

Tolstoy

man raised his cap and bowed to not hear my question. "d you say?" asked he. recognized him, but as soon as he w him at once. He is the hard- peasant who, as often happens, ally marked out for misfortune: ses were stolen from him, then his down, and then his wife died. I Prokofey for a long time and re- as a bright red-haired man of ht; whereas he was now not red- y-haired, and small. "Prokofey, it's you!" I said. "I was son that fine fellow is—that one spoken to Alexander?"

"Prokofey replied, pointing with is head to the tall lad. He shook mumbled something I did not un- whose son the lad is?" I repeat- ed to look at Prokofey. was puckered and his jaw trem- ing like a child.

then, after the two words, "He's by Prokofey, did I realize, not ind but in my whole being, he was taking place before my eyes le misty morning. All the dis- prehensible, strange things I had acquired a simple, clear, and ter- ce. I became painfully ashamed on as at an interesting spec- ed, conscious of having acted ill, o go home.

nk that these things are at the nt being done to tens of thou- all over Russia, and have been long continue to be done, to the saintly Russian people, who are treacherously deceived!

Aristotle

off from "Major Barbara", and t out "Major Barbara" without author did not give us another "John Bull's Other Island"— "I", which first established the y plays are not plays, but mere e for these titles "The Marriage "The Voyage Inheritance," "The Madras House", and the ally to Mr. Granville Barker. ese reservations turn the whole us" is quite true. They do, d that it is a pity that a man ear was so honest as I should thief, a liar, a blackguard, an a murderer, and I lose some unds and a great deal of credit it is perhaps ungrateful to me e compliment to my previous t. It may even show an appetite ate and fulsome praise." But I am built in that hypersensi- I am held up to the world as ase dramatist!" I don't know neant, and neither would Aris- e life of me I cannot feel as if a handsome tribute from ctually prefer the downright

regret that your contributor eceeded in dashing the faith e had in my work. Mr. Walk- some tributes in Le Temps of my literary vogue in hen he seized the opportunity dinner to make a quite unpro- the projected National Thea- public that he had allowed e critics to convert him to e work at which Mr. Bar- ling—a view which I confess sh from the Roshevville view mphony—I held my peace. I hold it, because my feelings are entirely friendly to y steady and impenitent pur- myself" whenever, like Mrs. disposed, to do with his un- what Heine reproached Les- tantly, not only to cut off o hold them up on the scaf- ublic that there is nothing in

G. BERNARD SHAW.

WIDOWERS

g to be a widower. mopes around and won't min- e refuses to take part in any eements, the women say t for fear folks will think h-

or the conventional period et up and take notice, the callous brute and they pity s foolish enough to marry

his spare time with his chil- too bad he doesn't pick out en and marry her and give home.

and all his spare time with y the poor little things are and that's what might be anyhow.

Field Sports at Home and Abroad

TRAIL-TALK AND TARADIDDLES

(Richard L. Pocock)

The Opening of the Shooting Season

Since the publication of the regulations under the Game Act of 1910, which will be discussed in another column, there has been much discussion and criticism of the decision to make the opening day for grouse shooting two weeks earlier than it has been for the last two seasons, many good sportsmen being of the opinion that it is a great mistake to open the season at all before the First of October. It is a great pity that these opinions were not voiced a little earlier, as the powers that be, who are responsible for the framing of the regulations, were of course anxious to do what was best in the interests of present and future sport, and to help them in forming their conclusions were desirous of getting at the real opinions of those in a position to judge best of the conditions prevailing in the various districts of the Province.

However, as there seems to be a very strong opinion against the opening of the season any earlier this year than last, and reports have come in from some districts of small broods and backward birds, by all means let us give the birds the benefit of any doubt, and, preferably, close down grouse shooting altogether this year, or else keep the opening date the same as in the last two seasons. Sport should be free from politics, and a question of importance to the interests of sport and the maintaining of a fair stock of birds on the Island should be discussed without acrimony or personalities.

The opening of the grouse shooting season on September 15 was advocated in this column last May, on the strength of personal observation of plenty of hotshots in the districts with which I am acquainted, but even more on the strength of the honest opinions of many good sportsmen who had spoken to me on the subject.

But we do not pretend to know it all, and, personally, whatever my opinion may be as to the desirability or otherwise of opening the shooting on a certain date, I am willing to defer to the opinion of others who may know or think differently, even though they may be in the minority, and, if there is any doubt whatever as to the wisdom of the policy decided on, by all means give the birds the benefit of the doubt.

