# TING AND FISHING, HERE AND ELSEWHERE

### PASSING COMMENTS

(Richard L. Pocock)

4s the world treats us, so we speak of it. That I suppose is the reason for the somewhat pessimistic articles concerning the shooting that have appeared recently in the news columns of a contemporary. The writer must have had poor bags. Possibly I have been exceptionally lucky, so that I can write more optimistically of the shooting as I have found it. However that may be, from personal observation the facilities for a day's good sport not too far from home seem to me to be still by no means despicable. During the week I have heard excellent reports of good sport from quite a number of others.

Fishermen have been doing very well indeed in near-by waters, several fine baskets having been reported. One well-known sportsman has been shewing his friends, hanging up on his premises, the biggest buck he rememhers ever shooting on the island, while another has returned from a trip to the Qualicum river with tales of having to stop fishing through getting more fish than he could dispose of, bringing down with him to prove his assertions, a dozen two-pounders caught on the last day of his stay.

Two guns on Sunday and Monday last had a mixed bag of twenty-one various birds, and one deer, and others, doubtless, of whom I have not heard, did equally well. Of course, it stands to reason that, as the city grows, the free shooting in the near neighborhood is not likely to improve to any extent, but still, if we can prevail on the authorities to give the game rather more adequate protection in the nome districts by putting on more salaried wardens to protect it from the lawless, there is no reason why we should not all enjoy a little good sport in the season for many years to come without having to make expeditions to remote districts. Complaints have been made by some of the scarcity of blue grouse. Of course, all sportsmen who know are aware of the fact that big bags of blue grouse are not likely to be made as late as October, and that was why the season's opening was delayed a month, to give these birds a chance to recover from the massacres of previous seasons, when enormous bags were made of young birds easily shot; as for the willow grouse, it is early in the season yet for the best willow grouse shooting. If those who complain that these birds are very scarce will wait a little until the birds have come out of the swamps and bottom lands into the higher and dries ground I fancy that they will not find they are quite so diminished in numbers as they imagine. Pheasant shooting also is usually better a little later, when the birds come out of the bush more and the ferns are down and the leaves off the trees. If deer and quail are any scarcer than they were last year, then I must have been exceptionally lucky in seeing as many of them this year as I have done. Personally I believe the quail are increasing rapidly in most districts and am exceedingly well pleased to be able to say so, as they are a bird, insignificant to the pot-hunter, but highly valued by the sportsman and keen shot.

There is a clause in the game laws which forbids the killing of game for their hides add a clause forbidding the killing of them for their heads alone or merely for the sake of wanton slaughter. Good sportsmen we have with us in plenty of the genuine type, who, after slaying a big buck even a long way out, will stay with it and get it out even at the cost of utter exhaustion, pot-hunters we have with us a few, but we have unfortunately it seems others who are neither sportsmen nor are they honestly open pot-hunters, but who make a parade of good sportsmanship but will slay a fine buck within a few hundred yards of a road and yet leave the carcase to rot because the weather is too warm and it is too much trouble to pack it. The game warden came across a case at the opening of the season where a big buck was left to rot within about three hundred yards of the Cowichan Lake road although the man who shot it had three companions with him to help pack it out.

The last two issues of the London "Field" contains two very exhaustive articles on the big game of British Columbia by Lincoln Wilbar. In these articles the writer is very laudatory of the good work done by the provincial game warden in preserving and fostering the supply of the big game which is such a strong attraction to the readers of the "Field" for whom these articles are written. At the same time complaints are coming in every day of persistent infractions of the law as it affects the preservation of the small game of the Island. The laws are alright by general consent, but the measures taken to enforce them are absolutely farcical. How one man can be expected to adequately patrol and enforce the law in the whole of the Island is rather difficult to understand. It may be that it is considered unnecessary to do more than trust to he honor of those who frequent the woods with firearms. In that case, unfortunately, the trust is too often misplaced. The popping of guns goes merrily on through the Saanich districts, one Victoria hotel at least had venison on its bill of fare for last Sunday's dinner, and one of the evening papers of the date of writing has an account of a systematic traffic in the carcases of deer between Vancouver Island (where deer are sold only in defiance of the law), and the Mainland. By the way, the time tufts and clods at each stroke, using the left

has certainly arrived when all sale of game should be made illegal.

