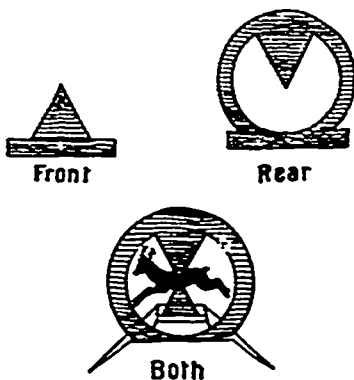


has regular spots for coming ashore when on his travels up or down the streams. It does not land promiscuously. It selects a spot, and every time it passes this particular spot it goes ashore and rolls about and plays. The Indians watch for these places and set their traps there, sometimes even lying in ambush for the chance of a shot. Unlike the beaver, however, they are nomadic in their habits, and though an otter may take up its residence on a certain stream for a season, next season it may be miles away. Hence, an Indian does not feel that he has the same vested right in the otters upon his lands that he has in the beaver.

During the first few winter months the otter does little travelling, for it can make but poor progress through the soft, deep snow, but when the March sun has made a crust upon the snow it makes long journeys and travels with great ease and swiftness. I remember once, while walking up Kippewa Lake, seeing an otter in the act of crossing the lake within a few hundred yards of me. Both I, and the Indian who was accompanying me, threw down our packs and gave chase. At first we rapidly gained on it, and I began to wonder how much its skin would fetch. But the otter was apparently playing with us. As soon as ever it saw that we really meant business, it changed its gait, which had been a very modest canter, into something like a hop, step and a jump. It took three jumps, then a slide of about ten feet, a living toboggan on legs, automatic and self-propelling. It reminded me of the undulating motion of a porpoise, but the pace it travelled instilled me with respect, and as we wearily resumed our bundles, and could see the hills beyond in which our destination lay, looking still blue in the distance, I envied the gait of that otter and wished that I could do likewise.

C. C. FARR



POINT BLANK GUNSIGHTS

The invention of Frank P. Warner, (Ben De Feo) of Florence, Colorado.



A TRAP SHOOTING RETROSPECT

IN its issue of December 30th, The American Field gives a synopsis of the leading trap shooting events in the United States during the past year, and in doing so makes remarks thereon which cannot fail to interest Canadian readers. We take the liberty of quoting from The Field article:

Trap shooting events of 1899 are now matters of record, and after to-morrow they will be referred to as the records of a trap-shooting season, the like of which has not been seen since this gentlemanly sport became a factor in the pleasures of American sportsmen.

That the season of 1899 has been a memorable one, and one in which a number of important records have been established, no one who is sufficiently interested in the sport to keep himself posted will, for a moment, deny, for during this year some of the largest tournaments ever known to American sportsmen have been held, and all, without exception, have been more successful than their promoters had anticipated. The Grand American Handicap, held at Elkwood Park, N.J., 1st April, was of itself a record breaker so far as the number of entries is concerned and also as to the size of the purse that was competed for. The state tournaments, this year, have also, all, with perhaps one or two exceptions, been more liberally patronized and more successful from a financial standpoint, than in years past, while league events and club tournaments have more than met the anticipations of their promoters.

That the sport is growing in favor, and growing with great rapidity not only in this country, but also in nearly every country on the face of the globe, there is not the slightest question. And why? Simply because it is a clean, gentlemanly sport that has, by its supporters, been placed upon a plane which excludes that class of men who demoralize and corrupt everything with which they are associated.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago the number of trap shooting tournaments held in a single state, in a season, could be counted upon the fingers of one hand, while to-day that many are held

in nearly every county of a single state. No association, club or promoter then thought of guaranteeing a thousand dollars in a single event, or of adding any money to the purses, while now it is not an unusual thing for a club of any pretensions to add from \$250 to \$1,000 to the purses when giving a tournament, and the patronage is usually so good that the association, league or club which does this generally comes out at the finish with a good balance on the right side of the cash account after paying all expenses, a fact of itself that proves beyond all question that the sport of trap shooting, as conducted in this country, is growing rapidly in popularity and is being patronized by the better element in all branches of business and professions.

In the palmy days of Bogardus, Brewer, Carver, Payne and other noted wing shots, inanimate targets were not known to the shooters of America, if, indeed, they were to the people of any other nation, and the then comparatively few people who enjoyed trap shooting had to confine themselves to live birds, a target which to-day is far more popular than any of the inanimates, but which then, as now, was too expensive to permit the man of moderate means to indulge his love for trap shooting to any great degree, and therefore the number who followed the sport as a pastime or for pleasure was few as compared with the thousands who to-day find trap shooting a health-giving and pleasant recreation, and indulge in it because, we repeat, it is a clean, gentlemanly sport.

The growth in trap shooting has been phenomenal and of incalculable benefit to many business interests of the country, as the gun manufacturers, the powder, shot and shell makers, and the target and trap manufacturers have been obliged to enlarge their plants and employ more workmen to meet the demands for their products, all of which have been of immense benefit to the mechanics and unskilled laborers of the country.

Twenty years ago glass balls and the trap for throwing them, first introduced by the veteran, Captain A. H. Bogardus, were the only substitutes for live