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CORRESPONDENCE.

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FATHERS AND SONS.

WITHIN a few weeks past an unusual number of deaths have been reported from accidents to persons engaged in outdoor recreation. Several cases have occurred of young men being shot by companions, who took them for wild animals, while deaths by drowning while out sailing have furnished texts more than once for newspaper sermons. It is well understood that accidents such as these do not commonly happen to persons of intelligence and experience; but, on the other hand, no one can begin his career as a sportsman knowing all, or indeed any considerable part of, what he ought to know. It is by hard knocks and by himself seeing things done, and done well, that the heedless, ignorant boy becomes the intelligent and competent sportsman. The lesson which such accidents as these teach is not that the use of guns and boats should be abandoned, but that the young should learn how to use them under competent instruction.

The boy is an imitative animal and looks with respect upon his elders, who are familiar with matters about which he knows little or nothing. If he goes into the field with a thorough sportsman, the boy will unconsciously imitate him and will act as he acts. He will soon by intuition take care not to point his gun at dogs or men, not to shoot toward his companion in thick cover, not to fire at a bird that belongs to another. His manners and habits in the field will be formed on those of the elder friend, whose skill he admires and whose knowledge he respects.

On the other hand, if he goes out alone or with some one whose only thought is to get all the birds possible; who is careless with his weapon; is willing to risk his companion's eyes, or perhaps his life, by shooting toward him; who races toward the fallen bird in order to get to it before his ill-trained dog has eaten it up, or at least reduced it to a mass of pulp, the boy may very likely become a careless, noisy field rowdy.

What is true of the gun is also true of the boat and the

canoe. No power on earth can keep the boy from loving and indulging in outdoor recreation. He will sail and paddle if his surroundings admit of this form of sport, and to make it safe for him, see to it that his first excursions are taken under the charge of some older friend or relative, who is competent and careful.

Good habits, in sport as in other things, are easily instilled into the youthful mind, and once adopted are not easily forgotten or abandoned. The boy will shoot, will sail, will ride. It is the duty of parents to see that he is so taught to do these things that he shall do them well. His pleasure will be vastly increased, and the uneasiness and anxiety so often felt by the anxious parent will be no longer experienced.

THE FUR SEALS.

PERSONS who are interested in the preservation of the fur seals from extinction seem to feel very little hope that anything will be done by the Government in time to be of benefit this year. The season for killing is about to open, a large number of Canadian vessels—forty-nine—have left British Columbia ports to engage in pelagic sealing, and still the Government officials are silent and no reply is given to England's proposition to make a close time until a more definite knowledge shall be had of the conditions which prevail on the seal islands.

The excuse is given, by those who wish to get the skins, that before a close season can be ordered a report must be had from the agents recently appointed to look after the interests of the Government. This is a flimsy pretext and means nothing. These newly appointed agents know nothing about the fur seal, nor can they acquire any knowledge of the animal or its habits until they have devoted a season or two to studying it. If the killing is allowed to continue while they are carrying on this course of study, their observations will have a certain historical interest, but will not affect the preservation of this interesting and useful mammal, for by the time their reports have been printed the work of extermination will be practically complete.

As things stand at this writing, the North American Commercial Company has the right to slaughter 60,000 young male seals on the Pribylov Islands; in other words, to destroy the whole stock of male seals on which the crop for ten years to come depends. It is difficult to understand how intelligent men can contemplate such action as this. It might be supposed that even the Commercial Company would realize that this action will destroy their future business, will wipe out any profits in the years to come. This is on the hypothesis that the management of this company have taken the lease of the seal islands as a matter of legitimate business. Of course, if it is a mere piece of stock jobbing, if these managers are nothing more than "promoters," if they wish to declare a large dividend one year, hoping on the strength of that dividend to peddle out their stock in the company at a great price to a gullible public, then their action is natural enough. But, if this is the case, it seems a thousand pities that the United States Government should lend its aid to any such scheme.

JACK-HUNTING DEER.

COLUMNS and columns of discussion have been printed for and against the practice of hunting deer in the Adirondacks by floating for them at night with a jack-light. Opponents of this mode of hunting have repeatedly urged the Legislature to forbid it; but the existing law permits jacking.