Admittedly good work has been done in the better preservation of big game and steps have been taken and money spent successfully to stop its wanton slaughter on the Mainland, at any rate. But the majority of the sportsmen resident here are selfish enough not to care a hang whether Lord This-or-That takes away his limit allowance of our big game heads or not so long as we can get our brace or two of birds occasionally, and we feel that our claims come first to the services of the game wardens.

## A MONSTER ALASKAN BEAR

At the Museum of Natural History, New York City, may be seen the largest mounted bear in the world, and which is claimed to be the biggest ever killed. It is from the wilds of the Alaska Peninsula, and for a year this great trophy has been in the hands of taxidermists, who have patiently and skilfully modeled the giant form in clay and snugly fitted thereon the immense coat of brown fur. I was permitted some close glimpses of the work behind the scenes of the preparation department, and also obtained a series of typical photographs, together with an account by a member of the hunting party, covering the incidents connected with the bear's capture.

First, here are some of the measurements of the big bear. In life he was about the size of an ox, measured nearly nine feet from nose to tail, stool five feet in height, and weighed 1.600 pounds. The great skin would easily afford cover for eight or ten men, and the spread of one of the long-clawed feet takes up a square foot of ground. Truly a formidable adversary, capable of dealing death with a single blow of his powerful paws. It was fortunate, from a naturalist's and educational standpoint, that so valuable a specimen of the big game of the country did not fall into the hands of natives, or careless, commercial white hunters. Owing to persistent hunting by both Indian and white sportsmen, many of the large and splendid types of animals of sub-Arctic America are fast being exterminated notwithstanding the restrictions of the game laws. To secure and permanently preserve some of the great forest denizens for the benefit of science, as well as intelligent big game lovers, some \$5,000 was contributed for a systematic roundup of the animal inhabitants of the southeast Alaska region, under the direction of a well-known and experienced Arctic hunter. The main feature of the last trip was a great bear hunt, lasting nineteen days, the most important trophy of which was the 1,600 pound specimen here described. Seated within the shadow of big Bruin, the

writer had an hour's chat with a member of

the expedition: "After a voyage of three weeks from Seattle, we reached Sand Point, Alaska. At Unga Island two experienced native trappers were engaged. On May 15th, from the head of Portage Bay, we began to transport our supplies and camp outfit over the ninemile portage to Herendeen Bay. This was tiresome and difficult work, as the snow was deep and soft in many places, rendering travel exceedingly fatiguing and slow. Four days were consumed in this way. After resting several days, reconnoitering, and getting our effects, ammunition etc. into shape we traveled by open boat, keeping near the Bering Sea coast for about thirty-five miles, and established our first camp well up on Moler Bay, located in the zone frequented by large brown bears, which roam over the Alaskan Peninsula west of the tree line. About April 15th they come out from their winter dens to forage for food, such as fish, grass, roots, etc., retiring again about the last week of September. They do not go far from the den at first and often return at night. They have many cunning methods of securing food, the most ingenious of which is probably that of capturing salmon. This is done as follows: As soon as the salmon begin to enter the streams, Bruin makes fishing his chief business. The fish usually ascend the streams in large numbers during the entire summer, and the supply is practically unlimited. In fishing, bears do not get all their prey in shallow water, small streams, or on bars, as is generally supposed, but often go into comparatively deep water in large rivers. Nearly all the fishing is done at night or very early morning, though their habits in this respect have become somewhat changed in recent years since they have been hunted so much. The cubs do not attempt to fish, but stay on the bank and receive contributions. The old bear stands upright and wades in the water, even up to her neck, going very slowly with the current, watching the water and scarcely making a ripple in it. She holds her forepaws down at her sides, with the claws spread, and when she feels a salmon rubbing against her clutches it and throws it on the bank to the eager cubs. After supplying her offspring, she puts the next fish in her mouth and goes ashore to eat it. Only the choice parts are devoured, such as the two sides. The cubs, however, are not so particular, and consume the whole fish. Hunting ground squirreis and digging them out seems to be a combination of business and pleasure for the bear, and he becomes so intent on the game that he is easily approached. Sometimes he steals along a hill side and tries to catch the squirrel by a sud-

den pounce; but this method usually fails.

