

Field Sports at Home and Abroad

PASSING COMMENTS

(By Richard L. Pocock)

The opening day of the shooting season has come and gone, and the enormous bags and blue ruffs for the grouse prophesied do not seem to have materialized. The game warden who searched the E. & N. train returning Thursday night reports a highest bag of about a baker's dozen birds, six or seven being probably above the average bag, and many sportsmen returning empty-handed.

Large numbers of youths were abroad with guns, and several of them were observed handling them in a very dangerous manner. The season is now open for grouse, deer, ducks, snipe, geese and men.

In view of the latter item in the list suggestions have been advanced for the best safeguard against getting shot in the woods, in mistake for a chipmunk. White suits have been suggested, but if one goes out in a white suit one is almost sure to run foul of some enthusiast who will think he has come on the chance of his life to bag a fine museum specimen in the shape of an albino deer or an ursus kermodei astray from Gribble Island. On the whole, a good loud cowbell hung round one's neck would seem the best suggestion to hand as yet. There is a penalty for shooting a cow; whereas if you shoot a man and can show beyond peradventure that it was by misadventure (whatever that may mean) you will go scot-free, which gives you an excellent chance to wipe off all old grudges against your old enemy by wiping him off the earth. All you have to do is to buy a box of No. 6 cartridges and follow him into the woods, have an accident and come home.

Speaking in all seriousness, WE WANT A GUN LICENSE, AND WE MUST HAVE IT. It is all nonsense for politicians, who know nothing of sport, to refuse to pass the necessary legislation for fear of the working man's vote. The large majority of gun-users in the province are working men, and this large majority wants a gun license, and wants it now.

It is a crying shame that boys and irresponsible others who know nothing of the proper way to handle firearms, should be allowed to be loose in the woods armed, to the common danger. The first fatality has already been reported.

The first necessity is a gun license of at least ten dollars, which would be grudged by no responsible shooting man, be he working man or financier.

Use the proceeds for better protection not only of game, but of human life.

At a time when we were all making plans for the opening of the shooting season, Mr. E. D. Allan, the victim of one of the most serious man-shootings of the last season, made an appeal for justice which must touch the inner feelings of every man who has read it and dares to call himself a sportsman. At the time of the accident, as it was then charitably taken for granted, a definite statement appeared in the local press to the effect that the provincial police knew who the criminal was who shot and left his victim, unheeding of his cries for help. This statement, so far as I have been able to trace, was never actually contradicted; the affair was wrapped in a mysterious silence after several innocent men's names had been played fast and loose with in the connection, and everybody took it for granted that the very persistent rumor current that the shooter had made substantial compensation, and that Mr. Allan wished the matter to be dropped was true, so that most of us his letter to the press has come like a bolt from the blue as a most painful surprise.

The apparent hushing-up of the matter is felt to be a slur on the sportsmen of Vancouver Island, and it undoubtedly is. Men who were in the vicinity where the shooting occurred in order to have a searching investigation in order to clear them from any possibility of suspicion, and all sportsmen would welcome the definite news that the police had done their very utmost to get at the bottom of the mystery. At the time the opening of a subscription list, for a slight help in the way of relieving a brother sportsman's calamity, would without a doubt have met with a ready and generous response from all sportsmen here who heard of it, but I for one understood that such a subscription would have been against the desire of Mr. Allan, and that compensation had been made that rendered it superfluous, and I am of opinion that this was the general belief.

This seems to me to be a matter for the consideration of sportsmen of far greater importance than even the question of whether grouse should be shot on the First of October or the Fifteenth of September, and I would humbly suggest that the Vancouver Island Fish and Game Club should exert themselves and use their influence to help Mr. Allan to the justice and compensation for which he appeals after a long and patient silence. I am sure that they would be backed up unanimously by all of us, and that an organized appeal for financial help would meet with a very ready response.

ACCLIMATING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT.

(By Walter L. Beasley.)

A noteworthy result of considerable zoological interest and scientific importance has

been obtained from the well-directed and successful efforts of Director W. T. Hornaday of the New York Zoological Park, in acclimating the Rocky Mountain goat. This is the first attempt to induce these animals, whose accustomed habitat is in the rarefied atmosphere of the highest peaks of the snow-capped Rockies of eight to ten thousand feet elevation, to live and thrive in the low altitude of the Atlantic coast. Hitherto, all young kids intended for exhibition in the East, have died in a few months after their arrival. In October, 1905, Dr. Hornaday personally conducted to New York the present herd of five goats, then young kids about five months old, on a three thousand mile journey from Fort Steele, British Columbia, where they were captured in the mountains a few weeks after their birth.

