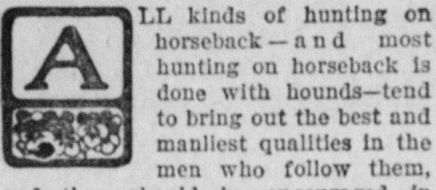


# HUNTING DEER ON HORSEBACK

BY THEODORE ROOSEVELT

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All kinds of hunting on horseback—and most hunting on horseback is done with hounds—tend to bring out the best and manliest qualities in the men who follow them, and they should be encouraged in every way. Long after the rifleman, as well as the game he hunts, shall have vanished from the plains, the cattle country will afford fine sport in coursing hares; and both wolves and deer could be followed and killed with packs of properly-trained hounds, and

such sport would be even more exciting than still-hunting with the rifle. It is on the great plains lying west of the Missouri that riding to hounds will in the end receive its fullest development as a national pastime.

But at present it is almost unknown in the cattle country; and the ranchman who loves sport must try still-hunting—and by still-hunting is meant pretty much every kind of chase where a single man, unaided by a dog, and almost always on foot, outgenerals a deer and kills it with the rifle. To do this successfully, unless deer are very plenty and tame, implies a certain knowledge of the country, and a good knowledge of the habits of the game. The hunter must keep a sharp look-out for deer sign; for, though a man soon gets to have a general knowledge of the kind of places in which deer are likely to be, yet he will also find that they are either very capricious, or else that no man has more than a partial understanding of their tastes and likings; for many spots apparently just suited to them will be almost uninhabited, while in others they will be found where it would hardly occur to any one to suspect their presence. Any cause may temporarily drive deer out of a given locality. Still-hunting, especially, is sure to send many away, while rendering the others extremely wild and shy, and where deer have become used to being pursued in only one way, it is often an excellent plan to try some entirely different method. A certain knowledge of how to track deer is very useful. To become a really skillful tracker is most difficult; and there are some kinds of ground, where, for instance, it is very hard and dry, or frozen solid, on which almost any man will be at fault. But any one with a little practice can learn to do a certain amount of tracking. On snow, of course, it is very easy; but on the other hand it is also peculiarly difficult to avoid being seen by the deer when the ground is white. After deer have been frightened once or twice, or have even merely been disturbed by man, they get the habit of keeping a watch back on their trail; and when snow has fallen, a man is such a conspicuous object that deer see him a long way off, and even the tamest become wild. A deer will often, before lying down, take a half circle back to one side and make its bed a few yards from its trail, where it can, itself unseen, watch any person tracing it up. A man tracking in snow needs to pay very little heed to the footprints, which can be followed without effort, but requires to keep up the closest scrutiny over the ground ahead of him, and on either side of the trail.

In the early morning when there is a heavy dew the footprints will be as

along a trail will do far better to merely follow it until, from its freshness and direction, he feels confident that the deer is in some particular space of ground, and then hunt through it, guiding himself by his knowledge of the deer's habits and by the character of the land. Tracks are of most use in showing whether deer are plenty or scarce, whether they have been in the place recently or not. Generally, signs of deer are infinitely more plentiful than the animals themselves—although in regions where tracking is especially difficult deer are often jumped without any sign having been seen at all.

Although still-hunting on foot is on the whole the best way to get deer, yet there are many places where from the nature of the land the sport can be followed quite as well on horseback, than which there is no more pleasant kind of hunting. The best shot I ever made in my life—a shot into which, however, I am afraid the element of chance entered much more largely than the element of skill—was made while hunting black-tail on horseback.

We were at that time making quite a long trip with the wagon, and were going up the fork of a plains river in Western Montana. As we were out of food, those two of our number who usually undertook to keep the camp supplied with game determined to make a hunt off back of the river after black-tail; for though there were some white-tail in the more densely timbered river bottoms, we had been unable to get any. It was arranged that the wagon should go on a few miles, and then halt for the night, as it was already the middle of the afternoon when we started out. The country resembled in character other parts of the cattle plains, but it was absolutely bare of trees except along the bed of the river. The rolling hills sloped steeply off into long valleys and deep ravines. They were sparsely covered with coarse grass, and also with an irregular growth of tall sage-brush, which in some places gathered into dense thickets. A beginner would have thought the country entirely too barren of cover to hold deer, but a very little experience teaches one that deer will be found in thickets of such short and sparse growth that it seems as if they could hide nothing; and, what is more, that they will often skulk round in such thickets without being discovered. And a black-tail is a bold, free animal, liking to go out in comparatively open country, where he must trust to his own powers, and not to any concealment, to protect him from danger.

