

often the impression of those who are not initiated into all the mysteries and uncertainties of shooting, and the "crack shot" is usually too proud of his reputation to dispel this illusion, or to keep any count of the misses he may make. Some few years ago the writer was in the habit of visiting a place not many miles from Montreal, and where there was a stretch of woods extending three or four miles in length, and in which, at that time, there were a good many Ruffed Grouse. During one of my visits the birds were pretty numerous, but I had by noon only succeeded in bagging two brace, one of these being a "pot shot," while I had missed at least a dozen shots, the cover in most places being very dense. While pursuing my sport numerous shots were fired from the other end of the wood, three or four reports in rapid succession made me aware that more than one gun was being employed, and that game was apparently plentiful. In a short time the hunting party approached near enough to enable me to recognize three well-known sportsmen and reputed "crack shots,"—feeling ashamed to appear before these gentlemen with only two brace, I quietly turned about and walked in another direction,—they had fired at least twenty shots, and from their "reputation" I concluded must have bagged nearly as many birds. Some days after, however, I happened to meet one of the gentlemen, and did not tell him of the result of my day's sport until I had ascertained that his party had, with a score of shots, only succeeded in bagging "one bird." I have since then been a firm believer in the uncertainty of Ruffed Grouse shooting and can confidently recommend this sport to any one ambitious to acquire the reputation of being considered a "crack shot."—WALLACE.

LOBSTER CULTURE.

The subject of Lobster culture has taken up the attention of Prof. S. F. Baird and the Fish Commissioners of the State of Maine. The Professor says :—

"There is a very great promise of success in cultivating lobsters on a large scale by inclosing them in small salt water bays, where there is a free circulation of water, and the egress of the lobsters can be prevented by grating or netting. They can be fed, as I understand, very largely upon clams, and will not only grow very rapidly under such circumstances, but carry on the propagation of the young. The young can either be kept in the inclosure or go out to sea and increase the supply in the vicinity. This is, by far, the most feasible way of solving the problem in regard to the depletion of lobsters along the coast of Maine and the Provinces. Is there any provision in the fishery laws of Maine by which an individual undertaking this work can prevent unauthorized persons from going in and reaping the benefit when the individual cultivator actually owns or leases the adjacent shore? Of course no man will be willing to go into the business unless he can be protected, and if there is no provision in Maine, as there is in Massachusetts, by which the Fish Commissioners can lease a pond to particular individuals for the purpose of propagating fish and secure to them thereby exclusive rights in the waters, it would be well to have such a provision, with the understanding that it is to apply to salt waters as well as to fresh. If the experiment proves as successful as I confidently anticipate and believe it will be, it will add enormously to the resources of the State, as there are hundreds of localities where such ponds could be established to the best advantage. Of course I suggest no interference with high seas navigation."

In the September and October numbers (Vol. I.) of this journal, we made a few remarks on the Canadian Lobster Fisheries. It may be further stated in connection with the subject, that in consideration of the extent of this industry in our Maritime Provinces, it would be well for those engaged in the business to consider the propriety of cultivating the lobster, as suggested by Professor Baird. There are many available localities along the Gulf seaboard where the cultivation of this valuable *crustacean* can be carried on with success. For instance, the Bay of Gaspié, and at several places on the coast near Percé and Bonaventure. Prince Edward Island has also many excellent sites for this object.