

One Beer Law Proves Failure; Half Adirondack Herd Killed; Sportsmen Demand Reenactment of Buck Statute

HALF A CENTURY SPENT OUTDOORS Hunter Recalls Days When Deer and Bear So Plentiful Regarded as Nuisance.

KILLS ELK BEFORE 15 Cheerful Philosophy That Comes as Result of Angling and Gunning.

By SEARCH ME. The late lamented Kit Clarke once accused me in Rod and Gun of being a front piazza, delicate cylinder desk sportsman.

I was born in McKean county, Pa., in 1844. My home town was one of 100 inhabitants and twice as many dogs.

On my sixth birthday, September 9, 1872, my father loaded all his household goods on a wagon, and with my mother, my sisters and myself perched on the cow bed behind a pair of mules following, he moved to a sawmill site on the Kinross Creek, near Altoona, Pa.

This site was about four miles from the famous Kinross River, one of the available night fishing spots in the area.

Imagine a city boy hearing his mother say: "Jimmie, go and let me garden alone. I'm going to ask your father to kill her."

I have killed a wash tub full of brook trout in one day, and have killed two dozen in another.

I have killed an elk before 15. I claim no credit in fact in my killing of the elk before 15.

I early learned to take care of myself in the woods and in the open.

For who instilled in me the idea of reading, which later became almost a passion.

But I had no idea of the value of time, or any sense of opportunity from any source.

I had had brains enough I would have been a great man in some way, for I have often been told that brains, properly applied to experience makes men great.

My father was a carpenter, bridge builder and mill man, whose sole ambition was to work all day long.

I lived in these surroundings until I was 21. Then I went to Milwaukee, Wis., and learned the machinist's trade.

I lived in Chicago seventeen years, and each year I had one good hunting or fishing trip.

Now, if you analyze all I have said you will come to the conclusion that I am fitted by temperament and training to be a first class tramp, trapper or plain bum.

Gus Peret and His Big Bull Moose.



THE SPOKANE, WASH., SPORTSMAN KILLED HIS FIRST MOOSE ON THE UPPER MACMILLAN RIVER, YUKON TERRITORY, DURING A SNOW STORM.

Doings of Local Anglers With Rod, Reel and Line

Sympathy for "Tamarack." "Watermelon Al" writes: "I am going to try to get somebody kindhearted enough, if possible, to give me some information about what sort of fishing really is like."

Where Flowers and Glaciers Meet. Edmund Seymour, banker, of 45 Wall Street, angler and big game hunter, who years ago was one of the leading spirits to save the mountain from extermination.

Opposition Only by Those Who Refuse to Discuss Plan. TUNTON, N. J., Jan. 17.—Willingness of New Jersey's big army of sportsmen to do their part in maintaining the great outdoors is indicated by the general endorsement that is meeting the proposed bill for the cent-a-week increase in resident fishing and gunning licenses.

A Flounder Wrinkle. "Get ready for flounders!" is "Hooks and Sinkers" message to anglers. He writes: "The time is coming very fast for our little favorite, the flounder."

Fly Casting Book. Kenneth F. Lockwood, president of the Newark Bait and Fly Clubs Club, believes there is a good deal of "bunk" about fly casting.

Rear Hunts Organized. DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 17.—It is becoming a favorite sport among the loggers in the camps in the western part of the country to organize bear hunts.

The Harvest, Unnecessary. The Rural American Magazine, 1774. Here is beneath this verdant hill. One Tom, a favorite cat.

High Water for Local Anglers From January 18 to January 25. Sandy Hook, Princeton, Jamaica Bay, Governors, Willets, New York, New York.

A Century Old Gun. RENEVILLE, Minn., Jan. 17.—A. A. Baxter has a gun, handed down from father to son, that is more than a century old.

THE STORM. Flurry starting winds that bore. Thick mist of driving snow. A woman's face all white.

Wild day and winter night. A fisher's feeble light. Deer's eye and human eye.

Wide stretch of lead and lens. The storming clear. A frozen thin lead's fast.