Where the hilly country joined the alluvial river bottom, it broke off short into steep bluffs, up which none but a Western pony could have climbed. It is really wonderful to see what places a pony can get over, and the indifference with which it regards tumbles. In getting up from the bottom we went into a wash-out, and then led our ponies along a clay ledge, from which we turned off and went straight up a very steep sandy bluff. My companion was ahead; just as he turned off the ledge, and as I was right underneath him, his horse, in plunging to try to get up the sand bluff, overbalanced itself, and, after standing erect on its hind legs for a second, came over backward. The second's pause while it stood bolt upright, gave me time to make a frantic leap out of the way with my pony, which scrambled after me, and we both clung with hands and hoofs to the side of the bank, while the other horse took two or three somersaults as I ever saw, and landed with a crash at the bottom of the wash-out, feet uppermost. I thought it was done for, but not a bit. After a moment or two it struggled to its legs, shook itself, and looked round in rather a shame-faced way, apparently not in the least the worse for the fall. We now got my pony up to the top by vigorous pulling, and then went down for the other, which at first strongly objected to making another trial, but, after much coaxing and a good deal of abuse, took a start and went up without trouble.

For some time after reaching the top of the bluffs we rode along without seeing anything. When it was possible, we kept one on each side of a creek, avoiding the tops of the ridges, because while on them a horseman can be seen at a very long distance, and going with particular caution whenever we went round a spur or came up over a crest. The country stretched away like an endless, billowy sea of dull-brown soil and barren sage-brush, the valleys making long parallel furrows, and every thing having a look of dreary sameness.

At length, as we came out on a rounded ridge, three black-tail bucks started up from a lot of sage-brush some two hundred yards away and below us, and made off down hill. It was a very long shot, especially to try running, but, as game seemed scarce and cartridges were plenty, I leaped off the horse, and, kneeling, fired. The bullet went low, striking in line at the feet of the hindmost. I was very high next time, making a wild shot above and ahead of them, which had the effect of turning them, and they went off round a shoulder of a bluff, being by this time down in the valley. Hav-

ing plenty of time I elevated the sights (a thing I hardly ever do) to four hundred yards and waited for their reappearance. Meanwhile they had evidently gotten over their fright, for pretty soon one walked out from the other side of the bluff, and came to a standstill, broadside toward me. He was too far off for me to see his horns.

As I was raising the rifle another stepped out and began to walk towards the first. I thought I might as well have as much of a target as possible to shoot at, and waited for the second buck to come out farther, which he did immediately and stood still just alongside of the first. I aimed above his shoulders and pulled the trigger. Over went the two bucks! And when I rushed down to where they lay I found I had pulled a little to one side, and the bullet had broken the backs of both.

While my companion was dressing them I went back and paced off the distance. It was just four hundred and thirty-one long paces; over four hundred yards. Both were large bucks and very fat, with the velvet hanging in shreds from their antlers, for it was late in August. The day was waning and we had a long ride back to the wagon, each with a buck behind his saddle. When we came back to the river valley it was pitch dark, and it was rather tedious work for our heavily laden horses to pick their way down the steep bluffs and over the rapid stream; nor were we sorry when we saw ahead under a bluff the gleam of the camp fire, as it was reflected back from the canvas-topped prairie schooner.

His legs hardly so much as twitched, er, that for the time being represented home to us.

This was much the best shot I ever made; and it is just such a shot as any one will occasionally make if he takes a good many chances and fires often at ranges where the odds are greatly against his hitting. I suppose I had fired a dozen times at animals four or five hundred yards off, and now, by the doctrine of chances, I happened to hit; but I would have been very foolish if I had thought for a moment that I had learned how to hit at over four hundred yards. I have yet to see the hunter who can hit with any regularity at that distance, though I have seen plenty who could make such a long range hit now and then. And I have noticed that such a hunter, in talking over his experience, was certain soon to forget the numerous misses he made, and to say, and even to actually think, that his occasional hits represented his average shooting.