When the squirrel dodges into its nearby bur-

row, new tactics are adopted; the bear im-

mediately begins to dig, throwing out big

paw chiefly, and watching the hole intently all the time. While this is going on, the squirrel sometimes runs out between the legs of the bear and makes for another hole. Possibly he is caught by a quick pounce. If he escapes, excavations begin immediately at the new hole. The bear digs for a few strokes, and then stops to poke his nose into the hole and sniff. Finally his efforts are successful and the luckless squirrel is devoured.

"On the last of May we were destined to bring down the 1,600-pound brown bear, the largest ever taken on the Alaskan Peninsula, and the record-breaking specimen of the world. A new camp was established still farther up on Moller Bay. While hunting the country, a bear was sighted well up the mountain-side, and even at half a mile the glasses showed him to be a huge beast. By making a detour we came up within two hundred yards of our game, standing broadside to our aim, The first shot struck him in the shoulder. He roared with pain, reared, pawed the air, and then came down on all-fours and charged us. When about 100 yards away our leader fired two shots, both bullets entering the skull above the eyes, and the big beast fell dead. Of the ten brown bears secured by the expedition at Moller Bay, nine were of the species Ursus Merriami (Allen), and one, the big fellow, Ursus dalli gyas (Merriam). The two species proved to be readily distinguishable by both cranial and external characteristics.

"Incidentally, I may say that the Alaskan Peninsula, south of Bering Sea, is the habitat of the largest brown bears in the world, and likewise the best region for their hunting in all Amerca."-Lilliam E. Zeh, in Field and Stream.

## SOME PROBLEMS OF THE SHOT GUN

Experiments with shot guns seldom take the form, so usual with rifles, of testing their ability to hit a mark. Yet this comes nearer the conditions of practical use than many of the other tests that are made. Mere shooting at game or clay birds tells only a small fraction of the whole story, for a kill results from the action of a few pellets in the charge, the position of the rest being entirely unrecorded. A gun, or either of the barrels of a gun, might so throw its charge that the top edge only of the pattern struck the point aimed at. A consistent and skilful shooter might with such a gun make good average shooting, in complete ignorance of the fact that the whole of the killignorance of the fact that the whole of the killing was being done by the upper half of the pattern, say half an onnce out of the total charge. The tendent of his own personal error might be to she beneath his bird, so that a very slight de ration from a true aim would carry the boundary edge of the pattern below the bird. The relatively large margin which exists to correct shooting over the bird would so seldom come into use that the lower would so seldom come into use that the lower portion of the pattern could be writen off as so much waste. The shooter's requirement is a gun which will centre the charge on the mark aimed at. A slight tendency on the high side is not a bad thing to correct the tendency amongst most shooters to aim low. 'Too much artificial allowance is undoubtedly a bad thing, because it places a premium on aiming off the object, when the first principle of shooting should be to aim dead at it, subject only to an allowance or lead to cover the movement of the bird during the time occupied by the shot

It is difficult to lay down any hard and fast rules concerning the properties of shot guns in general as regards their power to centre the charge around the point aimed at, simply because there is a striking dearth of experimental data concerning this particular aspect of shot been attached to the registration of pattern on the plate, and it has been customary for the 30 inch circle to be drawn around a selected centre, it being assumed that the deviation from the mark aimed at is the personal error of the shooter. In a large majority of cases this explanation no doubt fits the facts. It certainly seems wonderfully difficult to hit a sitting rabbit. But it is really remarkable that the use of a rifle rest beneath the fore end frequently fails to eliminate these unexplained divergencies. For example, a gun which has received a considerable amount of use was found, when tested, to shoot a fairly consistent 10 in. low at 40 yards, so minimising the value of the spread by this self-same amount. In other words, 12 in. low would probably mean a miss, against which the power to err without penalty 3 ft. in the opposite direction represents but poor compensation. Alignment was taken with the eye looking over the breech and just seeing the foresight and perhaps an inch or two of the Owing to the greater thickness of muzzle. metal at the breech end of the gun as compared with the muzzle, the line of aim makes an angle with the axis of the barrel representing at least 1-10in. elevation per yard for all for all ranges. This would give 4 in. at 40 yards, which exactly covers the drop of the shot due to gravity whilst traveling that distance. Therefore, in the gun under discussion, there remained a further 10 in. of drop to be accounted for by recoil phenomena not as yet fully understood. That is to say finding the shot strikes low, one assumes the muzzle On the other hand, if it was found to strike high, it would be quite as simple to find an explanation based on up-throw, due to the butt being beneath the line of the barrels. However, the gun was sent to the makers for the stock to be straightened so that the bend at the butt was reduced from 2 1-8 in. to 1 7-8 , with something intermediate at the comb.