Notwithstanding the humid climate and wholly unaccustomed food of their new surroundings, all members of the herd have remained in perfect health since their arrival in the Park. Their large corral, a rustic log barn for shelter at night, and a background of natural rocks to climb upon, afford them ideal conditions for exercise. In May, 1908, the first Rocky Mountain goat ever bred in captivity was born in the New York Zoological Park. This specimen, a male, is now in perfect health, nearly mature. Since "Phillip" is a bit too fond of fencing, it has been necessary to saw off the skewer-like tips of his horns for the general safety of the other members of the flock. The second addition to the herd occurred on June 8th of the present year in the birth of a fine young male. The kid is a vigorous specimen and promises to equal the first one, "Phillip." The collection now numbers six animals; but two losses having occurred, the mother of "Phillip," and a young female that was received on deposit, May, 1909. These interesting acrobatic creatures, with their long shaggy white coats, are among the most striking and picturesque wild animals in the New York Zoological Park. They are the only ones in captivity in the United States, and possibly not a single specimen can be seen at present on the whole continent of Europe. In order to satisfy their remarkable habit and fitness for climbing a unique aerial playground is furnished them, in the shape of the precipitous roof of the rustic barn of their inclosure. An amusing sight is afforded by the flock of these sure-footed creatures scaling the incline and scampering over and down the steep roof. Keeper McLaughlin furnishes the herd with a plentiful and tempting diet in the shape of the best clover hay, crushed oats, sliced carrots and chopped apples. The full grown male mountain goat stands from 30 to 41 inches high at the shoulder, and weighs from 250 to 300 pounds.

Owing to their great strength and wonderful climbing ability, their main dependence for safety is among the highest and inaccessible peaks of the mountains, beyond the reach of various enemies, like the puma, wolf, bear, and likewise man, to a certain degree. There is no living animal that can surpass the climbing feats of the mountain goat, or take such desperate chances on the rocks. The animal is practically devoid of all fear of danger, and is built for stability and strength rather than for speed. The hoofs have large twin masses of rubber-like material, a ball of which is soft, and inclosed in a shell of hard consistency. It enables the animals to climb. Their rear hoofs are used as a brake for descending inclines that are steep and smooth. In climbing almost perpendicular walls or rocks, the powerful while legs are used to reach out for footholds, while each hoof is firmly planted to avoid slips and to detect loose rocks. The heavy body is lifted by sheer strength and skill. The animal is a "cropper," and lives by cropping the thick leaves, stems, etc., which grow in great abundance in the patches of the forests that occur between the timber line and the snow fields. The preservation of wild life is one of the great objects to which the New York Zoological Society has constantly devoted its attention and efforts, and Director W. T. Hornaday, assisted by Mr. John M. Phillips, of Pittsburgh, has scored an achievement of far-reaching zoological importance, after several years of energetic endeavor and appeal, by being instrumental in having set aside a nextensive game reserve and breeding ground for the mountain goat in British Columbia. Recently the Legislative Council issued a proclamation which converts into an absolute preserve about 450 miles of territory between Elk and the Bull rivers, and around Monroe Lake, and which has been named "Goat Mountain Park." The area contains about 1,000 head of mountain goats and 200 of mountain sheep, all living and breeding the year round.—Scientific American.

HOW THEY SHOOT GROUSE IN SCOTLAND.

The fortnight which follows the Twelfth of August sees the moors of Scotland at their best. Other Scottish scenery may be equally attractive in other months and in different moods. The Highland salmon river casts the same spell on the fisherman, whether its banks are deep in snow or yellow with broom. Tweed runs as high or as low in spring or autumn. But the moors need the heather in bloom to show as the shooter likes to see them best, or are at their brightest—the brighter, perhaps, by contrast with the sober green of late summer left behind in the south. If ever a man with a gun in his hand feels that his sur-

roundings are perfect, it is in sunshine and a cool wind on the moors. Walking through the heather, watching the setters range the flank of the hill, or sitting at lunch in the sun, would any shooting party, after a good morning's sport listen to the question whether grouse shooting could be improved? Perhaps not. But later in the season when the old cocks are rising wilder and further out, or when a drive or two has gone wrong for no very obvious reason, the question might be thought worth asking, perhaps with the best chance of being answered when renewed experience of the shooting of other game leads to comparisons with the best days on the moor.