The Pheasants, the Chief, and the Thirsty Sports

Speaking of game laws reminds one of a good story heard the other day. It happened some years ago now, so, if this catches the eye of the Game Warden, it is no use his coming to me for evidence, besides it would only be hearsay anyway, and the lawyer of the office tells me that that doesn't count; so here goes for the yarn.

They were two ardent shooters, and they had had a long and weary day without a great deal to show for it. Driving home in a buggy, they paid a call on a prominent resident of the district in which they had been shooting, in the hope of getting a little liquid refreshment. They were observed by their host, as they pulled up at his gate, to take a sack from under the seat of the buggy and cache it behind a bush at the side of the road. Here was a mystery which had to be investigated at once. After receiving his guests, the host excused himself for a moment to get the aforesaid refreshment and seized the opportunity to secure and examine the mysterious sack.

In it he found two hen pheasants; the murder was out. Of course the right thing to do was to denounce the offenders and hand them over to justice; but the discoverer of the crime saw his way to the administering of a little poetical justice, and took upon himself to dole out the punishment.

He knew his men, and, on returning to them, he apologized for the fact that unfortunately his stock of spirituous liquors was temporarily out, but he had plenty of nice fresh milk. They drank the milk; they were thirsty and there was no whiskey; therefore, having drunk the milk, they took a speedy departure and started for other parts where there was something stronger to be had.

On arriving in Victoria they pulled up at a certain restaurant presided over by a well-known and distinguished French chef, and handed him the sack, with the request that he would see that justice was done to the preparation of the pheasants, which they told him it contained, for their supper later in the evening.

Then they satisfied their thirst and returned after a good clean-up and a change of raiment, in anticipation of the enjoyment of the results of their skill and the chef's. The welcome they received was very different from what they expected. Instead of the smiling face of the artist of the kitchen, which they were accustomed to see, they met a very indignant Frenchman, indeed, who regaled them with samples of his choicest Parisian. When the air cleared a bit and they were able to get a word in, they enquired mildly and politely by what was the matter.

"Sacre blank, etc., etc., dash, dot! You bring me crows to cook, and you say they are pheasants!"

The proprietor of the country place, where they had been regaled with milk, had been practicing before they came along on the crows in his orchard; it was only the work of a few seconds to make the exchange after he had discovered what was in that sack, and somebody had pheasant for supper that evening, if not the men who shot them.

More Poetical Justice

It is of the same man as played host on this occasion that the story is told, that, being annoyed at the way poaching gunners were in the habit of getting over his fence, taking a crack at his pheasants, and then hiking for the road again, without his being able to catch them, he determined to get some incontrovertible evidence against some of them.

He therefore armed a man with a kodak and posted him behind the fence with instructions to get, if possible, a snapshot of anyone who should come over "trespassing in the pursuit of game."

The photographer was lucky; he did not have a very long wait before a hunter with gun and dog came within range, and was duly caught by the camera. There were no facilities at hand for developing the plate, and it was despatched next morning to a Victoria professional to be developed and printed. Imagine the astonishment of the photographer when, on developing the plate, he found an excellent representation of a man with a gun and a dog, the man himself, the gun and dog his own. History does not record what he did to that plate; but photographers are human, and it is astonishing what can be done by a skillful operator.

Dogs and the Breeding Season

There has been a strong kick registered here lately about the practice of taking dogs into the woods for training or exercise in the close season. There is no law against it, except the unwritten law of good sportsmanship and unselfishness, and the man who thinks of the welfare of the game and the interests of his neighbor is careful to exercise his dog in places where there is no danger of his doing damage to the game. To say that dogs can be taken into the woods at this time of year without fear of their doing any harm, hardly seems reasonable. An exceptionally well-trained dog, which can be and is kept close to heel all the time he is out, may be alright, but how many such are there among the animals which accompany their masters in their country outings at this season of the year? It is said that men are in the habit of taking their dogs out before the season opens, and even as early as this and earlier, for the express purpose of training them on birds. There could hardly be anything more detrimental to the game than this; the dogs are necessarily only partly broken and not under complete control, and they must in the nature of things do immense harm in the way of scattering young broods, even if they do not actually kill any of the birds. Many are the trials and vicissitudes of the mother bird and her brood, and many the ways for the destruction of the young ones, without their being chased and harassed by unbroken and partly broken dogs. Particularly is this the case with pheasants. A hen pheasant is notoriously the worst mother of any of the game birds, and more apt to lose a percentage of her brood than the mother grouse, but it is well known that there is nothing which does so much damage to any game in the breeding and rearing season than a dog in the covers.

