

FINE FEATHERS MAKE PLUMES FOR KING AND QUEEN

There was a real South African atmosphere in the Royal tour when the King and Queen and their daughters visited Oudtshoorn, centre of ostrich-farming. ^{Outside the sta} There was an affectionate welcome by the people, as the royal car drove out to one of the biggest farms in the district.

Though ostrich feathers aren't so fashionable as they were years ago their cultivation is still an important industry. One of the baby birds soon found itself being made a royal pet. Apparently they don't like that sort of thing and ~~another youngster~~ ^{the youngster hastered 2 feet a} ~~safe distance~~ between himself and the visitors.

It's well known that what an ostrich can't see it doesn't worry about. Hence they blindfold them before cutting the feathers, even though the ~~scissors~~ ^{clippers} are in royal hands.

(CU grim) His Majesty looked rather serious about it, so did feathered spectators. ... I don't like the look of this.

In the presence of trouble ostriches like to bury their heads ^{It would be safer to bury their tails.} in the sand. ~~They bury their tails.~~

(next)
~~Even a good meal~~ ^{It} doesn't quite compensate a chap for having his feathers plucked, ^{even 2 or 3 good meals to try} ~~but the rest~~ suffered no further indignity during the royal visit. After all, old boy, if you ^{chaps} will stick your necks out you must expect 2 ~~shed~~ ^{shed} trouble. ~~Nobody's going to stop at putting salt on a tail like yours.~~ ^{up load}