Of the two forms of grouse shooting, walking and driving, the former differs from other methods of shooting, particularly the more modern and elaborate process of beating out pheasants from cover, in its essential naturalness. Walking up grouse, with or without dogs, in the wild glens of the Highlands has lost nothing of its simplicity since the days of St. John and Hawker, and there is little question of any improvement to be made in it. Of course, a party of guns who know their business will get better chances of shooting and



Tyee Salmon at Port Alberni.

A correspondent has written to say that the Tyee salmon fishing is now at its best at Port Alberni. Though not so well known as Campbell River, because not so well advertised, the Tyee fishing at Alberni is some of the best in the country. The fish are as plentiful and as large as elsewhere. The surroundings are grand and the accommodations for visiting anglers as comfortable as at Campbell River, while at Alberni there is not the strong current to contend against which is the great drawback to the Campbell River fishing. That good sport is assured to those who go to try conclusions with the Alberni Tyee may be understood when it is said that one man staying at Alberni last year for the fishing made an average of five fish a day for thirty days, his highest catch for a day being eighteen and his best fish over sixty pounds in weight.

make their bag in a more sporting way than mere beginners, but that is true of all forms of shooting. In walking up grouse against a strong wind, to take one instance out of many, a party of old hands would know that if the flanking guns on the higher ground push forward a bit they will very likely flush birds which will swing back with the wind and so give the guns on the lower ground some fine sporting overhead shots. They would know, that is, the proper occasion on which to break the rule of always walking in line. But, generally speaking, the methods and the end achieved in walking up grouse are not to be altered. You cannot better the birds themselves, or change the way in which they get up when they are flushed, or the kind of shot they offer to the men walking up to a point. With grouse driving, on the other hand, things are different. Even here you do not get an obvious touch of artificiality, for the birds are wild and cannot be trained as for instance, hand-reared mallard can be trained. But you do get an extra touch of management, of inducing wild birds to do what you wish them to do; and the question remains not only how to manage the driven birds in the best way so as to come within shot of the guns, but how to send them over the guns so as to give the most sporting shots possible.

There are moors on which this question has never been properly considered. The butts to which the birds are driven are badly made and badly placed, and owners and keepers alike have been content with merely sending so many covys over the guns. To do even that well, we may grant, requires skill and good luck combined. Most of us have not yet tired of the changes and chances of an average day's grouse drive. Still, we may recollect that

within the last few years there has been a considerable alteration in methods of shooting another sporting bird, the pheasant, and that a succession of the low, plain-sailing shots at pheasants which were thought good enough in the eighties, perhaps, would not satisfy the requirements of today. In partridge driving, too, there can be all the differences in the world between one beat and another, and the pleas- ure to be had out of the shooting. At one beat, possibly, the guns have to stand with their backs to a low hedge, and take the birds going away hardly 6 ft. from the ground. At another you may get the covys swerving over a high belt of firs. There can be no question as to which is the more sporting shot. Why not try, then, to extend the principle to grouse driving, and instead of being content with merely pushing so many covys over a line of butts, try to ensure that there shall be the greatest possible variety of shots offered to the guns, and in particular, the chance of at least an occasional bird or covery flying high in the air? The angle and the distance at which birds are taken when driving are, after all, mainly, though not wholly, questions of where the butts are placed. Yet there are moors on which the butts are placed, it would seem, with a view to sameness and simplicity in the shooting rather than the variety which gives so much pleasure with better arrangements of butts and driving.

