

Field Sports at Home and Abroad

THE KING AS A SPORTSMAN

Pen-sketches Specially for The Colonist by an Old Country Sportsman

A poor man on a horse, but second to none with a gun, and can hold his own with the best of them as a fisherman, more especially salmon fishing. As a fisherman he doesn't trust his gillie to put on a fly, but does it himself. He is a stickler, and doesn't give up because he has fished for a couple of hours without moving a fish. He is always up betimes on a fishing morn, and never loses a chance, and no day is too hard for him.

The King is very fond of a good story, both fishing and otherwise. He never forgets a friend, and is known as, and has been from his early days on the Britannia, a first-class sportsman and "good chap."

As a shot he is well known; there may be better in England, Mr. Rimington Wilson perhaps being a better performer in a grouse but than His Majesty, but taking all round shooting, partridge driving or high rocketing pheasants, I should feel inclined to back the latter. Another thing about the King is that, although very keen about big days' shooting when all the game, either grouse, pheasants or partridges, are driven over him, he is not above having a quiet little day by himself, with a couple of spaniels and a retriever, when he makes a good sporting mixed bag—for instance, two or three couple of snipe, a woodcock, and a few teal; days of this kind he enjoys as much or more than the big shoot.

History relates that when the King of Spain was staying at Sandringham he was awakened early one morning by King George—then Prince of Wales—to go and shoot some duck, there is a splendid place about a mile from Sandringham, where early in the morning or late in the evening there is good flight shooting; they went and made a good bag, this was done on more than one occasion.

After a day's shooting, when all the guests have gone back, it is not an uncommon thing for the King to go out by himself with one of the keepers just for a few minutes' flight shooting which there is in either November or December, often walking a couple of miles there and back; this speaks for itself. He is a sportsman, as they say in this country, from the word "go."

Rather an interesting story has just come to my mind, relating to the late King Edward, which may be of interest on this occasion. "The late King, then Prince of Wales, was on a visit to Plymouth, an old farmer well known in the district who had some good rabbit shooting, wrote to the Prince, a letter couched something like the following: "Dear Prince: I have not shot a rabbit yet this season and there are a tidy few in the big berry, so do you come along and help me shoot 'em." The Prince answered, saying that he was more than sorry not to be able to accept Mr. —'s invitation, but that his time would not permit of his doing so.

THE ART OF AIMING

By Edward C. Robinson

The writer of this article desires to impress on the reader that all statements contained herein are general statements which special conditions might render inaccurate or misleading.

Sergeant Leushner in the December, 1910, number of this periodical has in a most interesting manner outlined the statistical features of the present government small arm, and the various positions in "Firing."

It seems not out of place to go into a few details concerning aiming, and refer to some of the difficulties which confront shooters. "I have a blur on my front sight or my rear sight," is a very common protest from shooters of various degrees of experience, and then the natural assumption that "it must be my eyes," which it is, but not as the average sufferer imagines. In aiming one should practice first looking at the object, and then bringing the sights on the line of aim, incidentally and not primarily, i.e., do not attempt to fix the gaze on the front sight and expect to see the object clearly, simultaneously, because you are asking the eye to perform the impossible, and a blur is the inevitable result. A blur polished brightly and reflecting the sun, and sometimes results from the sights becoming rarely from an overheated gun, which produces a multiplicity of front sights, and, of course, occasionally from small pieces of fouling. Sometimes a shadow on one of the sights or object by distracting the eye will work the same way. The longer the range the greater the annoyance and vice versa. It is surprising how few shooters appreciate the great importance attaching to "form," i.e., uniformity of method in assuming a position of aim.

The secret of ability to shoot quickly rests very largely on one's ability to align the object and sight or sights (shotgun or rifle) the instant that the weapon is in position (the position would not count unless the sights are on the right line), and then held the piece and press the trigger in a fraction of a second. Most people take a long time to realize how quick the eye is, and do not trust the first sight they get, but, as is taught the novice, "verify the sight," the necessity for which largely disappears with ample practice, and one can really "let off" safely practically the moment he thinks he is on his mark, because, just as one sees all of the letters in a word at the same time, so, too, he sees accurately, in a second, the mark and his sights.

I must emphasize what I said, that this faculty only comes with a great deal of intelligent practice; witness the skill of the regular soldiers in "rapid fire" and "skirmishing" and the "trap" and "fancy" shooters. Other factors which enter into aiming are knowing one's "zero," and learning the speed of the flight of the projectile for different ranges. Of course, the importance of these latter factors is modified by the kind of shooting and range. In regard to the former, some men buy a weapon and proceed to shoot it, always presuming it shoots zero—where there is no drift due to wind or "mirage." This is a mistake; the gun may be all right in a machine rest, but all men are not quite the equal of a machine rest, even though their verbal opinions may indicate it. Some shooters habitually throw their shots one way or another, and in such cases an adjustment of the sight will work a permanent improvement in results and account for much mysterious missing.

