippines Bill's capacity to help is but slightly recognized, yet he is the greatest single need in the country; without him as a food supply, without him as a common laborer in the fields, progress, development, civilization in a higher form than is now present in the country is impossible.

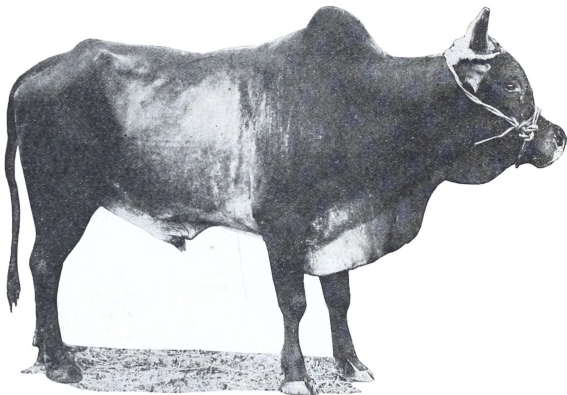
Bill, and his owners who like him, must be helped. Those interested in his welfare both as a force in the community for good and the profits he will return to the owner, and to the state in general benefits to the entire community, should constitute a group to improve him in form, type and efficiency. Nature you know does not evolve better types of work and beef animals. Conditions and requirements of cultivation and development of lands are entirely artificial, not natural, and to think that primeval Bill can take his place in this artificial situation, without assistance, is a wrong thought; he cannot, he must be helped to meet the situation. Nature simply provides that the fittest physically to the conditions surrounding the animal shall survive, and here in the Philippines it is a wonder that Bill is still with us at all. Outside the restrictions nature puts on development, government steps in and puts on further restrictions and creates conditions under which nature is assisted in destroying.

So if Bill is to be changed in type so that he can better meet the artificial conditions imposed upon him, and be increased in numbers so that he can take a larger position in the development of this country, nature must be controlled in breeding, and government must liberate the business of his growing from the restrictions it imposes.

Almost every man of a progressive turn of mind is interested in Bill, and government should give this interest the right

of way and allow it to be directly represented in the transformation of the useless grass lands of the country into better types of animals so that they can synchronize with the heavier work now needed to develop the country. If such was done the country would soon start into an era of development not exceeded by any area of land between Cancer and Capricorn.

On this page there is the picture of a steer grown in the Philippines,  $\frac{5}{8}$ ths Ongole and  $\frac{3}{8}$ ths native blood. He was four years old when slaughtered, and he produced 247½ kilos of dressed beef which was sold for 68 centavos per kilo; the hide and other offal bringing in P28 additional, making a total gross receipt for the animal of P196.30. It was a crime to slaughter him for beef in Manila, for he had at least five years of useful work in him and then his beef would be worth about what it was when killed. He is a distinct loss to the country, as his five years of work



Ongole-Ratio Four Year Old Steer, dressed weight 247½ kilos: 5/8ths Ongole-Indian, 3/8ths Native

would have contributed considerable to the development of the country. He was slaughtered because conditions of transportation and lack of interest on the part of those who should have bought him for work in the sugar fields of Negros, made it impossible to put him where he should have gone. He was but one of a lot of 21 head shipped to Manila and sold, as he had reached his maturity and it was no longer profitable to waste good grass on him. This steer was raised by the writer on the Masbate ranges and he is the product of an effort to better the type of cattle there.

In 1912 I allowed the itch I had to do something for Bill to be represented by the purchase of a lot of Masbate common native cows and several of the best looking native bulls I could find. All other males were castrated and all males trespassing upon the property were castrated also. In

five years the herd, although of pure native stock, stood out amongst the other herds on the range as by far the best. At that time the average weight of cattle from Masbate slaughtered in the Manila *matadero* was 85 kilos dressed.

Bear this in mind.