Bright room and laughing child. We'll do it. I believe, and soon or later the time will come when light tackle will be the universal medium of all sporting fishermen.

JOHN WARREN HARPER. The success of cotton thread is easily and clearly seen when the steadily growing ranks of its users are viewed.

HALF ADIRONDACK DEER HERD KILLED

Major W. C. Gotshall Says Extermination Is in Sight Unless Law Is Repealed.

BUCK STATUTE NEEDED Many Animals at Utica Station "About the Size of Large Cats."

By ALEXANDER STODDARD. Major W. C. Gotshall, big game hunter, believes as a result of four weeks' investigation of the workings of the new deer law that unless the act is repealed from the statute books two more years of hunting will exterminate the deer of the Empire State.

It is the already exterminated. The only hope, he says, for the preservation of the species in the North Woods is by the reenactment of the buck law and putting the old bag limit to one buck.

The difficulty of getting bucks, in his view, will do much to maintain the herd and the protection to the mothers of the herd will mean good hunting when the herd can be built up again to the numbers that obtained before the adoption of the so-called "new law," which permits the taking in the Adirondacks of a deer of either sex.

"Some of the animals I saw," said Major Gotshall, "were about the size of the deer in the window of the New York Athletic Club overlooking Central Park, 'were about the size of large cats, could not comprehend how any one could shoot such an animal."

Ashamed of Trophies. "The great majority of the deer that filled the trophy cases into Utica were killed by Utica hunters and were piled up all over the platform. Some of the trophies were taken into the city and they seemed to be willing to be anywhere else than alongside the small deer that they had brought down."

"Deer were plentiful. They were so plentiful that I know two men who arrived one night, arose early and started right morning, got two deer and started right morning. Now both these men in the season of 1918 spent five days hunting. The buck law was in operation and they hunted hard to make a buck. But what benefit they obtained! These five days spent in the open, working hard, did much for their health. It isn't necessary to do anything but to get a deer."

"Now under the buck law, a man, unless he is willing to get a double, times if he is not careful. Sometimes if the man is not careful, and is situated at the sight of the deer, he will shoot, and in that way a few, but not many, deer are killed off. Because of the great increase of hunters, the ease and facility of getting to good hunting territory, the cheapness of the license and the fact that many men bent upon slaughter when such a violation of law because each man on his license is entitled to take out one deer, now one or two men may have done the killing."

"In these days of the high cost of living, a man by purchasing a license and borrowing a gun with little difficulty obtain \$25 worth of meat and a hide that sells for \$10. The destruction of the deer herd, the extermination of the beautiful animals do not concern men bent upon slaughter when such a prize can be obtained with such little trouble for such a small outlay. And it is a female deer—a stupid as a boob—probably makes them think they are sportsmen."

"Such men have not learned the rudiments of sportsmanship. But what happens when the deer are killed? The Legislature does not repeal at the first opportunity this so-called 'one deer law' and substitute for it the buck law and reduce the old limit from two to one. It is the only salvation for the deer herds of this State."

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Queries, Answers and Problems for Card Players

AUCTION BRIDGE. By R. F. FOSTER. There is probably no better education for the average player than duplicate auction.

There is probably no better education for the average player than duplicate auction. In spite of all that may be said against it by the cracks, who insist that it can never be made to resemble the ordinary rubber, it requires the same technical knowledge to play it well.

The objectors say there is no bidding or playing to the score, and that one never gets the right to continue against the same partners until there are deals enough to settle the two deals out of three that make a rubber.

Another objection to duplicate is that it is not a contest against the players at the same table, but against players sitting in the same position, N and S or E and W, at some other table, who may be receiving gifts with which their actual opponents have nothing to do.

But after all is said and done, duplicate is not played for stakes, and the object is not to win any one's money but to learn the game. The educational feature of duplicate is its chief attraction.

One sometimes hears a remark to the effect that "if you had" something or other the result might have been otherwise; but there is no careful analysis of possibilities that were in the cards.