It was then decided to test the patterning properties of the gun, paying due regard to

the position of the selected circle with reference to the mark aimed at. The alignment of the first five shots was taken by bringing the eye down to the level of the breech, notwithstanding that the altered shape of the stock made it difficult to get so low down. This test gave the shooting of the barrels. The remaining five shots of the ten-shot series were then fired with the cheek and eye, taking up the position that would be adopted when handling the gun in the ordinary fashion. That is to say, the eye was about 1-4 in. above the level of the breech, and as the distance from the eye to the muzzle is as nearly as possible one yard, this represented 10 in. at 40 yards of extra elevation. The following were the results ob-

#### TABLE I.—Combined Test of Pattern and Position of Selected 30in. Circle, with reference to spot at at. Charge used, 1 1-16 oz. No. 6 (289 pellets). LEFT BARREL RIGHT BARREL. Pellets in

30in. circle at Position of circle, cle at Position of circle 40yds. Elevation, Laterally, 40yds. Elevation, Laterall The first five shots were aimed with the eye close

1. 100 true 12in. right 11. 199 6in. low 5in. right 2. 132 6in. low 2in. right 12. 182 8in. low 5in. right 3. — Cartwheel pattern 13. 169 12in. low 2in. right 4. 175 6in. low true 14. — Cartwheel pattern. 5. 103 6in. low 3in. right 15. 126 17in. low true Av. 4.5in, low 4.3in, right Av. 10.8in, low 3.0in, right The next five were aimed with the cheek resting natu-

rally on the stock. true |16. 155 6in. high . 10in. righ true 17. 177 3in. low 5in. right true 18. 193 true 5in. right 9: 134 3in. high 6in. right 19. 175 true

10. 125 5in. high 2in. right 20. 197 Av. 127 1.2in. high 1.6in. rgt Av. 175 0.6in. high 4.0in. rgt

The first immediately interesting fact is that it at once becomes absurd to give any numerical pattern value to the cartwheel for mation to which a proportion of all shot gun patterns seem prone to take on. The point of aim being practically free of pellets, the circle would need to be scribed some 2 ft. therefrom and as there are nearly an equal number of pellets in every part of the annulus, it would matter little whether the circle was drawn high, low, right, or left, so long as it is nowhere near the point aimed at. The other patterns from the right barrel were by no means regular enough to form a nice series, a circumstance which made it at times difficult to select one place more than another as the centre for the 30in. circle. However, the first five rounds gave four records, of which three were 6 in. low, and the other, round No. 1, was correct in elevation, but diverging 12 in. to the right. The corresponding shots from the left barrel contained another cartwheel pattern, and a moderately consistent low elevation average of rather more than 10 in. low. The mark aimed at was a circle of about 4 in. diameter roughly drawn on the whitewash. Aim was taken at the bottom edge of this mark, and all measurements were recorded therefrom. Perhaps the centre would have been a better zero point to adopt. This would convert the 10 in. low into 12 in. That the right barrel did not shoot so far down was either the chance behaviour of these shots, or the difficulty of correctly locating the centre of the wide spread which a cylinder pattern represents. The second half of each series of shots was fired with the artificial elevation given by the shape of the stock, and it was really remarkable to find how wonderfully well the zero had been adjusted. The persistent righthand tendency of both barrels is difficult to account for, supposing it really exists. Alignment was in every case very carefully taken from the exact centre of the rib, and therefore the throw to the right must be classified as another recoil phenomenon or peculiarity due to the barrel itself, for which it would be quite gun behavior. Great importance has always as interesting to know the explanation as the remedy. Lateral deviation cannot satisfactorily be corrected by greater or less cast-off, because the shooter naturally endeavors to handle his gun in a manner that will bring the align-

