

# CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE WOODS

## VISITORS TO SPORTSMEN'S SHOW ENJOY A NOVEL EXPERIENCE.

Exhibition at Grand Central Palace will be Patented All Day—Birds and Animals Among the Attractive Features—Boys Shooting Wild at the Ranges.

Those who visited the Sportsmen's Show at the Grand Central Palace last night had the novel experience of spending Christmas eve in the woods, and those woods were situated right in the center of this big city. Outside the building was a fine landscape, with trees and children were rushing home carrying mysterious bundles. Inside was quiet.

The deer and elk which have already made themselves at home in the woods, occasionally giving at the visitors with evident interest. The wild fowl and around the pool were enjoying themselves in their own peculiar way, and for animals of this kind there are many interesting exhibits. Frolicked about in their pens and were as happy as if they were free again in their old haunts. The fish swam listlessly about in their tanks. They seemed to know that no angler could hook them and were happy too.

The attendance at the show was very good all day long. A lot of those who were there for the first time were interested in the drift out after seeing what interests them and at no time there was a great crowd. The show, too, that attracts, and while it lasts at the Grand Central Palace many who love outdoor life and who are longing for the time to come when they will again get away from the "rough life" in the city.

The quiet of the woods will pay amply for the visits to the show. The attractions there are so many that one can spend hours at almost each separate attraction. While the lovers of outdoor life were interested in the Sportsmen's Show those who are interested in the efforts of the National Rifle Association to develop good shooting among schoolboys lounged in the gallery where rifle ranges have been placed and where boys from public and private schools in different parts of the country are competing for prizes and for championships. These boys can shoot. One veteran marksman declared after he had seen H. L. Folsom of Yale make 49 out of a possible 50 at the two ranges that few men could duplicate that score and one reason he gave for it was that boys have no nerves and shoot only in a cold way letting nothing upset them.

Just now the boys are competing for junior marksman's badges and for a championship trophy. They shoot with a .22 calibre rifle, five shots standing and five shots prone, and to get a marksman's badge they must make a total of 42, 20 standing and 22 prone. For the championship trophy the aggregate of the three best scores is taken at the end of the day. The championship trophy, a handsome silver cup, goes to the school to which the boy belongs, and the winner will get another prize commensurate of the event.

These two matches last all through the show, and if there are any who are not in the shot of the last night, and Lieut. Albert S. Jones of the National Rifle Association hopes that on that night Major Gen. Grant and his staff from Government will be present and give the prizes to the successful shooters.

A schoolboy team match, a sub-target gun match and an inter-legion match are the other events on the shooting programme, and the first of these, the schoolboy team match, will begin at 10 o'clock. There are ten teams in this match. Each boy of the team will shoot ten shots standing and ten prone, with the United States Army and Navy teams competing for a prize in this match is a handsome silver cup and each member of the winning team will get a silver medal.

There are also some young girls who are doing very well. Should one succeed in making the necessary record she will receive a marksman's badge. One yesterday, Miss Margaret M. Wagner, 12, of Cornell, G. E. Hinckley of a High School at Elizabeth, and E. V. Langner of the New York Military Academy, K. K. V. Casey, from Delaware, shot an interesting match during the afternoon. Each fired ten shots at the target, and each made a perfect score, all shots landing in the bull's eye.

The shooting gallery is one of the most interesting exhibits from a marksman's standpoint in the show and even those who are not fond of the rifle can be attracted by the exhibition. It is the improvement that has been made in firearms for many years. This exhibit is sent by the Springfield Armory, which is the headquarters of Springfield's crack National Guard regiment. It consists of two stand racks, containing portable firearms, which are complete development as to stock, lock, bore, method of loading of the latest modern magazine rifle and automatic pistol from the simple iron first of the rifle to the most modern of a lighted match held in the hand. Eight framed boards show the United States magazine rifle, made of iron with finished magazine, automatic, pistols, revolvers and sawed-off.

The interesting collection of old arms, in rack 2, is a fine collection. From the gun mentioned above, matchlock, a wheellock gun and flintlock gun. The flintlock, introduced about 1600, contains the mechanism of the flintlock, which was replaced by the percussion lock in connection with the firing pin and spring of a modern magazine, these guns show the various means of igniting the powder charge.

Racks 1 and 2 show almost a complete development of the United States rifle arms of 1822, 1824, 1826, 1828, 1830, and Harper's Ferry armories (1799-1903) and a specimen of the national arm of France, made of 1783, calibre .72, made at St. Etienne and known as the Charleville musket, which was extensively brought into this country during the revolutionary war through the influence of the Marquis de Lafayette. This was one of the first guns manufactured at Springfield armory—a United States musket, made of 1796, by a percussion cap. The French gun which was considered at that time a perfect military musket.

The War of 1812 was fought with this type of smoothbore muzzle loading, black lock musket. Following in order is shown the development of this musket in the models of 1822 and 1824, when the flintlock was replaced by a percussion cap. The war with Mexico was largely fought with flintlock muskets and in the case of the United States infantry continued to be armed with the smoothbore muzzle loading percussion musket until 1857.

The earliest rifle made in quantity by the Government is shown in the Harper's Ferry rifle, model of 1814, calibre .58. The flintlock breech loading rifle was introduced in 1818, first as a rifle and afterward as a percussion lock. It was used with some success as a carbine. The United States rifle, model of 1816, calibre .54, was very much improved by a percussion cap. The beginning in 1842 a short rifle, popularly called the Mississippi or Jager rifle, was used for some years. In 1845 the United States rifle, the Springfield rifle muzzle loading percussion musket, calibre .58, was adopted.

# THIS RIFLE MADE IN GREAT NUMBERS DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

During this war Sharp's breechloading rifle for paper cartridges and Spencer's repeating rifle were largely used. England and large quantities of European arms of various models were in service. At the close of this war the Government adopted the Springfield breechloading rifle, the model of 1860, calibre .58, which was followed by Springfield breechloading rifles of the following model: 1868, calibre .50; 1870, calibre .45; 1874, calibre .45, with wind gauge sight; 1884, calibre .45, with 1873, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 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