

FROM all this the *Broad Arrow* is led on to reflect on the effect of the Canadian Pacific railway from an Imperial standpoint. Starting with the fact that it is only 2,895 miles from Montreal to Port Moody, it says that "from a military point of view the importance of this line cannot be over-estimated, and the erection of Esquimalt into a *place d'armes* at the joint expense of the Imperial and Colonial parliaments has brought its value prominently to notice. We have already seen its value in case of disturbances in the far West. To reach the Pacific our men-of-war have to go round the Horn, and if fresh crews have to be sent out to the ships on the station, or if the crews have to be reinforced, the reinforcements have to be sent via Panama. In case of war this route would be closed. The Suez canal might be closed to us or blocked. There would only remain for us the Cape route, or the route via the Horn, with its enormous distances. By means of the Canadian Pacific railway fresh crews can be sent to Esquimalt in less than three weeks, and we have a valuable alternative route to the far East. The position of Russia at Vladivostock, on the Amoor, has always been a menace to our power and trade in the Pacific. The menace is now destroyed, and it is Russia herself who is threatened. From England to Hong Kong, via the Canadian Pacific railway, is 8,738 miles, or twenty-eight days' sea and rail; via the Suez Canal, 10,162 miles, or thirty days. To the Amoor, via Canadian Pacific, is 8,238 miles, or twenty-nine days; via Suez canal, 13,900 miles, or thirty-five days. Whilst the distance to Hong Kong, via the Cape, is 12,300 miles, or forty days, and seven days on to the Amoor. And with regard to the Horn, the distance would be over 20,000 miles. Again, with regard to Calcutta, the distances are:—via Suez, 8,083 miles, twenty-four days; via Cape of Good Hope, 11,780 miles, or thirty-five days; via Canada Pacific railway, 14,689 miles, or thirty-seven days. Thus it will be seen that the Canadian Pacific railway offers a very good alternative route even to India, but it is especially valuable with regard to the Pacific trade, and the ports in the far East. A glance at the map will show its mercantile value. It opens up vast tracts of land in the far West well adapted for colonisation. Vast resources of land remain in the hands of the railway, which are offered to emigrants on easy terms. A visit to the Colonial Exhibition will show that the region of the far West is no longer a wilderness of forest and lake, inhabited only by such half-breeds and Indians as fought at Batoche. Where the railway whistle is heard, population springs up almost in the same magic way as the heather became thick with men at the whistle of Roderick Dhu. What a pity it is that government cannot see its way to transferring large numbers of our crowded population to the prairies of the West. There are the millions of acres, here are the millions of men—are they not made for one another, just as the claimant said, 'Men without brains were made for the use of those with brains'? It would surely be an economy to the state to give an able-bodied man and his family a free passage to Manitoba or Winnipeg, and start him afresh with £100 in his pocket, instead of having to support him and his family, and families of descendants, in prisons and workhouses, for the term of their natural lives."

New Publications.

WE have seldom taken more pleasure out of the perusal of a chapter on shooting than we have recently from reading Mr. H. C. Bliss' chat on wing and glass ball shooting with a small calibre rifle,* and principally because the author is an enthusiast, who writes about what he loves as a sport, and confines himself to what he knows. We have no doubt that many of his propositions will be disputed and his conclusions denied, but anyone who reads the book will learn something from it, and will lay it down with a wish to practise wing shooting with a rifle.

* Wing and glass ball shooting with a rifle, containing instructions for beginners in snap shooting, and an exposure of some of the popular fallacies in regard to it, by H. C. Bliss, Des Moines, Iowa. Franklin News Co., Philadelphia, 40 pp. oct., paper 50c.

He prefaces his work by saying that the few professionals who have practised this style of shooting have thrown such an amount of mystery around it that amateurs have thought the art entirely beyond them, and he proceeds to dispel that illusion, first by assuring us that anyone, no matter what his temperament, may become a good shot by practice, and then by pointing out the best way to practise. He lays great stress on the necessity to start aright:

"Your first lessons in snap shooting should be such that you will feel encouraged at the result and not get disheartened, as you are liable to do if you attempt difficult feats.

I think that this is one of the things that has spoiled many a naturally good shot. He would attempt some of the feats of professionals, and, of course, fail, and then give the whole thing up in disgust.

If you have patience to do it, you can take your first lessons in your room, without firing a shot, to very good advantage.

See first, of course, that your gun is not loaded, hold it in the position of 'ready' but do not raise the hammer, unless it interferes with your sights, fix your eye on some small object, either in the room or at something out of the window, and bring your gun quickly and firmly to your shoulder, trying meanwhile to have the sights aligned with the object you are looking at. Take it down, and try the same thing over and over again. At first, of course, the gun will not come where you want it to, but you will find that a half hour's practice a day (more if you can spare the time) for a week will do wonders for you, and that the gun will be almost where you want it the instant it strikes your shoulder.

The first target that I would recommend to the beginner is by all means one that swings, and is large enough and the range short enough so that you can see every time what you have done. A 12-inch target, and a 30-foot range are about right to begin on.

Then, when you begin to practise, do not hold your gun on your shoulder, aiming at one end of the space where the target swings and wait till it has come back to that point two or three times before you shoot. This is one of the most common errors that beginners are apt to fall into, and nothing could hurt you more.

Bring the gun to your shoulder and try to have the sights come to the right place, as I have said before, when it strikes the shoulder; but when it *does* strike the shoulder, don't fail to pull the trigger. If you fail to hit the target the first few shots, never mind, but go ahead. Get into the habit of firing when you ought to fire and this very thing will nerve you up to your work.

A great many will tell you that a good shot never sees the sights on his gun, but shoots by instinct. The instinct that all good shots have is the instinct of bringing their gun to the proper place when they try, and right there the 'instinct' part of the business ceases, and in one-quarter of a second they have time to adjust the sights and then pull the trigger. That is another thing that is done by instinct—pulling the trigger. You will find that after some practice you will pull the trigger without knowing it, and without any apparent effort, just as you would move your hand to catch a ball that was thrown to you.

A few hours' practice at a swinging target will show you that you can get nearer the 'bull's eye' each 100 shots that you fire, and you will soon want to try your hand at something else. Before leaving the swinging target, extend the range, if possible, to 75 feet, by degrees, say 10 feet at a time. Try hitting it at different points in its flight; I mean, say put in 10 consecutive shots just as it passes the center, and then try to hit it just as it is half way between the center and the end. This will show you whether you are falling into the habit of shooting at it at one particular point or not, and help to break you of that habit."

He next describes a simple target for a beginner, and a cheap trap for throwing balls, though he considers a companion's hand far preferable to a trap for this purpose, and advises the best means of practice at balls. Then going on to speak of wing shooting, he points out the difficulties in calculating for the motion of the bird and gives further hints:

"If you are near the water where birds are flying, one of the best ways in the world to post yourself is to shoot at them as they skim along the surface. Take swallows, for instance. They fly quite rapidly. Carry your gun along with them and fire point blank at them. As the ball strikes the water you will be astonished to see how far ahead of the splash the bird is.

Now, by successful wing shooting with a rifle I do not mean that you can go out and bag as many birds with it as you could with a shot-gun. This is out of the question. But it is more genuine sport for me to go out and get a brace of birds, killed with my rifle on the wing, than it would be to shoot a dozen with a shot-gun. Neither do I think you will be able to shoot many quail or ducks on the wing, although Miss Lilian Smith, of California, has made a big bag of ducks in a day, shooting many of them on the wing, with a little 22-calibre rifle; but she is probably the best shot with a 22-calibre gun living. There is no reason, however, why you cannot get so that you can shoot birds that fly more