Play the game, gentlemen, and keep your dogs broken or unbroken away from the birds until the shooting season opens!

GAME REGULATIONS

Regulations made under the Game Act for the open and close seasons during 1910 are as follows:

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 part of the Province.

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

Prairie Chicken may be shot throughout the Province during the month of October.

Ducks, Geese and Snipe may be shot throughout the Mainland and the islands adjacent thereto, between 1st September and 28th February, both days inclusive. Ducks of all kinds and snipe may be shot on Vancouver Island and 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 may be shot on Vancouver Island, the islands adjacent thereto, and the Islands Electoral District, between 15th September and 15th December, both days inclusive. Throughout the remainder of the Province, except the Queen Charlotte Islands, they may be shot between 1st September and 15th December, both days inclusive.

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 1st September and 15th November, both days inclusive.

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

Nothing contained in the above regulations affects Kaituma Island, the Yalakom Game Reserve in the Lillooet District, or the Elk River Game Reserve in the East Kootenay District.

FISH FARMING IN UNITED STATES

It is nearly forty years since the United States Government awoke to the necessity of conserving the fishery resources of the country and began those elaborate operations in favor of fishes, fishermen and fish consumers in general. It was thought that a better policy to spend a certain amount of the public money in making fish so abundant that they could be caught without restriction, and serve as a cheap food for the people at large, rather than spend a much larger sum in preventing the people from catching the few fish that remained after generations of improvidence. It was in 1871 when Congress took the initial step towards a national fishery service, by the passage of a joint resolution creating the office of Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries. Government fish culture in America exceeds in extent of importance that of all other countries combined. At the end of the first ten years of the Bureau's existence, the fishes that were being regularly cultivated were shad, carp, chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, landlocked salmon, rainbow trout, brook trout and whitefish. The list is now six times the aggregate for the ten year period ending in 1881.

The main energies of the Bureau are devoted to the multiplication of the more important commercial fisheries, such as shad, whitefish, lake trout, Pacific salmon, white perch, yellow perch, cod, flatfish and the lobster, which are hatched in lots of many millions annually. In addition to these many game fishes are cultivated, and although these represent only about ten per cent of the output of the hatcheries, this feature of the work is most important, as supplying choice kinds of fish for public rivers, lakes and ponds, for fishing preserves, and for private ponds and streams in all parts of the United States. The fishes most in demand for those purposes are the landlocked salmon, different species of trout, greyling, the basses, the crappies, the sunfish and catfishes and various others, that are also hatched.

The results of fish culture, as shown by numerous replenished waters and by actual returns in fish, might easily be made the subject of lengthy reference, but is here alluded to incidentally. One point to be emphasized is that the fish-cultural work of the Bureau is of two classes, with respect to its economy. Many of the most valuable food fishes, being in their prime for market purposes just prior to the spawning season, are most extensively captured at the very time they should be spared for the perpetuation of their kind. Whenever possible, the Bureau procures the eggs of these fish from the fishermen. Fully ninety-six per cent of all the eggs collected and hatched by the Bureau are taken and fertilized from fishes destined for the market, and this without detracting from the value or edible qualities of the fish.

Some of the fresh water species, valued chiefly as game fishes, are cultivated by confining them under conditions which will secure the maximum reproduction by processes. Practically all the commercial fishes can be propagated, and much more numerously, by stripping them of eggs, milk by hand and incubating the fertilized eggs in hatcheries. It is with these that the Bureau is most largely concerned, their numbers being nearly ninety-eight per cent of the entire output of the hatcheries.

The hatching processes are generally speaking, of three classes with respect to equipment, determined primarily by the specific gravity of the eggs. Heavy eggs, such as those of trout, salmon and the greyling, are incubated in wire bottomed trays, or wire baskets set in troughs of running water. The mesh of wire is of a size to suit the size of egg, and to permit the young fish as they hatch to drop through into the trough. The troughs are usually plain, open boxes, varying in length from twelve to sixteen feet, and in depth from four to twelve inches to suit conditions. An arbitrary width of fourteen inches, inside measure, has been adopted, uniformity of width being desirable for economy in interior equipment.

The fish-cultural work of the Federal Government has now attained a magnitude that cannot be readily comprehended, and is increasing at a very rapid rate. This is especially marked during the last ten years, owing partly to the establishment of new stations, partly to the extension of operations and existing stations and largely to the greater efficiency of methods and appliances. The work during the fiscal year 1909 reached larger proportions than ever before, over 3,000,000,000 being produced and planted. During the fiscal year 1910 another record will be made, and the output will exceed that of the previous year by several hundred millions.

