

woodcock, has been desecrated by the march of civilization, and given place to the railroad, commerce and agriculture, which have swept away all that was dear to the sportsman, who must now take his way to other parts of beautiful Canada, throughout which there is no lack of game, large and small, for both rod and gun.

On the left side of the road as you near the High Level Bridge going from the city, stands an old frame building tottering to its fall, looking like a decrepit old man in a state of senile decay, untenanted and shorn of all its brightness, this was the hostelry of Isaac Skuce. It was a grand stopping place in its time, and was headquarters for hunters in those days. Skuce was a one-armed man. I think he had lost his right arm, but he was a great wing shot, nevertheless. He and the late Captain Baghott, who was a fine specimen of the English gentleman, were noted as being crack shots, and much game fell to their guns. Both have long since passed away, and let us hope they have been translated to a congenial place in the "Happy Hunting Grounds" beyond.

Following up the line of succession, came George Morrison, who was a hunter and trapper. Ferdi Morrison, his brother, still lives in the city, and still does some shooting.

Sam. Forsythe, the Bambergers, Ralph Crosswell, Tom Dalton, Geo. Bible, James Forsythe, John Hall, John Smoke, and John Barnard, then if we could get around to the Beach, Dave Fitch, and the king of all hunters, the lamented dear old John Dynes, all of whom were good shots, and enthusiastic sportsmen. I might give a host of other names, but I have mentioned enough to emphasize the fact that the environments of this section of the country have been calculated to produce a love for the rod and gun, to be handed down to future generations.

About thirty-five years ago a gun club was organized in Hamilton, and Mr. John Hall, the sweet and fluent speaker, was its president. At that time the clay target had not been invented, and live birds thrown from a plunger trap, twenty-one yards rise, and muzzle loading guns were used, the breech-loader not having made

its appearance. But good sport was had, and after the "shoot" a raffle for turkeys was usually held, and all had a good time. Good scores were made, too, and I have a vivid recollection of winning a pig (first prize) on a cold Christmas day, with a score of seventeen straight, against all the crack shots of the time. We did not forget the larder, this porker went to replenish that of some deserving charitable institution.

It was a hard matter, however, to keep up interest in a club at a time when one could go off and have a day's shooting at any time when in season, with good results, so that interest gradually dwindled away, the club eventually dying a natural death.

But the spirit of the shooting man was not dead, the fire was only smouldering, and in the year 1885 it broke out afresh, and this time with increased vigor, when about twenty enthusiasts got together and formed the "Wildfowlers" Gun Club. In July of that year they had a "shoot" at a large number of targets, as well as live birds. Periodical "shoots" were also given thenceforward, and the Club continued under this name for five years, at which time it seems that it had outgrown the name of "Wildfowlers", which was scarcely appropriate for what had merged into a trap-shooting club. It was therefore decided to change the name to the "Hamilton Gun Club," and that is the name under which it exists today.

It was decided at this time to institute an annual tournament for targets and live birds, and in January, 1892, its first tournament, using 10,000 targets and 2,000 live birds, was successfully held.

On Jan. 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th last, the thirteenth annual tournament was given, \$1200 in cash being offered for prizes, and 10,000 targets and 2,000 live birds were used. Some of the best shots from all over Canada and the United States taking part, with a most successful result.

The accompanying cut is an excellent representation of the Club house at Hamilton. Portraits of the officers, and a continuation of the history of the Club will be given in the April issue.

(To be Continued.)