At this time I was able to obtain from the government two half-breed Ongole Indian bulls and these were turned into the herd. Shortly after this I was able to buy from various sources ten full blooded Ongole bulls. I selected the Ongole because of his shorter horns and to me better beef type. I was not able to confine the service of these full blooded bulls to my own herd as my neighbors, while interested, were not interested enough to buy bulls of their own; for a number of years we have had to go into the business of towing bulls back to the herd from ten, fifteen and twenty miles away, so that the bulls could render the service for which they were bought. At first I got hot in the collar over this sequestering of my property, but gradually I recognized and was satisfied with the fact that the bulls were bettering the general condition and that was my final object anyway. So a young half breed bulls came into being the

best of these were turned loose on the range entire and the others castrated. The result of this has been that Masbate cattle slaughtered in the *matadero* at Manila have increased to an average of 112 kilos dressed or an increase of 32½% in net beef per animal.

This is what is known as the common native stock of the ranges, now.

Where the government hampers the industry the most, is in its taxation, and in allowing the importation of beef animals; from foreign countries which are from time to time badly infected with deadly cattle diseases, thus keeping infection ever alive in the local herds.

If you will as a grower of cattle gather together a lot of the common native range stock of Masbate, bring it to Manila, slaughter it and sell the dressed beef and the offal for the best price obtainable you will find that 30.29% of the total expenses

of getting the animal here will be government charges in some form or other; you will find that these charges amount to 9.66% of the gross receipts for the animal, and in this there is not included two charges of the merchants tax at 1½% each, paid by wholesaler and retailer of the beef after the beef has left the hands of the grower. The grower does not pay the merchants tax on his sales. It is safe to say that on every kilo of Philippine grown fresh beef bought by the consumer he pays not less than 12 centavos per kilo to the government in some form of taxation. This is too much of a charge for government to make, as it is a direct attack upon the energy of the people who need the beef to meet the harder work of today; a direct attack upon the industry which will furnish work animals to increase the wealth of the country.

The industry should be absolutely free, in order to create a greater interest in it and thus a greater production of the necessary work animals to wrest greater wealth out of the vacant lands now absolutely idle.

It is my idea that an Animal Standardization Board should be provided for by legislation; this board to consist of men actually engaged in the business of growing and developing cattle, the Director of Agriculture to be its Chairman. The funds received from the registration and transfer of animals should go to the board as a fund with which to work out through importation of high grade sires a type of animal suitable to the climatic conditions governing here which will in the end give the quota of animals necessary to perform the work of the country and give the people a plentiful supply of cheap beef.

H. L. Heath.

## Trespassing in Our Neighbor's Backyard

After Big Game in the Indochina Wilderness

The interior country to the north and east of Saigon is sandy and as the rain water rapidly disappears below the surface of the ground cultivation is limited to a few favored spots. There is a sparse vegetation of palms and second growth covering most of the area but here and there immense grassy plains interpose. Apparently at some prehistoric date the country was favored with a more uniform rainfall and was more thoroughly cultivated. This guess is corroborated by the extensive Buddhist temple ruins completely hidden by jungle and but recently discovered.

The country now lies practically uninhabited except by wild game. Great herds of deer, pigs, bison and elephants find food and refuge in the areas too unproductive for humans to occupy, and along with these

Saigon seem to contradict this. The rubber trees so completely shade the ground that little moisture is lost by evaporation, and rubber can be grown where apparently no other crop can.

There is tremendous expansion in the industry here. New clearings and plantings are seen by the hundreds of square miles. Although personally I am not too optimistic about rubber in the Philippines, still I am sure that it would grow very well and be a wonderful help toward reforesting our co-gon hills.

Cattle and rice boats running between Manila and Saigon make the trip in five days and charge about sixty pesos passage. This puts a hunt in that country within the means of most any enthusiast who will save his pennies for the purpose. Some

dressed in white drill. Saigon is always a little warmer than Manila.

We expected to join M. C. D. Squires in Saigon and hunt with him. We found his brother Roy in the hospital suffering from sun stroke. A mild form of sun stroke seems to be of common occurrence there. Roy directed us to Annam, along the coast, to find "C. D." and Dr. Meisch, from Fort McKinley, as they were hunting with a professional guide, a Frenchman by the name of F. J. de Fosse.