The tremendous importance of the Government's work in the conservation and multiplication of fish, will be understood when we say, that the Government had not engaged in this work 95 per cent of the food fish shown would

never have existed, because they would have been sent to the market in the form of eggs.

Last year the Government planted 75,839,430 trout eggs of all species. For brook trout eggs the Bureau depends largely on commercial trout raisers, eyed eggs being obtained from them at lower cost than it is possible to collect from wild fish at most places, or from brood fish maintained only for their eggs. About 8,000,000 eggs are annually purchased from ten to eleven dealers.

At some stations, however, eggs from wild trout are more satisfactory. It has been found that eggs in the domesticated fish, hatched and reared in spring water, which is not subject to seasonal variations, do not produce good results. This is especially so where the temperature of the water supply in the hatchery is below thirty-five degrees, or is subject to variations of several degrees. Vermont and Colorado are the only states in which eggs of the wild brook trout are collected in sufficient numbers to stock the Bureau's hatcheries in those states, as well as to have a surplus for distribution to other hatcheries.

When the fry are hatched from the eggs they are found provided with a sack, containing food material on which the fry live, until they are able to consume food on their own account. As soon as the fry swim around looking for food, they are fed several times a day on an emulsion of finely ground liver. This diet is continued as the young fish develop, with the difference that the liver is less finely ground and is given less frequently—two or three times a day being sufficient when the fish have attained a length of two or three inches. The kind of liver used varies at different stations, that of sheep, beaves and hogs being extensively used and the relative value of each being in the order named. The food for the large fish consists of the liver, lungs and hearts of the animals mentioned.

The period of incubation of trout eggs depends entirely on water temperature. In a temperature of 50 degrees the eggs will hatch in about fifty days. That is rather high temperature for hatching, however, and for every degree lower it takes nearly ten days longer. In water at practically freezing temperature, it requires nearly 200 days to hatch the eggs.

The time that the fry carry the food sac depends on water temperature. Ordinarily the water temperature is a little higher after the eggs are hatched, and, of course, this means that the fry are ready for food much earlier. They take food immediately after the sac is entirely absorbed.

The fry of all fish hatched from eggs, whether marine or fresh water, are supplied with a food sac when hatched. The size of the sac varies materially and the period of incubation of various fish also varies. That of the salmonidae ranges like trout with the temperature; the eggs of the shad hatch in a very few days at normal temperature, and the sac is usually absorbed in two or three days.

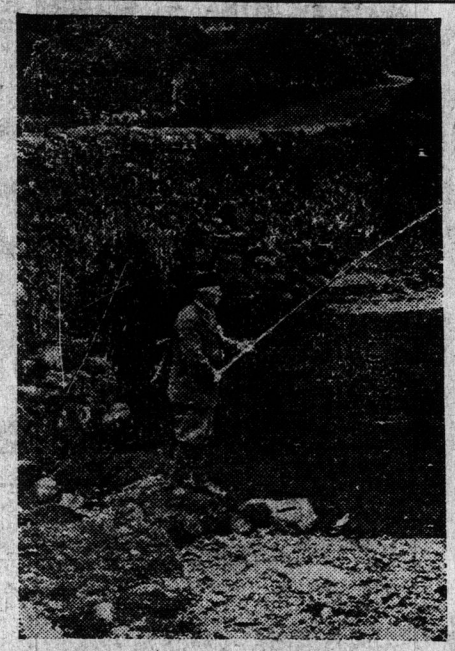
Fishes are distributed at various stages of development, according to the species, the number in the hatcheries, and the facilities for rearing. The commercial fishes, hatched in lots of many millions, are necessarily planted as fry. It is customary to distribute them just before the umbilical sac is completely absorbed; Atlantic salmon, landlocked salmon, and various species of trout, in such numbers as the hatchery facilities permit. Some are reared in fingerlings from one to six inches in length; the remainder are distributed as fry. The basses and sunfishes are distributed from the fish-cultural stations and ponds from some three weeks after they are hatched, until they are several months of age. When the last lots are shipped the basses usually range from four to six inches, and the sunfishes from four to four inches in length. The numerous fishes collected in overflooded lands—basses, crappies, sunfishes, catfishes, yellow perch, and others—are two to six inches in length when taken and distributed. Eggs are distributed only to state hatcheries or to applicants who have hatchery facilities.—John W. Titcomb in Field and Stream.