Of course, the problem is by no means an easy one. Not only is the grouse a bird of very marked individual habits, but grouse preserves are not self-contained, as pheasants preserve can be made to be, and the chances of arranging for a sporting drive may very easily be spoiled by the configuration of the ground. The march, possibly, is a natural feature, such as a ravine or gully, and though you might get admirable shooting out of the ravine at birds high overhead, you do not want to drive your grouse clean off the moor. But there are other ways of trying for a variety of sporting shots. The beginning of the art of good driving is of course, observation of the behaviour of grouse under certain conditions—that is, when they are flushed by a person proceeding in a certain direction, with a certain wind blowing, and so on. When that knowledge has been obtained it is time for the keeper to place his butts, and if the lie of the ground helps him, he will arrange, if he can, to get his lines in different positions, offering different opportunities of shooting. In one drive, guns see the whole drive developed before them and watch the grouse speeding towards the butts a long time before it is possible to fire—a very fascinating sight. Another line of butts may be placed immediately under the brow of a hill, so that the birds suddenly appear, as if it were, from nowhere and give snapshots sharply outlined against the sky. Another line may be in low-lying ground, so that the grouse come over high in the air and make delightful shooting. Now and then it may be possible, even after the butts have been built to mark the behaviour of the driven birds and the conditions under which they have flown exceptionally high or well, and to try to reduplicate those conditions. For instance, everyone must have noticed occasions when the oncoming grouse have swerved unexpectedly and offered extremely fine shots to the lower butts on the side of a hill. This swerving may be due to the merest accident. A particular instance is in mind of a drive to a line of butts placed at right angles to a long stretch of hillside. To these butts the grouse came forward as usual, following the curves and shoulders of the hillside, and most of them flying low. It happened that the tenant of the highest butt being of a build which suffers from a hot sun and a somewhat severe climb, mopped a florid brow with a white pocket handkerchief. The covys flying towards his butts swerved at the flash of white as if it were a flanker's flag, and turning down the line of butts gave the lower guns rocketing shots of the most inspiring kind. Of course, it is not certain that an accident of this kind could be rehearsed time after time with the same happy success, but in repeating such a drive, the experiment of placing a man with a flag instead of a gun in the top butt might be well worth trying. Then again nobody wants to make all driven grouse into rocketers. There is a fascination of its own in the sight of the covy flying low and fast straight at the butts, disappearing into some dip in the ground, and sweeping up the hill again. But the occasional high swerving bird which comes down "out of the clouds" makes a shot which is remembered with pleasure when a score of others are forgotten, and one at least of what may be called the minor guiding principles in placing to ensure that this kind of shot should be a little more frequent. On some moors there have been many experiments made in the placing and the concealment of butts, and with excellent results. On other moors the methods of driving have been and still are rough and ready and experiments, if they were intelligently tried, might well add extra pleasure to what rightly reckoned the best of grouse shooting.—Field.

LESSONS OF EXPERIENCE.

Mr. Spriggs (gently)—My dear, a Washington man was shot at by a burglar, and his life was saved by a button which the burglar struck. Mrs. Spriggs—Well, what of it?
Mr. Spriggs (meekly)—Nothing, only the button must have been on—New York Weekly



Sportsman's Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Best month for salmon trolling; Cohoes running. Trout-fishing. September 15—Opening of season on Vancouver Island for shooting grouse, ducks, snipe, and deer.

GAME REGULATIONS

Cock Pheasants

Cock pheasants may be shot in the Cowichan Electoral District between 1st October and 31st December, both days inclusive.

In the Islands Electoral District, except the Municipality of North Saanich, between 1st October and 31st October, both days inclusive.

No pheasant-shooting is allowed in any other part of the Province.

Grouse

Grouse of all kinds may be shot on Vancouver Island, the Islands adjacent thereto, and the Islands Electoral District, between 15th September and 31st December, both days inclusive, with the exception of willow grouse in the Cowichan Electoral District.

Blue and willow grouse in the Richmond, Dewdney, Delta, Chilliwack, and in that portion of the Comox, Electoral Districts on the Mainland, and Islands adjacent thereto, on Texada Island, and in that portion of Kent Municipality situate in Yale Electoral District, between the 15th October and 31st December, both days inclusive.

Of all kinds in the Fernie and Cranbrook Electoral Districts may be shot only during the month of October.

Blue and willow grouse, and ptarmigan may be shot throughout the remainder of the Mainland between 1st September and 31st December, both days inclusive.

Quail

Quail may be shot in the Cowichan, Esquimalt, Saanich, and Islands Electoral Districts, between 1st October and 31st December, both days inclusive.

Prairie Chicken

Prairie Chicken may be shot throughout the Province during the month of October (except in the Electoral Districts of Okanagan, Kamloops, and Yale).

Ducks, Geese and Snipe

Duck of all kinds and snipe may be shot on throughout the Mainland and the Islands adjacent thereto, between 1st September and 28th February, both days inclusive.

Duck of all kinds and snipe may be shot on Vancouver Island and the Islands adjacent thereto, and in the Islands Electoral District, between 15th September, 1910, and 28th February, 1911, both days inclusive, and geese at any time.

Columbian or Coast Deer

Columbian or Coast Deer may be shot on Vancouver Island, the Islands adjacent thereto, and the Islands Electoral District, between September 15 and December 15, both days inclusive. Throughout the remainder of the Province, except the Queen Charlotte Islands, they may be shot between September 1 and December 15, both days inclusive.

