

WATER VALUE THAN GOLD: 255 ft.

Bill Freeman and his Missus have settled in the Kafue Gorge less than 30 miles from Lusaka. Bill first came here looking for gold. It isn't due to Gold Fever, but Bill has gone bats - yes, he's gone bats in a big way, and Mrs. Freeman is delighted. You see, while prospecting, Bill came across the entrance to a series of underground caves carved out of limestone by the action of water. It took him a little time to realise it but he had really struck it rich. Let's go down with them. Its a bit spooky below, but its worth looking at Bill's bonanza. Being a limestone cave, it contains many Stalactites that glow with great beauty in the light of our flares. Stalactites grow incredibly slowly, and these large specimens indicate the great age of the caves.

(Continued.)

There are three caves that Bill knows of and its none too easy getting from one
ner. And when Bill first explored them on his own, he didn't know what wild
e or reptile he might run into. As a matter of fact, the only weird creatures
ne eerie creations of the Stalactites. What then, made Freeman go bats?
is the bats themselves - thousands and thousands of bats that have lived in the
es for generation after generation. And watching them settle overhead, he suddenly
realised that he was standing on a centuries-old deposit of bat guano - something far
more valuable and useful than the gold he had been seeking. The caves may contain half
a million or perhaps even millions of tons of the finest fertiliser known to man. So he
has struck it rich, and is getting it out as fast as limited labour resources permit.
His bat guano mine is still very much in its primitive state - in fact its rather a
Heath Robinson affair. The precious guano has to be brought to the main shaft in sack-
loads and loaded on to the hoist. And Bill is his own engine driver. For a man who has
gone bats, he has an awful lot of horsesense. Its a lot easier than stocking boilers.
Right, Right, and Bill gives it thumbs up - and thumbs up it is for Bill Freeman
had the common sense to spot a gold mine where there was no gold. Besides, gold can
be worked out, but bats keep on being bats fer ever and there will be plenty more guano
where this comes from.