

gauge by employing explosive shells, but they often exploded before penetrating to a sufficient depth, and it was soon found that the bullets were much more effective when the hollows were filled with beeswax or plugs of wood. The powder charges have been increased since then to 50 grains in the .36, 80 in the .40, 125 or even 150 in the .45, and 165 in the .500 breechloaders.

This is, I believe, the real history of the discovery of the modern express rifle. J. J. M.

LONDON, England, March 15, 1886.

Editor Forest and Stream:

I was very much interested in your trajectory test. The result rather surprised me in several instances. I wish to ask some of your correspondents who have had experience with muzzleloading rifles to please come out and tell for the benefit of tenderfeet like myself how to load and manage that arm.

I have always had a great liking for the muzzleloader, so last spring when I was in St. Louis I hunted the city over for a good one. At last I got hold of one, it was a 42-inch barrel 10-pound gun, very well put up and was evidently a good gun, but the bullet mould was not good. I have made several and have accomplished some very good shooting, but not so good as I think the rifle is capable of. Will some gentleman tell me what kind of a bullet to use (the gun shoots 20 to the pound) and how to load the gun to get the best results.

I use a .45-caliber Pacific Ballard for deer and find it an excellent gun. As far as accuracy is concerned I think it good enough for anything, but the charges cannot be changed to suit the game as I like to do. C. L. S.

FORT CLARK, TEXAS.

ONTARIO GAME SEASONS.

A NEW law of the Province of Ontario (to take effect July 1, 1886) provides the following open seasons: Deer, elk, moose, reindeer or caribou, Oct. 15 to Dec. 15. Grouse, pheasants, prairie fowl or partridge, Sept. 1 to Jan. 15. Woodcock, Jan. 1 to Aug. 15. Snipe, rail, golden plover, Sept. 1 to Jan. 1. Swans or geese, Sept. 1 to May 1. Ducks and all other water fowl, Sept. 1 to Jan. 1. Hares, Sept. 1 to Mar. 15. Beaver, mink, muskrat, sable, martin, otter, fisher, Nov. 1 to May 1. Quail protected to 1888; wild turkeys to 1889. Imported game may not be shot without consent of land owner. Unlawful to kill deer, elk, moose, reindeer and caribou for exportation.

NEW BRUNSWICK GAME.—Campbellton, N. B., March 25.—Winter still retains its icy hold here, the snow lies deep over the land and the ice remains firm and strong on the lakes. A few caribou have been killed in this vicinity during the past season, but no moose, so far as we can learn, has been bagged. One party claims to have caught a moose in a caribou snare, but he proved a tartar, smashed things up, broke the rope and escaped, a wiser and madder moose. Quantities of fine trout are brought in here, which are taken through the ice on the small lakes in the interior, by the Micmacs. The catch of fur-bearing animals has not been a large one, which proves that they are also decreasing in numbers. Wild geese have put in an appearance down the bay. A woodcock was seen on the 22d near St. John, N. B.—STANSTEAD.

JEKYL ISLAND CLUB.—The Jekyl Island Club is in the nature of a hunting, fishing and yachting establishment on Jekyl Island, on the coast of Georgia, off Brunswick. A meeting of the club was held recently in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, in this city, and the following gentlemen were elected directors: Gen. Lloyd Aspinwall, New York; Erastus Corning, Albany; Wirt Dexter, Chicago; Judge Henry E. Howard, New York; Commodore R. L. Ogden, San Francisco; O. K. King, Wm. B. DeWolf, Thos. W. Pearsall, Lewis Edwards and L. M. Lawson, New York, John Eugene du Bignon, Georgia; Franklin M. Ketchum and N. S. Finney, New York.

LONG ISLAND SNIPE.—The text of Section 2, Chapter 485 of the Laws of 1885 reads as follows, the counties designated being Queens and Suffolk, which comprise the shooting along the Atlantic coast: "Section 2. No person shall, in said counties, kill or have in possession any bay snipe, sandpiper, shore bird or plover, from the first day of January to the tenth day of July in any year, or any rail bird, or meadow hen, from the first day of January to the first day of September in any year, under a penalty of ten dollars for each bird killed or had in possession."