ing eye central with the rib. The shooter is indeed fortunate who possesses a gun which throws its charge in the true line of the barrels without the necessity to elevate the eye abnormally above the rib. A defectively aligned gun may be used for a lifetime without the fault being suspected. Like irregular patterns, it may militate against the user developing the highest grade of skill. Certainly greater possibilities of improving one's shooting exist when the gun mounts readily to the shoulder, takes a natural bedding in true line with the eye, and places the charge of both barrels on the required spot, than is possible where true sighting produces a false result. The growing use of light charges, whether fired from 12-bores or 16bores, provides evidence that our gunmakers, with the help of shooting schools and gunfitting appliances, are becoming increasingly capable of building guns capable of centering the charge in the right place. Ten or even twenty per cent reduction of the charge is not felt if the remaining pellets are disposed to the best advantage, and it is in furtherance of the desire to increase this advantage to the greatest possible extent that more detailed attention will be paid in the future than in the past to the position of the pellets with reference to the mark aligned at. That guns are not all perfect in this respect has several times been suspected from the persistent tendency of a particular barrel to take a line of its own. As a general proposition it may be put forward that high quality barrels, symmetrical inside and out, and truly made on the most approved principles, would be more likely to shoot in harmony than a commoner pair of tubes roughly put together and fitted with

overweighted and badly joined ribs.

to the me they will be a

That the behavior of the gun referred to the previous table is not exceptional may shown by-quoting the following results, whi were obtained under similar conditions of ter Alignment in this instance was through taken with the eye just peeping over breach, a position which was rendered natu by the shape of the stock.

#### TABLE II .- A Similar Test with Another Gun, ing natural aim throughout

RIGHT BARREL. LEF LEFT BARREL 49yds. Elevation, Laterally 40yds. Elevation. Latera 1. — Cartwheel pattern 12 160 4in low 2. 206 3in low true 11. 196 7in low 5in. low 4in. left 13. 160 2in. low 4. 203 8in. low 3½in. left 14. 5. — Cartwheel pattern 15. 210 12in low 6. 196 7in low 7in.left 16. 200 true 71. 189 9in.low 6in.left 17. 184 7in.low 8. 156 7in.low 2in.left 18. 220 5in.low 2in. right 19. 211 6in. low 10. 197 7in. low 5in. left |20. 221 6in. low

Av. 197 6.4in. low 3.2in. left Av. 195 5.5in. low

Both barrels evidently shot at least 6 in. low at 40 yards. This seems a small fraction of the total killing circle, and yet the appearance of the patterns suggested that the bulk of the charge was very decidedly beneath the mark aimed at. The left barrel shot as nearly as possible true as regards lateral deviation but more experience is needed before an opinion can be expressed as to whether the re sults obtained should be considered regular or the reverse. The 3 in. throw of the right barrel towards the left is fairly consistent, and would make a shooter a little inclined to miss behind birds crossing from left to right. This tendency would naturally be emphasized by the experience gained shooting at birds crossing in the opposite direction, where the proper allowance would be diminished by the same 3 in. Whether the amount of lateral and vertical deviations which have been dealt with in this article exceed, or otherwise, the allowable or the unavoidable differences of the behavior of guns no attempt has been made to say. Certainly pattern testing is better conducted on the system of a selected circle than by aiming at a circle previously drawn, but the record is not complete unless the position of the circle relative to the spot aimed at is defined for each shot. The regular adoption of this system of registration will lead to the automatic accumulation of statistics, which cannot fail to prove interesting as time goes on.

#### VULGARITY OF THE TRANSPARENT BLOUSE

In the course of an article on the dress of business girls, which appears in the July number of The Girl's Own Paper and Woman's Magazine, the editor says:

"I must allude to a style of dress that is far more objectionable than anything I have mentioned so far, and that is the transparent blouse, which permits the onlooker to study the cut and make of a girl's underwear. Of course, this style of blouse is by no means peculiar to the office girl; it is worn by girls and women of all grades of society-and all of

them vulgar. "To speak quite plainly: Is it nice or refined for a girl to give opportunity to all and sundry who may come into her office-possibly men for the most part, and not necessarily all gentlemen at that-to study the trimming of her underwear, which she has ized by adding colored ribbons tha specially attract the eye when white might pass unnoticed? The girl who dresses in this way is fast losing one of the greatest assets and charms of her girlhood-her personal reticence. Men have a saving among themselves, which it would be well to bear in mind: 'The thinner the blouse, the commoner the girl. And the most hardened men of the world will denounce the way girls appear in offices and public vehicles in these vulgarly suggestive garments."

