

PUBLIC PROTEST AT SALE OF JUMBO

LONDON—From all parts of Britain letters are still pouring in to the Royal Zoological Society protesting against the sale to America of Jumbo, the most beloved inhabitant of the Regent's Park Zoo.

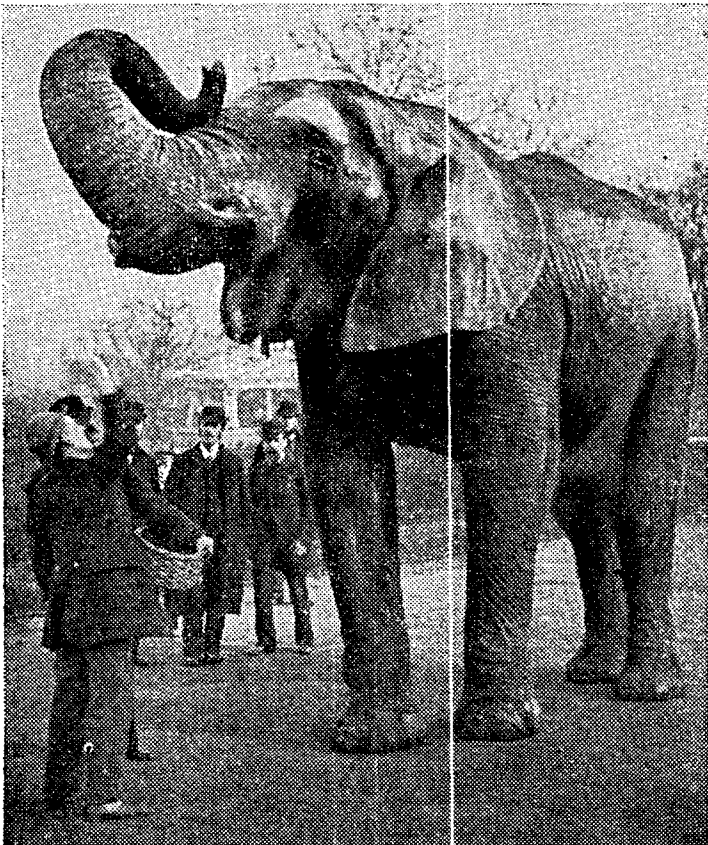
The huge male African elephant was sold for £2000 five days ago to the famous American showman and circus proprietor, Mr. Phineas Taylor Barnum, who has announced his intention of making Jumbo top of the bill in his mammoth circus at New York's Madison Square Garden.

It is known that the Royal Zoological Society accepted Mr. Barnum's offer for Jumbo only because the Society is in financial

A member of the R.S.P.C.A. will accompany Jumbo and stay on board with him to make sure that he gets proper attention.

Jumbo is undoubtedly one of the world's most famous animals. He is the tallest elephant in captivity, at least two feet taller than any show elephant in America. He weighs six tons and stands more than 11 feet high, though when he first came to Regent's Park he was only four feet.

Despite his gigantic size Jumbo is a gentle beast, known and loved by thousands of visitors to Regent's Park, and every day it has been his custom to entertain the crowd, taking food gently from the hands of his admirers and carrying loads of



Jumbo in his Regent's Park days

difficulties, and since the sale was announced appeals have flooded in begging the Society to annul the sale and keep Jumbo in London.

But today Mr. William Newman, popularly known as "Elephant Bill," is arranging final details of Jumbo's removal from the Zoo and shipment to America.

Mr. Newman plans to have a massive wooden cage drawn up outside the elephant house at the Zoo. The biggest problem, he says, will be to get Jumbo into the cage, and Mr. Newman plans to have chains attached to his legs. The cage will be run on wheels and will be pulled by many horses, harnessed in pairs, to the docks.

Jumbo has a passage booked for him on board the steamship Persian Monarch. There he will have a special "apartment," and arrangements have been made for him to be fed with all his favourite foods so that he will settle down for his voyage across the Atlantic.

delighted and excited children for rides on his broad back.

Mr. Barnum, who has a reputation for searching the whole world for unusual animals, has already 20 elephants in his circus. On one occasion he imported 13 elephants from Ceylon direct to New York.

