

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Editor ROD AND GUN,

I quite agree with Anglo-Saxon's views, in your October issue, regarding reduction in weight of outfit, and, to my mind, there is no way in which you can sooner convince yourself how necessary is the minimum—consistent with reasonable comfort—than by assisting personally in portaging. On my present trip I have travelled twice each way over all portages loaded with as much as I cared to carry—50 to 65 pounds—and one portage was 1½ miles through swamp. On my back was an additional rifle, which I was foolish enough to bring along, also a shotgun which I have never used, (my chum attending to that end of the business,) and also the pails, pots, knives and forks, which are at least ten pounds heavier than needful. While I was laboring and perspiring through that swamp, knowing that 25 pounds of unnecessary stuff was on my back, I vowed a vow that hereafter there will be a severe cutting down of weight.

It seems strange that those who have written about light outfits have not spoken of the weight which can be saved by using waterproof silk, or cotton, tents. One ordinary 8 oz. duck, or even a light drill when thoroughly wet, holds many pounds of water. If there are two hunters and two guides, there will be one tent for the hunters and another for the guides, and the weight of those two tents when wet and soggy is very great. Two light, waterproof tents, while expensive, are really so light and non-absorbent, that the difference is probably 50 pounds in water and material. If the trip involves a different camp site each night, lightness of material will assist greatly in quick travelling.

I am writing this while in camp. We have to move to-morrow towards home. It is 4 p.m., and the rain has fallen unceasingly since 7 o'clock last night, and the prospect is not pleasing, but thank fortune that 1½ mile portage through the swamp was done yesterday, with fairly dry tents, and the five portages to be made to-morrow are not too bad.

Why do not the manufacturers of rifle and shotgun cases put on the market an article made of oil tanned leather, or something as light, which will shed water? The neat, slick looking leather, or canvas, case is for show, and so long as it has to travel in fine weather, or stay under cover, it is a thing of beauty, but for practical use in protecting the shooting iron from rain and damp its usefulness is very little. I had one of the "slick" leather variety two weeks ago, and it, with my Winchester in it, looked quite cute. On a certain morning, desiring to assist at the funeral obsequies of a large bull moose killed the evening previous, I took my rifle along for company, and, thinking there might be rain, the case came along outside the 30-30. There was wet by bucketfuls within a short time and no place to protect anything, so the case lay there and absorbed water until it had taken all it would hold. The rain continued all day and night, and more or less the next day, and the two days following were snowy and wet. Then, we adjourned from our tents to an old lumber camp some miles away that we knew of and proceeded to get that case, and our clothes, and some other things dry. A good fire and persistence accomplished the job. That settled the matter for me. I used about a quarter pint of neatsfoot oil on the rifle case, and now it will shed water like an oil tanned moccasin. A thick canvas case could not have absorbed more water and would have dried out faster.

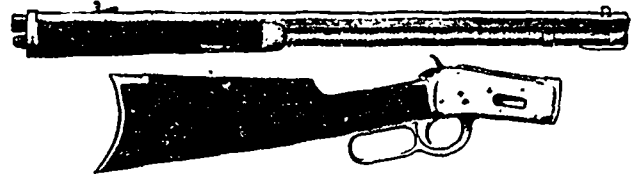
Case makers, it is up to you to help us out.

In Camp, Kippewa, Que.

MONTREAL.

## A NEW WINCHESTER CARTRIDGE.

Not content with its present magnificent line of rifles, including such thoroughly up-to-date weapons as the .30 U.S. Army, the 30-30 and the .238, all built for smokeless powder cartridges, the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, of New Haven, Conn., now offers a .32 which is expected to fill the gap between the powerful .30 U.S. Army and the 30-30, and to offer the



THE NEW TAKE-DOWN .32 CALIBRE WINCHESTER SPECIAL RIFLE

additional advantage of a special cartridge which may be re-loaded with black powder. The description of the cartridge is as follows: Loaded with smokeless powder and a 165-grain bullet, it has a muzzle velocity of 2057 ft. sec., generating a muzzle energy of 1150 ft. lb. At the standard testing distance of 15 feet from the muzzle of the rifle, this cartridge, with a full metal-patched bullet, will give a penetration of 37½ inch pine boards. Its trajectory is—100 yards, 1.23 inches; 200 yards, 5.92 inches; 300 yards, 16.38 inches. From these figures it will be readily seen that the advantages of this cartridge are its great striking energy, penetration, high velocity and consequent flat trajectory. Next to the .30 U.S. Army and .303 British, it is the most powerful small bore cartridge of to-day. With a



CARTRIDGE FOR THE .32 WINCHESTER SPECIAL.

charge of 40 grains of black powder, the .32 Special develops a velocity of 1385 ft. sec., which makes it a powerful black powder cartridge.

The Winchester Repeating Arms Company has adapted the model '94 rifle to handle this special cartridge, but will furnish it only in take-down style, with a 26-inch octagon, nickel-steel barrel, the list price being \$28. Rifles for the .32 Winchester special cartridge are fitted with a novel rear sight, which is graduated for both smokeless and black powder cartridges.

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A very rare animal recently passed through Montreal on its way to the Sportsmen's Exhibition in Philadelphia. It was a silver-grey fox in excellent condition, and apparently destined to enjoy a long life in captivity—if captive animals may be said to enjoy life. The fox was captured on the south side of the St. Lawrence, within a few miles of Quebec city. It is valued at \$200.

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A terrible destruction of caribou seems to be going on in Newfoundland. If it be true that hundreds of carcasses are at this moment rotting on the barrens, where they were shot for the mere lust of killing, then the people of Newfoundland would do well to see to it that the practice were stopped; otherwise, when it is too late they will be filled with unavailing regret. In their magnificent herds of caribou the colonists have undoubtedly their most valuable asset, with the exceptions of their cod fishery and sealing catch, but if half the tales be true a very few years will result in the practical extinction of the Newfoundland caribou, should present practices continue.