## A FOOLISH SUPERSTITION

"What is the reason," asks Josef Hofmann, writing in the Ladies' Home Journal, "for this curious and out-of-date superstition that music can be studied better abroad than in Amer-

"I have personally known," continues the famous pianist, "not fewer than five American teachers who have struggled here for many a year without gaining that high recognition which they deserve. And now? Now they are in the various capitals of Europe, receiving the highest fees that were ever paid for in struction; and they receive these high fees from American students who throng their studios. That the indifference of their compatriots drove these men practically out of their country proved to be of advantage to them; but how ought those to be regarded who failed to keep them here? The wrong is irreparable in that these men do not think of returning to America except as visitors. The duty of American students and lovers of good music is to see to it that such capable teachers as are still here should remain here. The mass of emigration to Europe of our music students should cease."

"Now, Pat, would you sooner lose your money or your life?" "Why, me loife, ye reverence; I want me money for me ould age." errinant the

"Have you any nice fresh farmers' eggs inquired a precise old lady at a grocery shop "No, madam," replied the practical assistan "but we have some very good hens' eggs She took three to try,

Perhaps this see he af

It is only if we get up cobwebs in their full beaut betimes if we mean to catch while their gossamer is st delicate designs not yet s wind that is sure to spring day has come. We must too, if our heroism of earl weather is to meet with can tell a little over night evening usually means a The beauty and visibility depend on atmospheric cor there is the cold dampn will not be the rows of n on the cobwebs which em the strands visible and whi finitesimal drops of moistr

The webs are so fascin unspoiled beauty, for no tw has had its own architect, made a special study of his ditions and most cunningly advantage that came in hi are the distinct different l vious ones seen in any gard remind us of tatted doilies, of a circle with lines ra Orbitilariae. Another, the sheet of web suspended amo the Relitelariae, which mu spinning.

Our old childish idea of his own thread is rather k when we learn about the s the silk issues from many pa into one strong thread. Th spider have this work to d then the spinning is goin how busy they are, but it particular that is used for ranging the web and uniting into one thread. It has been spiders which spin the m (Eperides) have this claw ed, and in those spiders w instead of spinning snares, absent.

Sometimes, too, as childr the strands of a web and thing could not be made of silken thread. About one years ago a Frenchman n the same idea and actually ing stockings and gloves i tivation of spiders for this succeeded, though it has tried, because the spider voracious and cannibalistic

Altogether the spider tractive character, and eve loses a little of our admirati it is, after all, nothing but snare. In it sits a cruel and prey, waiting to see its vi ready to dart out, bind his and devour him. Also, its not show it in a much bet courting season, unless the big and as strong as the fe ways be a tragic fate han If he fail in any way to mistress, she very quickly poses of him by eating hi nearly all the species of s rior to the female in st shudders to think how oft domestic drama is acted. one ray of hope for the po active and more agile than us trust he sometimes put chivalry and does not score

In her motherly instinct anything but old-fashioned low her young to be much of the garden spider (Ara laid in a cocoon, which where near her web and troubles no more. Howe that most spiders are a li for their offspring and ca their backs till they are for themselves.

We have sometimes we strands of gossamer are th our noses from apparently sometimes wondered if th some particular species of trouble to form them into the air is full of them ar ing, like a white film, on b learn, however, it is a yout spiders of different specie mornings they climb to the bushes and emit a thread which soon become strong them, and on which they carry them to great heig spiders! How we envy sport. Would that we too a flying machine so easily how gaily would we float on fine autumn mornings After all, the worst h

trait, and with the spider i of spinning and the beau help us not to judge him to Not a few learned scie years of their lives to the

spiders, and have produ embodying the results of t the scientist, of course, t tific value, as has many a creature and natural housewife has not yet bee their domestic efficiency n housely advantages. Perk