WOODPIGEON SHOOTING WITH DECOYS

However unwelcome woodpeckers may be to the farmers, sportsmen have nothing but praise to bestow on them, since they afford capital shooting at practically no cost except for the cartridges used. Farmers on whose land they feed are as a rule only too glad to give permission to any responsible person to shoot them free of charge, while those who possess woods in which they come in of an evening. The flight only lasts about fifty-five minutes as a rule, and it is more than likely that the number of empty cartridge cases will largely outnumber the birds killed.

The usual way of shooting them, however, is when they are feeding on the fields in the daytime; in summer it is generally peas or laid corn that attracts them, the former being their favorite food. A good plan is to make a hut with sticks and tree boughs in a hedge or field in which they feed. Before doing so, however, it is well to ascertain from which direction they usually arrive. As a rule the first arrivals will pitch in a tree or clump of trees before alighting to feed, the same trees being always used, and are easily recognized by the drooping underneath them. The hut should be made in the centre of these trees, and there the shooter must wait for the arrival of the pigeons.

There is much uncertainty about this sport; some days one may kill thirty or forty birds, another day, to all appearances equally favorable, not a shot will be fired. If there is abund-



Sportsman's Calendar

AUGUST

The Salmon-Trollers' Month—Spring Salmon and Cohoes all over the Coast. One of the best months for stream-fishing for Trout.

ance of food in the district large bags will be the exception, for when driven from one field the birds will alight in another, and afford only a different sport. In winter, should there be much snow, the pigeons become very hard pressed for food. All the clover layers and stubbles are covered too deeply for them to pick up seed or grain. A field of turnips or cabbages will then attract large flocks, and plenty of shooting may be had; bags of over a hundred birds in a day have been obtained by one gun.

In winter, when the hedges are bare of leaves, erecting a hut is a more difficult matter. The best plan is to get some brambles and intertwine them with sticks, covering the whole with grass. The brambles hold the grass in place, whereas it would slip off other sticks. The hut should not be made too small; ample room should be left in which to turn freely in for a right and left at crossing birds. Care should be taken not to make the hut too far from the nearest tree. It is extraordinary what a quantity of shot a pigeon will take before succumbing, especially one sitting in the tree, where branches may impede most of the shot. Twenty yards is ample distance. Many times have I made a hut at which I thought a fair distance from the trees. My first few shots had no effect, except knocking out a few feathers, until I remade the hut several yards nearer.

For this kind of shooting decoys are very important. There are several different sorts. Some people keep a live bird for the purpose. Although certainly effective, I do not think they are worth the trouble they entail, being inconvenient to carry to and from the field if it is at any distance from home. Moreover, one must be extremely careful that a stray shot or ricochet does not kill or injure them. The best decoy in my opinion is a stuffed pigeon. If a good specimen is secured, and the taxidermist understands his work, this kind will stand a fair amount of hard usage, although it must not be left wet for any length of time, nor can it be carried in one's game pocket like a wooden decoy. It should be set up on a T-shaped frame, the cross piece being made of wood, on which the bird is perched, and fixed on an iron spike to stick into the ground. Pigeons have sometimes settled on the ground by my stuffed decoy, and have started bowing and cooing to it, in the belief that it was alive. Specimens to be set up should not be killed in the breeding season, for the feathers, always extremely loose, come out easier at that season than at any other.

The most common decoy is the wooden one, shaped and painted to resemble the live bird, made with a wooden or iron spike to stick in the ground. These are much more handy to carry about, there being no fear of spoiling them. Nevertheless, though generally effective, they are not so good as the stuffed decoys; the pigeons seem to tell the difference very quickly. Another good decoy is a dead pigeon put out with its head in a fork-shaped piece of wood, and made to look as natural as possible. One thing to remember is always to place the decoy's head to wind, which then does not ruffle the feathers. This is a very important point. Another point is to remove any litter of feathers that may have fallen from birds killed near the decoys, otherwise any newcomers will see them and be warned off. For this reason it sometimes becomes necessary to move to another place. I generally begin with two decoys, which I bring with me; one I place in a line with the birds on the side of the hedge from which the birds come, the other in the field in which they feed. Seeing the first decoy as they arrive, it brings them over the second, which otherwise they might not see, and near which they will pitch if not frightened. The first three or four killed are put out in prominent places on the feeding field, round the other decoy, with their heads propped up by sticks. No more need be put out with the first decoy, as one does not want them to pitch there, at one's back, the decoy there being only intended to bring them over the other decoys. These should not be placed too far away; twenty yards is ample, for many pigeons will pitch on the far side of the dum-mies.