Thoughts retrospective fly in my mind as they run the gamut of years. But one of the pleasantest memories is that of the good old Rod and Gun column. And I can remember quite clearly that some seven or eight years ago this column was quite devoid of articles pertaining to the use of light tackle, particularly cotton thread, by salt water anglers.

Today articles almost numberless are appearing, dwelling upon the splendid qualities of that tackle, dubbing and light tackle users. Also there are a few, and most happy indeed are we that there are a few only, who are averse to this highly sportmanlike method.

By "highly sportmanlike method" I mean the use of cotton thread, and never trumps once used, I feel sure, will never be discarded. This, however, may not be true to all. It could not. But in my own case I know I will never want to go back to the dark, dark days of heavy line and pole fishing.

And, dear reader, I am not a member of the famous and nationally known Cotton Thread Club of America either. Poor old Isaac Walton would surely envy the unique club members and the thought would be alive. But to come back to cotton thread.

Many and numerous words have appeared in the practical use of cotton thread, and why they should ever have caused certain writers to "ate" and fret is beyond me. A proper article on this subject, written by one of our contributors, and notions and instead of those as mentioned.

To show a man who has cotton thread in his pocket, and who is not a member of the Cotton Thread Club of America, is to show a man who is not a member of the Cotton Thread Club of America.

Wonderful work is also being done by the Cotton Thread Club of America, who prescribe the use of a standard nine thread line in the fishing for tarpon. And nearly every one of us know or have heard of the standard nine thread line in the fishing for tarpon.

Now for an example in cotton thread. This right from the granddaddy of all cotton threads—James Watson. His words are as plain as I can read them, were to the effect that the standard line of the Cotton Thread Fishing Club of America is Clark's No. 24 spool cotton, breaking at about 24 pounds.

And the average weight of a fish caught on this line is 24 pounds. From this it can be seen that cotton threads are fishing one-third the size of the one nine thread line line cases quoted in the preceding paragraphs. Facts and mathematics prove most indubitably and leave no room whatever for equivocation.

It is stated that cotton thread is heavier by far than a great many of the light lines now in use by our most prominent fishing clubs in their search for sport and fish.

Take Fred B. Ellsworth of Chicago and his catch of a twelve pound tarpon on No. 24 cotton thread. Really a wonderful performance. One can hardly say a savage and vicious fish, decidedly predatory and the embodiment of nearly all the qualities of a real angler.

And right out of Jamaica Bay last year came an 8 pound 7/8 ounce striped bass and an 8 pound 7/8 ounce weakfish on No. 24 cotton thread in Fire Island on Sept. 21, 1919. Now how in the world can the use of cotton thread be impractical when it is put to such practical uses?

There are no trumps and Z leads. Y and Z want six tricks. The solution is for Z to lead a heart, which A covers and Y wins. Y returns the higher of his two clubs, Z playing the queen.

Now Y must lose a heart or a spade, as it is impossible for Z to get in and make the club. The five hearts in Y's hand in problem No. 65's should have been diamonds.

In a duplicate game, where the hands are overplayed at seven, nine or eleven tables, a comparison of the scores makes some unsuspected hands stand out as worth examining. Take this case. A deal is played at eleven tables, hearts trumps in every case and the opening lead the same in every case. Hearts are dealt in various ways, the development being totally different in several cases. One table goes game.

How do they do it? If must have been a gift. The hand is laid out and the lucky pair that got 133 points more than any one in the room on those cards are asked to show how their opponents handled it. It was not handled. The play was perfect, and it is a game hand against any defence.

Here is the distribution: ♠ A Q 7, ♥ A 9 8 5, ♦ A 7 3, ♣ A 6 5. ♠ 9 5 3, ♥ A B, ♦ K 6, ♣ K 5 10 4. ♠ 5 4, ♥ K J 8 2, ♦ K Q 9 5 10, ♣ K 4 3. ♠ J 10 8 4 2, ♥ 7 6, ♦ A 10 8 7.

The final declaration is hearts. Z to play and A to lead. At every table A opened with a spade queen. Here are some of the ordinary plays. Z wins the first trick with the ace and leads one of his two clubs to take the finesse by passing it up, hoping the king is with A. This will give Z three leads through.

