

ROD AND GUN.

TWO GRAND MOOSE HEADS.



IN last number I referred to an enormous moose head which measures seventy and one-fourth inches in spread, and which came from Alaska. This head, in the opinion of experts, was destined to hold the record for many a day, yet its reign was short-lived. A friend in the Puget Sound country writes me that he and many other experienced sportsmen have seen and measured in Tacoma, Washington, another head which has a spread of seventy-three and one-fourth inches and forty points. This, if correct, is surely the record head. It is described as being unusually even and symmetrical in conformation. It came from the Yukon River country, Alaska, and presumably was originally worn by a very old and sturdy bull. Think of lining down fine upon a bull like that. The bare idea of such a chance sets one's trigger finger to itching. I have heard a good deal at one time and another of the size of Alaskan moose and their heads, and they have invariably been described as larger than those of Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, and even those of the eastern part of Manitoba. Why the horn should be larger is not easily explained; possibly it is owing to an abundance of some horn-producing forage, or perhaps to the fact that the Alaskan atmosphere is not so full of bullets as that of more accessible moose countries, and consequently a bull has a better chance to perfect the growth of himself and his headgear.

A few seasons ago I had planned to find out for myself something about these Alaskan giants. Sad to say, unexpected circumstances arose, which, while they did not prevent a trip to Alaska, did most effectively forbid any prolonged sojourn ashore. Still, there's no telling what may yet happen. If a few of these tremendous heads are brought East and shown to our eager sportsmen, it is probable that some extra tickets for Alaska will be sold. To the man who can afford the outlay of time and money, there is no real obstacle in the way, while the inducements to take the trip are many and strong. A pleasant journey across the great plains and over the mountains of the West reveals much magnificent scenery; then follows a voyage in a well-appointed steamer through smooth channels like the fiords of Norway, where the poorest sailor can thoroughly enjoy the manifold wonders of peak, gorge, and glacier, without even seeing rough water. There probably would be some roughish work in the moose country, but there is no good reason for one having to undergo any actual hardships. Most sportsmen would be willing to stand much for the sake of securing such heads as those referred to, the smaller of which was in taxidermist Hart's exhibit, at the Sportman's Exposition.

GUNS FOR SMALL GAME, AND FOR COVER-SHOOTING.

It very frequently happens if you think overmuch about a person or a thing, that you unexpectedly hear from, or of, the object of your thoughts. Ever since last quail-time I have been casting rather dubious glances at a certain old gun, and doing much pondering. She pounded me like fury last fall, yet she *won't* do even and reliable work unless she is well fed. What she is pleased to consider a big enough mouthful for one job with a quail or grouse, my arm is positive is too much for comfort.

A few days ago a letter arrived, and it contained several questions about what I had been studying over—in other words it asked about guns for such game as ruffed grouse, quail, cock, rabbits, snipe, rail, etc. As I had been thinking of "firing" the 12-gauge, not from the shoulder, but bodily, it occurred to me that others might be interested in the reasons for so doing.

In the first place, all the varieties of game mentioned afford shots at short range in the great majority of cases. As it is impossible to kill any of them any deader than just dead, and as a good 12-gauge properly charged spoils quite a percentage of birds at short range, why not use a smaller gun? While shooting quail last fall, I either had to miss or mangle more birds than I care to think about. It was not a case where waiting could remedy matters. I can wait when it is proper to do so, but here the cover gave you only one fleeting chance—shoot quickly or else vainly.

I have about reached the conclusion that a light 16-gauge is what will best meet the requirements. In good hands, it will kill ruffed grouse all right, while for the other varieties nothing could be better. It ought to be the ideal quail gun. It is next to nothing to carry, it may be handled lightning-fast, while it may also be in cover manipulated by one hand, should occasion arise. With it one may not drop so many birds as with a "twelve," but what of that?

If we are out for pleasant exercise of our muscles and our skill, what difference does it make whether we get ten birds or thirty? Things have come to such a pass these days, that the combination of a good shot and a far-reaching gun is entirely too much for the game. We are killing too fast for the welfare of the future, and the handicap against the gun should be increased until the game has a good deal the best of it. To a good sportsman, clean work with the smaller gun should be much more satisfactory than when the "twelve" was used. Increase the difficulty of a task and increase the triumph of its successful accomplishment.

WILD-FOWLING BY SEARCH-LIGHT.