EMMETSBURG, Ia., March 22.—Geese are just commencing their flight. Only one has been killed that I know of so far, but as soon as the weather opens there will be plenty of hunting. Ducks have not made their appearance yet. We had quite a fall of snow on the 20th, but nearly gone to-day. Prairie chickens have wintered well in this section, and the shooting promises well the coming season. Cotton-tails are abundant, with an occasional lone jack. Wolves have not been hunted much on account of the deep snow this winter.—E. H. S.

GAME IN SULLIVAN COUNTY.—Monticello, N. Y., March 22.—Foxes and wildcats have been very plenty the past winter. Rabbits and squirrels are too numerous to mention. Ruffed grouse have wintered finely and in good numbers. The male grouse are now drumming in every direction. To the many gentlemen and sportsmen who have hunted here with me for the past twenty years, I will say that the prospect for next fall's shooting is better than for many years.—CHARLES F. KENT.

POWDER RIVER.—Magnolia, Md., March 26.—President Cleveland was one of a party of gentlemen who to-night partook of a duck supper at the shore of the San Domingo Hunting Club, on the Gunpowder River, a mile from this village. President Cleveland and Gen. Farnsworth came from Washington on the invitation of Gen. Olcott, of Albany, N. Y., and Mr. Wells, president of the club. Among the invited guests were Judge Peckham and Charles H. Raymond, of New York.

MAJ. W. D. FULLER.—Sedalia, Mo., March 25.—*Editor Forest and Stream:* Major W. D. Fuller died at the Siche House, this city, March 11, of heart disease. I have no doubt but that this notice will meet the eye of some old comrade who may be at a loss to know what has become of an old friend. His effects, which are valuable, still remain at the office of the hotel awaiting the claim of legal owners.—Occident.

MAINE RUFFED GROUSE.—East Auburn, Me., March 22.—I feel quite sure that our ruffed grouse didn't suffer as much from the severe ice storm (that formed an icy crust an inch thick) we had in February, as many of our sportsmen feared. I saw four a short distance from my house since the crust that were lively enough, and my neighbor only a few rods from my house saw three budding his apple trees in his garden a few evenings since. I hope many more escaped.—W.

A DUCK ASTRAY.—Brooklyn, N. Y.—The other morning Mr. Bahr, a butcher, at the head of New York avenue, Brooklyn, saw a large bird on the telegraph wires, opposite his shop. He got a shotgun and killed it. It turned out to be a duck about as big as our common ducks, but with a long sharp bill, plumage black, rather long wings. Nice place to shoot ducks.—E. K. L.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY GAME AND FISH PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, organized in 1886, has the following officers: President, Frederick G. Leroy; First Vice President, W. E. Warren; Second Vice President, Wesley H. Wood; Secretary, George Laick, Tarrytown, N. Y.; Treasurer, William E. Tompkins; Counsel, George C. Andrews; Special Game Constable, Oscar Purdy.

CALIFORNIA LAWS.—We have received from S. P. Maslin, Esq., of Sacramento, a compilation of all the California laws relating to game and fish. The compendium is comprehensive, well arranged, fully indexed, and a model in its way. It is published under the authority of the State Board of Fish Commissioners.

MR. XENOPHON CLEVELAND, of Waltham, Mass., has sent to us for exhibition a number of crayon and oil pictures of fishing and camp scenes.

VIVA LOS GACHUPINOS (March 18).—For "Harpads" read Harpado; for "Algara" read Algava.—KELFIE.

ENGLISH SNIPE have been killed the past fortnight on the Newark meadows.

Sea and River Fishing.

Address all communications to the Forest and Stream Publishing Co.

TROUT SEASON OPENS.

California, April 1; Colorado, July 1; Connecticut, April 1; Dakota, May 1; Iowa, Feb. 1; Maine, May 1; Maryland, April 1; Massachusetts, April 1; Michigan, May 1; Minnesota, April 1; New Brunswick, Feb. 1; New Hampshire, May 1; New Jersey, March 1; New Mexico, May 1; New York, May 1 (in Queens and Suffolk counties, April 1; not to be transported into other counties); Ohio, March 15; Ontario, May 1; Oregon, April 1; Pennsylvania, April 15; Quebec, Feb. 1; Rhode Island, March 1; Vermont, May 1; Virginia, April 1; West Virginia, June 1; Wisconsin, April 15; Wyoming, June 1.