Z wins and makes his king of spades at once. Then he leads the club queen so as to prevent the possibility of making the queen of diamonds good for a trick when the king is not do so. Y wins the club and leads two rounds of trumps, exhausting A, while B rounds cards a small diamond. Now two rounds of clubs in the hope that they will drop Z trumps the second round, while A discards the encouraging eight of diamonds so that B shall hold on to the top club.

Now the only chance to make the queen of diamonds to lead a small one from Z's hand, but in order to avoid being tarponed back into the lead with the ace and losing two spades Z leads the king. A covers with his king and wins the second diamond lead with the king. The ace of spades leaves the game. Another way to play the hand is to let the spade queen lead the first trick in order to give dummy a ruff on the third spade, letting that hand ruff with the queen or the seven, let us say the queen, so that the jack can be ducked.

Now Z leads with the ace of diamonds and loses the finesse in trumps to the king. B returns the trump to force Y to lead away from his diamonds or clubs. If the clubs are split Z can trump the third round, pull the losing trump and get Y in with the queen of diamonds; but A overtrumps with his king and the top diamond, winning five tricks against the contract. This is what might be called below average play on Z's part. Another play is to ruff the third spade with a cover card, letting the spade queen win the first trick, getting in with the ace of diamonds and trumping another spade with the queen, overtrumped by B with his king. B leads the club and A overtrumps Z, making the king of diamonds and saving the game.

Still another variation is to trump the third spade and lay down ace and queen of trumps, winning three tricks, hoping the clubs will drop if the third round is trumped and that dummy can get in with the queen of diamonds. In this variation Z can trump the third club with the seven, shutting out the nine, so matter who has it, and can catch that card with his high trump. Then he can put A in with the losing spade, forcing B to lead with his king, and B will have three or more.

But B foresees the importance of making that spade trick in A's hand, and the only possible way to lead the ace of diamonds, so he leads a small diamond the moment he gets in with the king of trumps, dummy's ability to ruff the spade being exhausted. Again this is a cover card, letting the spade queen win the first trick, getting in with the ace of diamonds and trumping another spade with the queen, overtrumped by B with his king. B leads the club and A overtrumps Z, making the king of diamonds and saving the game.

Set Back. A. W. R. says: A bets that if any player bid three or four the dealer could refuse the bid and pitch for the number bid. Is this a house rule or is it the regular law of the game? Unless B calls the bet and can beat C's hand C takes the pot, as both he and B came in in good faith.

H. B. A. asks what is the present custom in the case of cards, either on the deal or the draw. A single card exposed on the deal must be taken by the player. Two exposed cards is a misdeal. On the draw an exposed card must be placed in the discard and not replaced until all the other players, including the dealer, have been played.

O. J. L. says: A opens and stands pat. B and C both draw. On going to bet A finds he did not have a flush and says so. B insists the deal is void and declines to bet. C says the higher hand is held by himself and B should win and puts up a bet. Unless B calls the bet and can beat C's hand C takes the pot, as both he and B came in in good faith.

W. W. says: A is called, and says "jacks up" to which B says, "They are good." During the next deal one of the players, sitting next B, asks if he did not hold queens up. B remembers that he did. All the players are satisfied that B held queens up and wins the pot. The pot was won by A when B surrendered it. Had he followed the rules of the game and shown his hand to the board, he would have won it. Now it is up late.

C. E. M. says: A opens and calls for a night for all he has in front of him. Three come in. A stands pat. All three throw their hands into the discard and then ask to see A's hand. He turns out to have a small pair only; not a strait but D says he is entitled to the pot as he had a pair of kings, and could have opened and won it.

No one wins it, as not one can show a fair hand of five cards. The opener cannot win it on a foul hand, so it stays as it is for the next deal. "An Epoch-Making Book" Foster on Auction

By R. F. FOSTER. Mr. Foster shows that Auction is distinctly different from Bridge or Whist, and tells the player how to determine the value which any hand can be depended upon to return in tricks. A radical, searching and unanswerable book, which finally puts Auction on a scientific basis.

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