Practicing at known distances with suitable loads at a bull's-eye target with a shotgun or rifle will reveal exactly the pattern or group you are getting and help you to shoot more scientifically; this can advantageously be followed by trap practice, and then on live birds or game as the case may be. By making a practice of noting the position of the feet, body and hands, and always, if possible, holding the head in a nearly erect position, one soon becomes able, so to speak, "to fall into" the desired position with greatest ease and despatch. Having acquired the idea of "form," one must clear his mind of any fanciful theories concerning the method of using various styles of sight. For example, the one idea of a peep sight should be to bring the point of aim or object into its centre and the top of the front sight on the point or object at very short range, or at such point as will allow a clear view of the object or point of aim at longer range. By using the centre of the peep sight one practically does away with worrying about "how much front sight" is to be seen because the centre of the peep is a fixed point, and if the top of the front sight is brought to the level of the imaginary line from the pupil of the eye through the centre of the peep sight to the point of aim, necessarily the top of the sight is always in relatively the same position, which will give uniform results. In the case of the open sight, however, the amount of front sight seen varies considerably.

Someone says, "Ah, but one day I see half the front sight and another only one-third of it." All of which may be true, but the difference is due to the light, which on a bright, clear day magnifies or permits a clear definition of the object and background; a condition which does not obtain on a dull or dark day.

An open sight permitting the shooter to align the top of the front sight with an imaginary horizontal line across the top of the rear sight will give very fine, uniform results, and can be "found" quickly. If possible one should avoid turning a rifle on the axis of the bore, as this will change the location of the shots just as the pendulum swings on a clock. As to the effect of light on one's aim if shooting at a bull's-eye target, it will be perceived that on a nice bright day the target will show the lines at 500 yards and the "bull" will look large and tempting, while the white space below will be deep and roomy. On the contrary, on a dark day the lines disappear and the bull looks smaller and the white space under it come this condition is to aim at a point three-quarters the width of the white from the bottom of the target, below the bull's-eye, because in a good light you can see the spot easily and on a dark day when the white is contracted you can measure it easily, and by this means avoid changing your elevation for different days to "find" the target.

At long range, say 1,000 yards or 1,200 yards, if it is practical, it is an excellent plan to "sit" the target on top of the front sight always centring the object (target in this case), using the background to aid in the same way one looks at a landscape picture, i.e., not attempting to define the target to the exclusion of its immediate surroundings. Bear in mind the foregoing is only an outline of a sound practical method and is not advanced as an unvarying rule, for it is clearly recognized that excellent scores may be made along other lines, but you are safe to try what is here suggested and a careful trial will show consistent results with varying lights.

I do not think one can lay down any rule for hunters as regards which is the best sight, because the kind of game, the country and other elements may enter into the question. The present government sight embodies a great many vital features, is strong and in every way excellent. Now in the matter of allowing for drift caused by a cross wind, that is a question governed by the velocity and weight of the bullet; and the speed of the wind and distance, and emphasizes the point made already of knowing the zero with a given load. Many tables are in print which have been worked out to a mathematical nicety, giving the drift for cross winds and for head and rear winds. In obtaining these tables one must remember that the weight of bullet and charge must be such as closely correspond with the ammunition the figures in the table are based on.

One point in target shooting when firing "deliberate" is a question of form. In the matter of point the rifle at the target, some high authorities say "Always come up from the bottom"; this method has a great deal of