One of the finest black-tail bucks I ever shot was killed by lying out in a rather unusual place. I was hunting mountain-sheep, in a stretch of very high and broken country, and about mid-day, crept cautiously up to the edge of a great gorge, whose sheer walls went straight down several hundred feet. Peeping over the brink of the chasm I saw a buck, lying out on a ledge so narrow as to barely hold him, right on the face of the cliff wall opposite, some distance below, and about seventy yards diagonally across from me. He lay with his legs half stretched out, and his head turned so as to give me an exact center-shot at his forehead; the bullet going in between his eyes, so that his legs hardly so much as twitched when he received it.

It was tollsome and almost dangerous work climbing out to where he lay; I have never known any other individual, even of this bold and adventurous species of deer, to take its noonday siesta in a place so barren of all cover and so difficult of access even to the most sure-footed climber. This buck was as fat as a prize sheep, and heavier than any other I have ever killed; while his antlers also were, with two exceptions, the best I ever got.

Three men sat down at a restaurant table. "Bring me a very rare steak," said one. "I want a rare steak, too," said the second man, "but I want it very rare. Just have the sides seared a little, and let the blood run out of it." Then the third man said, "Bring me a rare steak from an animal which has not been killed, but just crippled."

## BEERS MADE IN MAINE.

Each Farmer is His Own Brewer of Home Remedies.

Ten thousand liquor constables might close the saloons of Maine, but no power has yet been found which can prevent the Downeasters from brewing home-made beers. Nearly every family in Eastern Maine makes beer of some kind, and as an intoxicant, but as a home remedy. The result is there are more brands of beer brewed and drunk in Maine than are recognized in any price list of fermented liquors on earth.

A leader "spring bitters" beer, which has a basic flavor of spruce boughs, Checker berries, sarsaparilla root and poplar bark are added for medicinal purposes. For a cold, trouble with the lungs or any part of the respiratory organs, lungwort is added, together with cherry bark and rosemary leaves. Corn beer, containing 20 per cent. of alcohol, is used as a cure for heart disease.

There is a Maine beer containing a whip of smart weed to prevent the hair from falling out or turning gray. Women who pose as younger than they are, drink beer containing root juices of the dandelion or rhubarb. Beer containing blood root restores those who are lovelick, as well as charms lovers back to their old sweethearts. When a little Mayweed is added, he or she who drinks, will be married within a year. Lobelia beer serves to reduce weight. Red clover beer removes cancerous growths. Then there are beers to wear drinkers form the tea, coffee and tobacco habits. No one has disclosed a beer that will cure corns or toothache, but Maine brewers are investigating along these lines.

**A Fish Story.**  
A bunch of fishermen were swapping stories the other evening in the Journal office, and then H. Eyer Spyker butted in with one that set all the other tales far in the shade. He said that he recently was out in the Brush Valley Narrows after trout. At a big pool he hooked a ten-inch ty from the water when a four-foot water snake made a spring and seized the fish in its fangs, tearing it from the hook, and plunging into the pool. Of course he was chagrined at the loss of the fine trout, and then related the experience to a woodsman near by. The latter came over to the place where Spyker said the snake plunged into the stream, reached down a foot or two in the water, and then brought up his snake-ship with the trout yet in its fangs. Gripping the snake back of the head, he compelled it to release its hold, and then whacked the reptile around a tree, ending its career. For a snake and fish story he had the rest skinned a mile, and they all knew it, and he was acknowledged having the laurels that very evening.—Lewisburg Journal.



**Dry Town Discharges Police.**  
Because there does not seem to be sufficient trouble to warrant keeping the present number of policemen, three were given their discharge Monday evening by a resolution adopted by the Findley (O.) city council. Since Hancock County went "dry" there has been little need of a strong force. About one-tenth of the arrests are now made as compared with the number before the county voted saloons out. The county jail is busiest with bootleggers.