He showed the famous dwarf, Charles S. Stratton, who became world-famous as "General Tom Thumb." Last year he went into partnership with Mr. J. A. Bailey to form the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

(Jumbo upset all plans by refusing to enter the cage on February 18 and 19. The steamship had to sail without him, and Jumbo did not cross the Atlantic until March 24. He was a great success in America, but he died a "hero's death" on September 15, 1885, when he ran head-on into a train to save a baby elephant from being run down.)

NEW FILMS

GARDENING IN SPAIN AND RACING IN ITALY

A RECENT film called *The Spanish Gardener* is a quiet little story; but it is a remarkably pleasing and interesting one and set in beautiful surroundings.

It is about a young boy called Nicholas (Jon Whiteley) whose father is in the Consular Service, and takes Nicholas with him when he is posted to a little port in Spain. There they have a fine house with a big rambling garden, and the boy, left alone for much of the day, makes friends with the young Spanish gardener, José (Dirk Bogarde).

Nicholas has no one else to play with and José pleases him by taking an interest in him and letting him help with some of the jobs about the garden.

HERO WORSHIP

But the father is upset by this when he hears about it. He is an unhappy, disappointed man (Michael Hordern makes him very convincing) who feels that he has never had what he deserves in life. He has always tried to keep the affection of his little son for himself alone by insisting that the boy is delicate, too delicate to be away from home at all or to join in games with other children.

He does not like it when the boy begins to hero-worship the young gardener, and he is very ready to believe the worst when José is accused of theft and arrested.

This troubles Nicholas so much that he runs away from home, and goes to a ruined mill in the mountains where José once took him on a fishing trip. Meanwhile, José has escaped from the police, and goes to hide in the same old mill.

BEAUTIFUL COLOUR

As a result of these events we are told that father and son reach a "new understanding." This is perhaps not made quite believable enough. But the film as a whole is a very attractive one. Above all, it is beautiful to look at: the VistaVision Technicolor pictures of the Spanish scene are wonderful.

The acting, too, is excellent—Michael Hordern as the selfish, disappointed father gives a splendid performance, making you sympathise with him even though he is such an irritating man. Jon Whiteley is also very good in the way he shows the feelings of the sensitive, lonely little boy as the young gardener begins to give him a bit of fun in life.

ANOTHER new film, *Checkpoint*, also shows us a great deal of fine scenery in colour, but it has much more action. As CN readers will remember from the



Fishing expedition in the mountains—a scene from *The Spanish Gardener*

article by Stirling Moss, this is about motor-racing, and much of the film is taken up with what is called the "Mille Miglia" race across Italy. Anthony Steel has the part of a racing driver, Bill.

A wanted murderer named O'Donovan (Stanley Baker) has been substituted for Bill's co-driver, with the idea of getting him safely over the border into Switzerland. Bill finds out who the man is but he cannot do anything about it, for the murderer has a gun. At last there is a fight on the edge of a cliff—and a spectacular crash.

It is all well done, and the pace and the sequence of thrills are as fast as—motor-racing itself.

ZOO FLOWN TO CHESTER

The other day at London Airport, Mr. J. H. Wallace, the Commissioner for Northern Rhodesia, stepped forward to welcome 35 visitors from his country. Newspaper reporters and photographers came next, and then the patient visitors were whisked off—to Chester Zoo.

For these were the animals, as CN readers may remember, which Major Gerry Taylor, a game officer, sheltered in his home. They are the waifs and strays of the territory's wild life. They have never fended for themselves, and as it would be cruel to turn them loose, a permanent home has been found for them at Chester Zoo, and Major Taylor came with them.

Among the new arrivals is Sammy, a young leopard who was found starving and deserted. In Africa he enjoyed a daily shower under Major Taylor's garden tap, which he learned to control. Keeping Sammy company on the 4000-mile flight from Lusaka were baboons, two zebra, bush pigs, a banded mongoose, tortoises, water-turtles, a pair of Egyptian geese, rare small birds, and snakes.

FIREWATCHER

Skip, an Alsatian dog, likes to act as an unofficial "fireman" at the Theatre Royal at King's Lynn.

After the last performance he sniffs around for lighted cigarette ends, and if he finds them he stubs them out with his front paws.



Bill Fraser (Anthony Steele) and O'Donovan (Stanley Baker) in a scene from *Checkpoint*