merit in very bad winds and rain, but, under conditions we all enjoy, it is not bad practice to come down on your target, glancing along the left side of the barrel during the operation so as to keep your eye on the target until the sights approach the line of aim. In either case, constant practice develops the "habit." In the matter of allowing for wind, a very rough idea can be formed by the following: a bullet weighing from 150 to 200 grains and having started with a muzzle velocity of about 2,000 to 2,500 feet per second, would be affected by a wind blowing one mile an hour at right angles about one inch at three hundred yards. The government claims that with about 50 grains charge 150 grain bullet and 2,700 feet velocity the drift is eight-tenths of an inch. The hunter can see that, even with a heavier bullet, say 220 and 1,950 feet velocity, and say a ten-mile wind, under which conditions government says drift is about two feet at three hundred yards, some experimenting on a rifle range will not do any harm. "Mirage," so called in shooting, is a very fascinating subject for observation, but except under extreme conditions, authorities hold that it is a negligible element at or under three hundred yards. The writer has read some very amusing utterances in regard to this atmospheric phenomenon which makes us see things where they are not. In my opinion, one can accurately judge variations in velocity, and changes of direction of the wind, and also changes of elevation brought about by refraction, always provided one has had plenty of opportunity (or has made the opportunity) to experiment under different weather conditions and at all hours of the day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Speaking from my own experience, it is safe to say that if the vapor was dense the object appeared at a point above its actual location, causing shots to go over the target. Interesting and instructive experiments can be made with a telescope equipped with cross-hairs, but the glass must rest on an absolutely firm stand free from all vibration. It is entirely possible for any one to use the "Mirage" from 500 yards out under most conditions by using glasses with different "fields" or "powers." This feature of military shooting might advantageously be developed to the finest point because in the case of long range work, as in a siege, great work can and has been accomplished witness siege of Ladysmith.

It is deplorable that so plain a necessity as close accurate long range and mid-range shooting should be taken aside so lightly by our military higher powers. History (in this country as well as others) teems with instances of the tremendous stopping power of aimed firing, and yet we find experiment with telescopic and other sights pursued half-heartedly, a breech mechanism that looks like an iron-worker's rivet setter, and a magazine reminding one of slipping change into his change pocket, and long "hikes" to the exclusion of about ten times the amount of rifle practice now to be had. The writer feels better, now that is over. The revert to matters pertaining to aiming, bear in mind the relative importance of the threatening dangers, i.e., at extremely long range, elevations must be watched more closely than at mid or short range, because whereas an error of elevation of 1-150th of an inch at 1,000 yards deflects the bullet ten inches, while at 500 yards the error would be only 5 inches, a wind blowing at right angles 10 miles an hour would at 1,000 yards give a 220 grain bullet with 2,000 feet velocity a deviation of but 15 feet, or at 500 yards cause a deviation of 4 feet. One can gauge the wind very closely, which demonstrates the point of the argument, because your object at long range in any event would be wider than it was high. Elements directly affecting elevation at all ranges besides those already named may include the weight of the atmosphere, the amount of moisture, and the temperature. The easiest way to keep track of the matter is to remember that the thermometer and barometer indicate the same change in your elevation by traveling in opposite directions, i.e., a high barometer reading indicates more pressure and therefore greater density, which calls for higher elevation; at 1,000 yards (about 1 minute vernier reading for 1/4 inch on the barometer), while a low thermometer reading works in the same way (say 10 degrees denotes a change of 1 minute by the vernier at 1,000 yards). As to the hygrometer indicating more or less lubrication, it takes a decided change like 10 per cent to cause a 1-minute change at 1,000 yards. Many times it is found that one condition offsets another so that both can be disregarded. To conclude this subject, bear in mind that the barrel of your weapon is pointing slightly upward, so that if you are exerting an even pressure toward the rear the muzzle will normally fly upwards when the piece is discharged, provided the powder charge is not entirely too strong for the barrel, in which case the tendency may be toward the left if the twist is toward the right. If upon firing you find the discharge has left the piece pointed toward the right it indicated frequently that the last effort of the trigger finger was spasmodic and likely toward the right; on the other hand, if the muzzle is toward the left, it indicates an involuntary motion with the left hand coincident with pressing the trigger. A high or low shot "off shoulder" particularly, frequently comes from relaxing the tension on the muscles just an instant before the trigger, or from a "yank."

Hunters ought to get very clearly in mind the trajectory and velocity of the projectile, so that they can use the same faculty which

enables one to throw a stone more or less accurately with the hand or sling-shot. Probably the tendency is to shoot too far ahead in most cases.

Remember 300 yards is only 900 feet and most ammunition will carry that in 1/2 second, and that the trajectory is very flat, highest point 8 inches, government load, so that an error 50 yards either way is only a matter of a few inches. When "finding" an object, always aim or rather set the sight for a point less than the assumed range unless some dry sand or grey dirt is just beyond or to one side when by aiming on it you can gradually come up until you hit. It is impossible in the confines of a short article like this to go into minute details, and no effort is made to do so here. My advice to all is to approach men of the type of Anderton, Doyle, Casey, Keogh, Hewes, Hudson, Leuschner, and many other fine square shots, and somewhere you will imbibe something that will benefit, and you will enjoy the good fortune to meet men of standing in their profession, who are as generous as they are intelligent and well posted.—Field and Stream.