BOSTON'S TROUT DISPLAY.

TO FOLLOW the growth of fishing tackle, from the juniper pole, cut green, stripped of the bark and nailed against the woodshed to season out the crooks, up to the beautiful split bamboo rod, is an interesting study. Thirty years ago a few fish rods—stiff bamboo poles or heavy rods of ash—were kept in the country store; but to day the fishing tackle store is one of the most novel and interesting within the limits of our cities. Indeed, his outfit has come to be one of the angler's chief sources of pleasure, and his eye is open for every novelty, and they are numerous, both useful and pleasing. But the tackle window, always attractive to the passer-by, has come to mean something more. Messrs. Appleton & Litchfield, No. 304 Washington street, Boston, have instituted a new department in the display they opened on the morning of April 1, the beginning of the trout season.

Their entire window is a scene from nature. There is the rushing stream, the pool containing live brook, rainbow and Lake Superior trout, with the lake and the forest beyond.

At one side is also an aquarium, in which trout spawn is shown in every stage from the time life begins up to the fingerling.

The entire window is novel and artistic, and shows a genius in love with its calling, which must have been moulded by the magic touch of the departed Prouty.

NEW YORK BASS LAW.

TO-DAY I notice for the first time—simply because I have been obliged to put my FOREST AND STREAM one side of late, to be read at a more convenient season—that FOREST AND STREAM of Feb. 25 purports to give the provisions of the Husted bill. You have been led into the same error that was committed by the Albany *Argus*, *Journal*, *Express*, *Troy Times*, and a dozen other papers. The Husted bill made no change in the open season for black bass. The season for this fish opens in Lake George and Brant Lake July 20, not July 13; in St. Lawrence, Lake Erie, etc., May 20, not May 13. Bullheads from Lake George shall not be exposed for sale before July 1, not July 18. In short, the only change made by the Husted bill is to permit having in possession of salt-water striped bass. In Section 21 the words "fresh water" are inserted in two instances before the words "striped bass."

The clause reads thus: "No person shall catch, kill or expose for sale, or have in his or her possession after the same has been killed, any black bass or fresh-water striped bass weighing less than one-half pound or less than eight inches in length from end of snout to end of caudal fin, at any time." This clause is then repeated, except for "black bass or fresh-water striped bass" read "salt-water striped." In the next clause "fresh water" is inserted before "striped bass," and again in Section 24 "fresh water" is inserted before "striped bass." I wrote an article for a local paper, quoting the law as you have it. Then followed, in other country papers about here, the greatest rubbish of fish laws that were ever put on paper, so that the people were all at sea.

When in Albany I saw the original draft of the Husted bill and got a certified copy of the law from the Secretary of State. A. N. CHENEY.

GLENS FALLS, March 26.

BASS FLIES.

Editor Forest and Stream:

I notice in this week's FOREST AND STREAM one of your correspondents seeks information on the subject of killing bass flies. I have not fished in Minnesota, but I have had twenty-five years experience in fly-fishing for black bass, and rarely take them any other way. Bass are much more particular than trout in taking flies; often what is good in one water proves useless in another. I would advise your friend to get one or two of each of the following flies: Bass grizzly, match wing ibis, bass miller, Lord Baltimore, Holberton, Whitney, post jungle, St. Patrick, bumble bee, Gov. Alvord, Lottie, turkey.

Use a nine-foot single leader with any two of the above flies, which should be on single gut snells, double at the head. Cast as far as possible and let the fly sink well under water. Then move the fly slowly a foot at a time. Cast near the shore or over reefs, always remembering that bass are very shy fish, and if you get near enough to see them they also see you, and will refuse the most attractive bait. Let him try these different flies; and find out which is the most taking. W. HOLBERTON.

NEW YORK, March 25.

TROUTING.