We were fortunate in meeting a former employe of the customs service who had helped us in Phnom Penh two years before. He put our baggage through and got out our firearms permit for us before offices closed, on the day of our arrival. It is advisable to take on an assistant for these duties, as a stranger is so badly handicapped in language; although all officials were friendly and helpful. We gave our man ten pesos and a box of Manila cigars. He seemed pleased.

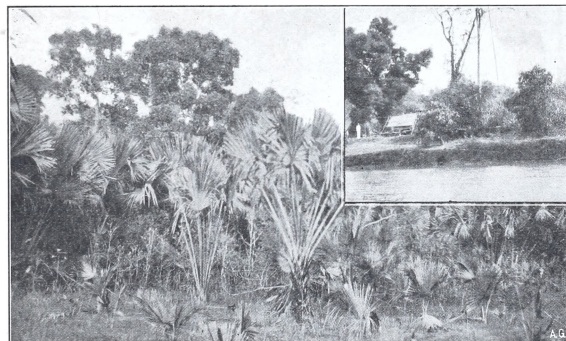
At Gia Huynh, 120 kilometers up the railroad, we found "C. D." and the doctor. Each had a good bag. The doctor had killed a fine tiger as it was stalking a deer, which he himself was stalking. He also had several animals of bison, water buffalo and an elephant. "C. D." had a very fine large tiger and several water buffaloes. Many of you who read this have had the pleasure of seeing his trophies in Squires-Bingham Company's windows recently.

It now developed that both Squires brothers and Dixon preferred to move on to Cambodia, where we had hunted two years ago. It seemed to me that a fourth member would make the party too large, so I employed de Fosse for a hunt in his territory. I did not regret my decision, as de Fosse knows his stuff and is a capital hunting companion. One immediately forgets the relation of employer and employe and is only conscious of a new friend. He has guided and hunted for market in that locality for many years, and he is undoubtedly an authority on the habits and haunts of native game.

March 20, the day of our arrival at de Fosse's house, he and I walked out a short distance from the house to see what we could see. To the left of the trail I saw through the bush what looked like one of the old cast-iron lions that were in vogue years ago as lawn ornaments. As I stopped to look closer it dropped its head to the ground, which relieved me of the doubt as to whether or not it was something to shoot. After the shot it rolled off the ant hill where it had been crouching, and with a deep growl made for the grass. Now even a house cat is no slouch in a hand to hand encounter, and as this was no house cat I was perfectly willing to accept de Fosse's suggestion that we come back after it next morning.

With a double-barrel shotgun and two trackers I went out next morning, and found the leopard dead. I was well pleased with the first day's hunt.

The next few days we hunted without success for a lion cow, for tiger bait. A cow was needed, as a bull would be too heavy to haul on a cart. The system used in getting a tiger is to select a place where tigers frequently pass, build a dead animal of grass and leaves and bring a blind animal as bait to the blind. A certain ripeness must be attained before the tiger can locate the bait; his sense of smell is not more keen than a man's. The bait is inspected twice daily. When it is found to have been partly eaten, the hunter crawls into the blind to await the tiger's return for a second helping. A screen is also built, and a trail cleaned to the rear, to enable the hunter to approach the bait silently, in



(Photo by J. L. Myers, Author)  
Good Big Game Country, Indochina: Inset, Camp on River Bank.

grass eaters, and feeding upon them, are tigers and leopards. There are in addition many other animals more or less rare, such as goats, bear and rhinoceros, and also a wonderful variety of birds, including peacocks, pheasants, quails, ducks and pigeons.

Strange to say there is one crop that seems to do fairly well in this semiarid region, and that is rubber. We have been led to believe that rubber requires a fairly uniform rainfall but the beautiful and thrifty groves along the railroad north of

provinces require hunting licenses but in only one, Dalat, the mountain summer resort, is the license expensive. Better hunting, I believe, is to be had in many other sections.

On March 14 of this year Roy Dixon and I left for Saigon via Hongkong. It was warm and stuffy aboard the *President Grant*, but it was not like that in Hongkong. I had neglected to provide heavy clothing, and believe that I had the distinction of being the only person in Hongkong that day