Wapiti

Wapiti are not allowed to be shot anywhere in the Province.

Sale of Game

Columbia or Coast Deer may be sold on the Mainland only between September 1 and November 15, both days inclusive.

Ducks, Geese and Snipe may be sold throughout the Province during the months of October and November only.

Note.—Nothing contained in above regulations affects Kaien Island, the Yalakom game reserve in the Lillooet District, or the Elk River game reserve in the East Kootenay District.

THE NEW BRITISH COLUMBIA

Continued from Page Eight

fic; thence going towards the north and sending out two branches, one extending in the direction of Dawson and opening the enormously rich mineralized region in Northern British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, and the other on towards the Peace River, and thence to Hudson Bay. Such a railway, with its necessary branches, would be one of the greatest and most profitable enterprises that can be suggested; it would develop a greater extent of valuable territory than any other existing or projected line in Canada, and will, I believe, be the next great enterprise in the Dominion to enlist the attention of capitalists. C. H. L.

STAN

Every one has heard of Krupp few there are who realize what it signifies—business firm, government arsenal, shipbuilding work corporation: all on the complex of the world has ever seen!

Perhaps, indeed, this complex most remarkable feature of Krupp could take the works, with all the dies, and transport them to a desecrated still continue 60 per cent of as if nothing had happened. It is the whole concern on an supporting basis and making it outside industries, that has made them are. They sweep the world and inventions, buy them regressive, and well aware that there the world that can show such a political backing, they make the—the nations of the world—pay

An Earthly Providence

As a result of a consistent power ten years ago, as they are an exception of the Dusseldorf first competitor in Germany. They are which the nation relies for its arm

Germany, they stand or fall, national institution. When a nation is at Krupp's, he means "Manned for life." The employees are almost as described as of a species are moderately well paid, and a right and left by the so-called "w

richtungen," or aids to welfare. when the young engineer apprentice army and is supported by Krupp service to the time of his death

retired workmen's enemies (Altogether) are peopled by pensioners of the play a continuous role in his life.

all his household needs in co-operation of the profits which are shared Christmas. They rent him his him the money to build a new one his savings up to £5000 at 5 per

cent. They supply his doctor, his hospice, they give him a club, a fence, rowing, a bicycle track, a rowing, a school—fact, every require. And, in his breathless this pseudo-Providence, the employ

does not notice that his salary is er, that he is tyrannized over by in the office and in the shops, and eral tone of existence under the more of the barrack-yard than of

concern.

One of the first steps that a n has to take is to bind himself to crecy as to what he sees or hears. But this oath notwithstanding, n

to chance. Every precaution is n-vent the employe from knowi more than is required for his ow

work. In the offices all correspond in locked cases. One official for a case to another writes the nam decrease on a slip of paper, which under a glass frame incontinuously the case. Only on opening the s

pecial key can the address be r it is therefore impossible for paper

to fall into wrong hands. In offices every scrap of paper is lo

into fireproof and burglarproof with time locks. The employe

change their clothes before enteri leaving the office, and they take in the works in the dining-hall, t

sen slang the "Hungerturn," c tower. (This, by the way, is no

the quantity of food, which is proach; it is a humorous reference

of the building, which resembles t

val buildings which in various p

many have had attached to them "Hungerturm" in reference to

gens which have clung to them; vious that these precautions wou

cases, and Krupp's have called in to their aid. In cases where the

firm are inevitably shared by emp Krupp's pay salaries such as wou

attempt at bribery ineffective. I more particularly of the men in c

armor plate and steel manufactur

Thoroughness

So much for the relations between and its workers. When the work

sidered, a tribute of admiration i to the fact that the same spirit of

ness is equally present there. I stance, the making of guns. Krupp the subject are fundamentally d

those of most gunmakers. They a weapon that will merely stand

vice wear; they make an arm th

after an accident, continue to do

their guns are guaranteed to be

time firing after a high explosi

been exploded in their barrel.

It has been seen several of these

they had been thus tried, and

formation of the interior, which

allow the smallest quantity of g

was all that could be seen, while

tests with the guns at Meppen.

Their accuracy was hardly affi

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which they are far superior to o

does not hear in the case of the Kr

of complaints of the corrosive a

powder used. (Has it never occ

authorities that is the sharp e

riling, and not the corrosive a

powder, which may be to blame?

This thoroughness of Krupp's