IN NEW YORK the season for taking brook trout opens in the counties of Queens and Suffolk, which comprise nearly the whole of Long Island, on April 1, and by the time this reaches our readers it will have begun. In all other parts of the State the opening day is one month later. A bill allowing fish taken in the counties named to be brought into other counties for use, but not for sale, is now before the Legislature.

On Long Island there is promise of good sport this month, because the season has been early and the trout have been feeding freely for some time. At the different clubs and preserves places have been engaged, and if the opening day is favorable, a great many will wet their lines and many trout will be taken. There is mourning at Massapequa, the famous lake owned by Mr. William Floyd-Jones, where ex-President Arthur, Francis Edicott, and other friends have literally cast their lines in pleasant places, for the lake has been taken by the city water works of Brooklyn, and will swarm with strange men of political "influence" who will get permits to fish its waters under the windows of the late owner, whose pride it has been and whose family have always owned it since the island was settled. Farewell to the glories of Massapequa, with the loss of its springs the trout will soon disappear and give way to the black bass or other fish. The South Side Club always has good fishing in its well-stocked preserves at Oakdale, and the Suffolk Club is ready to entertain its friends at the ponds near Patchogue. All along the south side the streams are already marked by the anglers for a whipping to day.

In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and several other States, the season for brook trout opens to-day, but in very few of them will there be much fishing done for a fortnight or more. Long Island, exposed as it is to sea breezes, is always ready for fishing before the streams further inland are. In the Adirondacks the lakes are still covered with ice, which may not leave them all for five or six weeks yet, and there is really little fishing to be done there before June.

THE SUNAPEE TROUT.

Editor Forest and Stream:

Will you allow me a word in regard to the Sunapee Lake trout? The specimen that I sent to the National Museum at Washington, and which was at first pronounced a common brook trout, but is now decided to be a gigantic specimen of *Salvelinus* of the Oquassa or blue-back type, and identical with the little 3-ounce or 4-ounce blue-back of Rangeley, Me., is in no way connected with the plant made by the Commissioners in 1879. These fish are natives of the lake, and were known to have been there over forty years ago. It is an impossibility that in six years the little Rangeley trout would reach a weight of 10 pounds. Such a radical change in size and habits, merely by its transfer from the Rangeley to the Sunapee waters, would imply a deviation from well known and fixed laws in nature.

E. B. H.

PLYMOUTH, N. H., March 23.

Editor Forest and Stream:

In April, 1878, the New Hampshire Commissioners planted in Sunapee Lake 3,000 fry of blue-back trout, the eggs having been obtained from the Rangeley Lakes through the courtesy of the Maine Commissioners. It is probable, therefore, that the variety of trout recently obtained from the lake by Mr. E. B. Hodge, and identified by Dr. Bean as *oquassa*, is not indigenous to those waters, but has been introduced from the Rangeley Lakes. This, it will be remembered, was mentioned as their probable source by Mr. Samuel Webber, late Fish Commissioner of New Hampshire. X.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24.

LARGEST RANGELEY TROUT.—A letter from Com. H. O. Stanley, of Dixfield, Me., to Com. Stilwell, Nov. 19, 1874, contains the following note which we are permitted to copy: "In regard to the big trout you want to know about, I cannot vouch for the truth of it, yet I think it is correct. They were caught after I came away. I made arrangements with Frank Hewy to take some blue-backs' eggs for me. He caught the fish with a large landing net attached to a long pole. He was dipping them from under a jam of cedars below the dam on the Rangeley stream, and could not see under the jam. He first dipped the big fish (a female). It was so large that he had the curiosity to weigh it. It weighed 13 pounds. A few minutes later he dipped a male of 10½ pounds. Both were ripe fish. He put them back in the pool below the dam. I am inclined to believe this, though, of course, I cannot vouch for it."

ILLEGAL FISHING.—We have two complaints of illegal fishing in the State of New York, both relating to the same waters. One writer charges a State officer with participation in the work of unlawfully taking fish; but as neither of these correspondents has complied with our rule of requiring name and address to be signed to letters, we cannot publish the complaints. We require this as an evidence of good faith on their part, and with no intention of publishing their names if they desire to use initials or any other signature. They can thus see why no attention is paid to their questions and complaints.