The Adirondack League Club is an association which has control of a large territory in the Jock's Lake district, and in addition to the State game laws there are rules of the club regulating the taking of game and fish by its members. These forbid the taking by any member of more than fifteen pounds of speckled trout or ten in number of lake trout in one day, and the same limitation is put on fish carried from the preserve. Another rule reads: "Jacking or floating for deer is absolutely prohibited." This regulation was adopted, we are told, because the members were convinced that jack-hunting resulted in the wounding and maiming of more deer than were killed, and in the lingering deaths of more deer than were "reduced to possession."

The adoption of such a rule by the Adirondack League Association is significant and worthy of note, because the attitude of the State toward its game at large should be in no respect different from that of such a private organization toward the game in its preserves.

SNAP SHOTS.

DR. JAMES A. HENSHALL, who has in charge the preparation of the angling exhibit of the World's Fair, has been visiting some of the tackle makers, and reports a growing interest in the subject. With the co-operation of dealers and anglers, it is hoped that the Chicago display will far surpass anything ever done in this line. The scheme is comprehensive and is gradually being elaborated in detail. The exhibition will include all forms of tackle and angling appliances, and an extensive aquarium of living specimens. This will be under the charge of Mr. Wm. P. Seal, of the Fish Commission, and well known to our readers as the author of valuable studies of water life. The exhibition will adjoin the Government exhibit, and will be contained in a building of spacious dimensions. Dr. Henshall will gladly receive suggestions from all who are interested. We hope to give a detailed plan of the exhibit in an early issue.

The Cranberry Lake waters of the Adirondacks have yielded another large trout. Mr. Frank Paddock, of Watertown, scored a fish in the inlet the other day weighing 4½ lbs. It was here that Mr. A. Ames Howlett, of Syracuse, in July of 1888, captured the trout of 5 lbs. 14 oz. whose birch-bark outline still adorns the office of the FOREST AND STREAM. The fish was mounted and is now in the museum of Syracuse University. Mr. Howlett's fish was only second to an Adirondack trout taken by Mr. Walter Aiken, of Franklin Falls, N. H.; who in 1884 caught a trout of 6 lbs. 2 oz. This was at Spring Pond, near the Second Pond of the Chain of Ponds. The best of this incident was that the big fish was one of a number which when smaller had been transferred by Mr. Aiken from other waters and planted here to grow big enough to make a record on.

We have received for the Helen Keller Fund, since last Thursday, the following:

Dr. J. Frank Perry, Boston.....	\$5.00
"Big Reel," Morristown, N. J.....	2.00
A Friend (through Mr. W. Wade).....	1.00

Amount sent to Helen Keller.....	\$8.00
Total to date.....	\$18.25

The Winans Revolver Trophy is now on exhibition in the window of Messrs. Hartley & Graham, No. 315 Broadway, where it is exciting much admiration. The handsome base, received by us subsequently to Mr. Lacy's drawing published last week, adds decidedly to the effect of the piece. The trophy is an artistic bit of realism, whose truthfulness is at once recognized.

John Morton, who died in this city last week, was in his old age fond of telling how he used to stand in the doorway of his house on Canal street and shoot quail on the opposite side of the canal. The spot is within a Bob White's whistle of the FOREST AND STREAM office.

HEARD IN BOSTON: "Hello! Been fishing?" "No. Had the grippe; in the house two weeks; lost twenty pounds, and my spring fishing." "Well, my young friend, you'll get back your twenty pounds all right, but not your spring fishing."

Flash-light photography enables the angler, returning home late at night, to photograph his fish before they have shrunk. We have seen some excellent examples of such work. It leaves no allowance for shrinkage over night.

The New York Times announces in display headlines "Fish puzzle the anglers. They are full of unaccountable freaks this year." Did the fish man of the Times ever know a year when fish were not full of freaks?

Salmon are reported in good supply in the Penobscot at Bangor. Hudson salmon are occasionally taken in nets. Two were captured at Hudson last week, and released. The largest was estimated at 18 lbs.

A St. Augustine correspondent writes that Florida promises to have an efficient game law if the bill now under consideration shall pass in its present shape.

An Idaho law prohibits the killing of moose for six years,