Information recently received from Rome, Georgia, if reliable, presents a state of affairs which requires prompt attention by those interested in the welfare of the game of that region. According to the story, the Coosa River for many miles is frequented by hosts of brant, geese, and duck. Steamers plying upon the

river are equipped with search lights, by the aid of which the fowl are mercilessly slaughtered at night. If this sort of pothunting work really has been carried on, some of the honest sportsmen should see to it that the temperature is raised about one hundred degrees in the immediate vicinity of all guilty parties.

TO PROTECT BLACK BASS IN ONTARIO.

The sportsmen of Western Ontario have made a strong effort to secure better protection for the bass in Lake St. Clair and its connected water on the Canada side. At the time of writing, netting privileges in these waters had been temporarily suspended. It is to be hoped that they will be abolished. Some years ago I enjoyed the best bass-fishing of my experience at Mitchell's Bay, and I have tried all the im-

portant waters in the Dominion. At that time there were almost too many bass, and husky fighters they were too! That in so short a time cause for anxiety for the fish should arise is *very* significant. This matter is of interest to Americans, Michigan anglers being within easy reach of the best Canadian waters. As usual, the professional fishermen who net the bass claim that their rights are being trampled upon, that they do no harm—in fact that the nets help to preserve the bass by taking bowfins and other varieties, which prey upon the young bass and destroy the spawn. We have heard such stories too often. If the sale of bass was made unlawful, I suspect there would soon be a marked increase, in spite of bowfins, *et al.*

ED. W. SANDYS.

KENNEL.



BEAGLES, CHAMPION "HARKER"

WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB'S SHOW.

ONCE again I have the pleasure of congratulating Superintendent Jas. Mortimer, and that kindly gentleman has every reason to congratulate himself.

The twenty-first annual bench show of the W. K. C., in Madison Square Garden, most satisfactorily proved that the good people of Gotham have lost none of their interest in man's noblest friend. The weather and the holiday insured a heavy attendance, which made the show a howling success in more ways than one.

The following experts attended to the judging: Miss Anna H. Whitney, St. Bernards and Newfoundlands; Messrs. C. D. Bernheimer, Great Danes; G. E. Pollock, Chesapeake Bay dogs; Geo. roper, of England, mastiffs, bloodhounds, greyhounds, English foxhounds, pointers, setters, Irish water spaniels, chamber spaniels, field spaniels, whippets, pugs, toy spaniels; L. P. C. Astley, of England, Russian wolfhounds, deerhounds, collies, Old English sheep-dogs, terriers, schipperkes, Pomeranians,

Italian greyhounds and miscellaneous; Jno. H. Matthews, bulldogs; R. D. Perry, American foxhounds; Geo. B. Post, Jr., beagles; H. W. Lacy, poodles; L. A. Klein, dachshunds; A. Laidlaw, of Canada, cockers; Dwight Baldwin, Boston terriers. Dr. H. Clay Glover filled the difficult position of veterinary superintendent in his usual satisfactory manner; while the fact that the Spratts Patent attended to lurching and feeding is guarantee that both were properly done.

The sporting classes were, as a rule, very strong, showing more than average quality, with, in most instances, a gratifying number of entries. It is an accepted fact that there must be more or less kicking against awards at bench shows, but in this instance an Alabama mule would have been put to the blush. Beyond question the imported judges did their conscientious best, yet, in a number of instances, their decisions appeared rather "yellow" to men who, while not directly interested, knew "summat 'bout a dawg." As one disgruntled party remarked, "We needn't have gone to England for decisions as bad as some of these," and he said it in a way that suggested that American judges might have filled the bill. In justice to the foreign element, however, it may have been that they were not always familiar with the types favored this side the water.

Pointers were a grand class, and it aid a lover of the rat-tails' heart good to examine the many workmanlike animals benched. A choice quartet—King of Kent, Sandford Druid, Hempstead Daughter, and Ightfield Tyne, were exhibited by the Westminster Kennel Club. Mr. George J. Gould showed a good lot, among them Ridgeview Comet, Ridgeview Chancellor, Lady Gay Spanker, Josie Bracket, Miss Rumor, Furlough Mike, and Ightfield Diana. Mr. Gould captured the kennel prize. Geo. Jarvis's Lad of Kent beat Molton Banner in the challenge class for dogs fifty-five pounds and over. In the field trial class, Ightfield Diana defeated E. O. Damon's well-known Strideaway.

English setters, a big class with considerable goods of doubtful quality in it, ere headed by Cactus and Maid Marian. These two beautiful examples of Laverack type as usual gathered