

In the three years following 1887 I made six cameras of varying efficiency. Then I bought a No. 5 folding Kodak for films but soon gave up films and took to plates again. At present I use a 4 x 5 Premo. B., for plates, which serves my very ordinary attainments and requirements in this line very well. One contracts the habit of having a camera at hand, especially on the water or in camp, and does not feel fully equipped without it. It adds not a little to the pleasure of living to have these pictorial records, to say nothing of their value in substantiating our stories of what we catch and shoot.

Regarding scientific hobbies I shall be brief.

Previous to that time when governments recognized the true value of purely scientific work, nearly all investigation was carried on along the lines of the hobby.

Astronomy, microscopy, scientific farming, histology and many other lines of investigation were developed in the spare time of earnest men who either could afford the leisure or earned their bread by other means. It was long before the world learned that purely scientific research had any commercial value.

Even now, amongst the ignorant can be heard sneers at the men of theory and not a few farmers laugh at scientific farming—as a scythe might have one day laughed at a reaping machine.

To-day, however, things of this nature are getting on to a different plane—we have government astronomers, government histologists, geologists, botanists, entomologists, horticulturists, a fish commissioner and a host of others. In our Geological Survey and our Experimental Farms we have the spirit of the hobby made flesh; and not only do we derive certain theoretical benefits from the same, but the advantages can be measured in those big round dollars which to so many people represent the standard of utility.

Were it possible to unscrew the skull cap of any of these men in the Geological Survey or on the Experimental Farms there would be found a live healthy hobby, a hobby in the real sense of work for work's sake:—an altruistic hobby, for they work early and late, and their contributions to the welfare of the nation are large, out of all proportion to the reward which they receive for their services.