**Tired or Indisposed.**  
"Won't you take my seat?" said the man in the car, as he lifted his hat to the pretty girl.  
"No, thank you," she replied, "I've been roller skating all the afternoon, and I'm tired of sitting down."

Every woman wants the last word, but every woman doesn't get what she wants.  
The man who has no time for his friends will eventually discover that he has no friends for his time.

## BIG YIELD OF WHEAT.

C. K. Sober Experimenting With Alaska Grain on His Farm.

When the announcement was made months ago of the discovery of a new wheat in the west that made enormous yields compared with the grain grown in this section, it created a great sensation among the agriculturists all over the country. The government specialists claimed to have made investigation of the Alaska grain, and pronounced it a fake. Mr. C. K. Sober, our townman, determined to try out the new grain, and secured enough seed to plant four acres of the Alaska wheat on his Irish Valley farm near Shamokin, and this week he brought quite a number of samples of the new wheat to Lewisburg to show to his friends, and left three heads with the Journal for display. The new grain is longer in the head than our ordinary grain, and the heads are larger and more completely filled. With a yield of twenty-five bushels from the ordinary grain, there should be at least a seventy-five bushel yield with the Alaska wheat. Mr. Sober is greatly pleased with his experiment and feels that at least fifty bushels to the acre can be grown with the seed that he has planted.

His experiment will be the matter of great satisfaction to the agriculturists the country over, and if it is possible to increase the production per acre in raising wheat from even twenty-five to fifty bushels, it will be a great boon to the agriculturists.

The result on Mr. Sober's farm will be closely watched. In his experiment he is growing the grain in the same soil along side the ordinary wheat—Lewisburg Journal, 15th.

**Large Crowd at Barn Raising.**  
About two hundred persons, men, women and children, attended the barn raising on the farm of Harry Glossner, near Blanchard on Thursday, of last week. The barn is 30x50 feet, and sets upon a fine concrete foundation. The carpenters employed are Oscar and Robert McGhee. The crowd worked well and succeeded in getting the structure up before the rain which began falling shortly before one o'clock and just after the bountiful dinner had been served. The affair was a pleasant frolic to the large number of persons who attended.

**Paper Makers and Paper Users.**  
In the appeal of American publishers to Senator Root to take up the cudgels for the repeal of pulp and paper duties a striking exhibit of the paper-making and the paper-using industries in the State of New York was furnished him. It was shown that the twenty-one news print paper mills of New York State produce 1500 tons of paper per day when pushed to their utmost capacity, or 450,000 tons per annum. The average cost for labor per ton of paper produced is \$3, which would indicate that the total wages paid for news print paper made in New York amounts to \$3,500,000 per annum. The census reports show that the paper mills pay an average of \$518 per annum to each worker, or \$1.65 per day, so that they employ an average of 6976 persons in the production of news print paper.

The newspaper and periodical establishments of New York State, numbering 1497 in 1905, employed 30922 persons and paid \$27,679,343 annually in salaries and wages, or nearly eight times the amount paid by the print paper mills. On the score of numbers or importance, are not the printers entitled to as much consideration as are the paper mills? When it is further considered that the interest of the printers in securing cheaper paper is in the direct interest of the millions of readers who buy the newspapers, the preponderant weight of argument based on public benefit to accrue from reduced tariff rates leaves no room for question.

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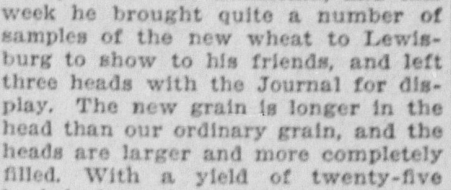
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## OUR NEW HAIR VIGOR

Ayer's Hair Vigor was good, the best that was made. But Ayer's Hair Vigor, new improved formula, is better. It is the one great specific for falling hair. A new preparation in every way. New bottle. New contents. Ask your druggist to show it to you. "The new kind."

Does not change the color of the hair.



As we now make our new Hair Vigor it does not have the slightest effect upon the color of the hair. You may use it freely and for any length of time without fear of changing the color. Stops falling hair. Cures dandruff.

Made by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

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Does not change the color of the hair.

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