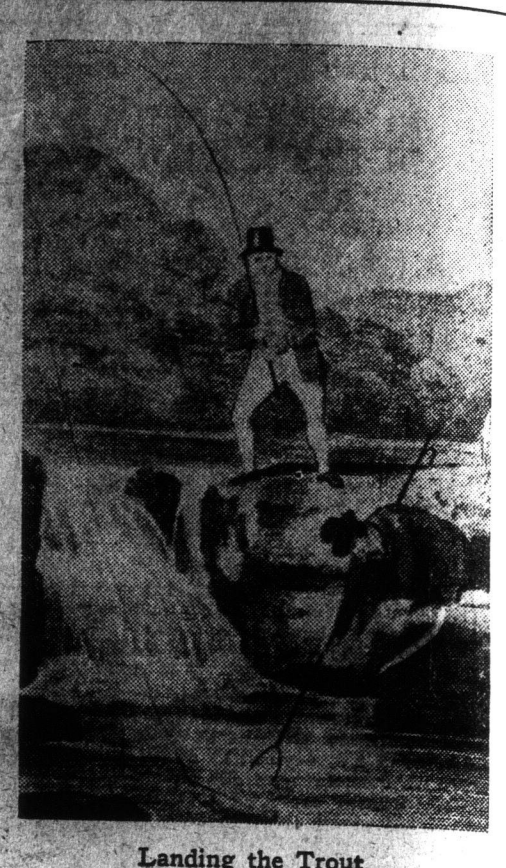
THE REWARD OF PATIENCE

By H. A. Rolt

He was a most persistent riser; morning, noon and until darkness set in, he was always feeding. His appetite was insatiable, but never an artificial fly would he deign to notice. He had his home close to the bank under a big alder, where the many grayling were wont to lie, and it was quite evident, albeit unusually fastidious and tantalizing, he must be father of the flock. On the first occasion he was observed the weather was exceedingly hot, and the labors of the angler, coming fresh upon the scene, were perhaps somewhat too strenuous; but, as efforts to ensnare the fish were futile, the attack thereafter was limited to a few casts three times a day. During a whole week the fish moved but once at the fly presented, this movement resolving itself into a half-hearted bulge. The case, indeed, seemed well-nigh hopeless. When the sun shone brightly in a clear sky the incomparable Wickham, or at times a deadly smut of the Duff-Gordon pattern, was served up; when olives or pale watery duns hatched out, the best copies which practiced fingers could fashion, were tried, and, late in the evening, shades, brown, cinnamon, and silver, were brought into requisition; but all shared the same fate, meeting with the coldest possible reception at the hands of the supposed grayling. Nothing contracted of fur and leather was capable of attracting the attention of the fish in the least degree. Disappointment after disappointment after a time rather damped the angler's ardour. The obstinate fish, however, rose repeatedly, and as the hope was ever present that, by exercising an inordinate amount of patience and some little ingenuity, failure might be turned into success, the game went on. For five other days, making eleven in all, the fish was diligently attacked, and almost every artifice known to the dry fly man adopted. The result was still negative. The fish was a perfect enigma, and yet, after all, the sight of his almost continuous rising was so fascinating that the temptation to cast over him could not be resisted. There is certainly more satisfaction in overcoming a single difficult fish than in basketing half a dozen which accept the lure at the first or second time of asking.

On the twelfth day—the last of the fishing fortnight at the disposal of the angler—the position was "now or never." What was to be done? Waste valuable time in endeavoring to beguile a fish which refused to be coaxed, or search out others which were comparatively unspoiled? Half a dozen casts were made over the terrible fish with the usual unequal result, and he was left alone for a final and perhaps useless attempt after the tea hour. During the mid-day luncheon the events of the past fortnight as far as this particular fish was concerned, were carefully reviewed. The wielder of the rod could remember no bungle made in casting, which was, at any rate, comforting. The point was of 5x gut, and the flies had ranged in size from 000 to No. 2. The variety, too, offered had been submitted to the fish, but the only one which had momentarily attracted attention was the tiny curse with a silver tag. Then came the thought that, with so much natural fly about, that deadly fancy pattern, the silver Witch, had not been tried. Perhaps that might bring about the downfall of the enemy. A small pattern was put up at about 7 p. m., when the fish was for the last time visited. He was coming up with exasperating regularity at something invisible to the sportsman. The Witch appeared to have just a sporting chance, but the same thought had been cherished before in the case of other fancies, and nothing had come of it. And it proved that the Witch, too, was found miserably wanting, for nothing whatever happened. The fly was wetted, and made to sink slightly. This trick was of no avail, and the prospect of success seemed as far off as ever. Only a quarter of an hour remained ere piscator would be compelled to leave the water, writing "finis" to his fortnight's fishing trip.

Out of sheer desperation, the small Witch was hurriedly discarded, and one dressed on a 3 hook substituted for it. This floated and



Landing the Trout

Sportsman's Calendar

JUNE

Trout, Salmon, Grilse, Bass, and Char. The best month for Sea-trout.

looked, by comparison with others previously employed, like a miniature haystack. But would its glowing charms and enormous size be admired by the perverse grayling? It was a forlorn hope, and nothing was more unlikely than that the huge fly would be taken. Whilst giving the line a last rub down with deer fat, I remembered a dodge recommended by a crafty Midland keeper. This consisted in simply casting the fly a few inches above a fish, and, just before it reached the right spot, giving it a slight twitch, the theory being that a fish would imagine its prey was about to escape, and go for it, as Hosea Biglow would say, "bald-headed." The fish had been seen to rise so many times that his whereabouts were known to an inch. The big Witch was cast six inches above him, and, as soon as it came within a couple of inches of his snout, the fly was twitched a trifle, and the deed was done. But the supposed grayling was a bonny trout, after all, and a very foolish trout to boot, for after being hooked, instead of taking refuge in a dangerous weed patch close at hand, he made for the centre of the stream, ran out a dozen yards of line, was turned, and promptly killed. Had he weighed another ounce his weight would have been exactly 2 lb. I could not easily total up the time fruitlessly consumed upon the fish during the fortnight he had been stalked to no purpose, but all disappointment was forgotten when the handsome Kennet trout reposed in the creel. Patience had been justified by its results.

WATERPROOFING SHOES

Ignorant as to how to apply boot grease, and defective grease itself, are fruitful sources of discomfort on a camping trip of any extent where the footwear is exposed to wet. The best way to avoid this, and by the same token the best boot grease receipt I know of, is to get a cake of cocoanut butter from a drug store and a small quantity of beeswax. Melt the cocoanut butter and add the beeswax in the proportion of about one part of beeswax to six of the cocoanut butter. Warm the shoe as thoroughly as possible to open the pores of the leather, and rub your melted waterproofing on while hot. Repeated watering of the shoe and application of the preparation will thoroughly fill the pores of the leather and also the stitching. The cocoanut butter when cold hardens somewhat like paraffin, but not sufficiently to seal the stitching. The beeswax gets in its work there. A mixture of tallow or neatfoot oil applied hot and with melted rubber mixed in, is also good. To melt the rubber, first chip it as small as possible. Rubber cuts easiest when wet. Apply to stitching with a stiff brush.—Recreation.

"IT'S A WISE SON," ETC.

The First Boy (sent to bed to wait chastisement for bad behavior)—Here's father coming upstairs. I'm going to pretend I'm asleep.

The Second Boy (in case similar to first, but wiser)—I'm not; I'm going to get up and put something on.

"I detest that tailor of mine!" exclaimed a spendthrift. "I'd kill him with pleasure." "You can easily do so," rejoined his friend. "Pay him what you owe him; he will certainly die from shock!" "Now, my boy," said the schoolmaster, "suppose your father went to buy five pounds of butter with five shillings in his pocket and found the butter was only tenpence a pound; how much change would he bring home?" "None," was the prompt reply. "He would spend it at the Black Horse."

CR

Our ship read about 4 o'clock surrounded us as liars sailing craft sails ribbed with here and there, were some 2,000 island stands as



TYPICAL STREET

proach of the Pearl which lies the city at night was glorified flickering lights which might easily have been a constellation. With miles and many sh into whose protection the finest in the world

Since 1841 there been a British possession cosmopolitan, but 250,000 are in possession thousands sailed up and down Victoria, by which is the "Gibraltar of the

We attended on Chinese theatres. admission fee of no driven off the seats ers. The Chinese is extreme. Much is the spectator. The musical instruments The scenery is chaotic and pathetic nese tag and other stage and at times actors' feet. No stage, their part be

On one occasion venturously acted himself of what mattered to show us into one of the shops on a small flights of stairs and selves in the private family. Here they close quarters, but their humble home tistic work on a bafered to buy it the it was presented to visit. This pillow and glazed and high the hard surface some wound around it.

MADAME

At a benefit concert at the Albert Hall, Madam, Madame Pat Telegraph thus speaks performance:

The bright parties was, of course, Madame years have elapsed began that long ass terminated profession dent; for it was in a concert which he sang his "Nightly intense delight of the disparagement what nephew, Mr. Alfred most able accompanist we missed Mr. Ganz yesterday afternoon. the present generation for her the accompanist" and "Pur die eld." "Home, sweet home most a desecration to been entrusted to those hands, most co Patti herself, as was feel the situation, th singer that she is, sh