SHOOTING.

GROUSE SHOOTING IN KERRY.

SEEING THAT HIS STAY IN LONDON for the Twelfth was inevitable, an Irishman obtained a parcel of heather from Kerry so that at least some token from his native moors should be within his view upon that great day. He decorated his rooms gloriously in purple and pink and the deepest green. A medical friend coming to see him, and being much struck by the decorations, was told whence the heather came. He remarked that he did not know there was any heather in Ireland. Then, learning in reply that there are several millions of acres decked with that sampled before his eyes, he exclaimed: "But why does one never hear of Irish grouse?" This practical Scot, having never seen a "report" from an Irish moor, never read of crowds of sportsmen hurrying to Ireland for the Twelfth, found it difficult to believe that all those acres, reachable as easily and quickly from London as are the Highlands of his own country, were blushing, neglected, and dishonoured in the land of whose woes he had heard so much. He spoke hard words when I understood.

Half of the 1,159,356 acres which constitute the surface of Kerry are grouse moor that has never experienced scientific heather burning, or drainage, or any of the treatment recommended by Lord Lovat; but has never failed to respond with an increased head of grouse to elementary preservation. The latter is an important point. Some people would insist that the climate of Ireland is too moist for successful grouse cultivation, in face of the facts that grouse disease is not observed there, and that Scotland is also a rainy country. At this time last year I gave an account of enterprise in Mayo which has turned 100,000 acres of that county into ten separate moors, each easily yielding a limit of 100 brace where a grouse was hardly to be seen a very few years back. While in Kerry, of the few coveys that may be seen, the majority number in double figures, and individual birds are not unknown to weigh 29 and 30 ounces. When the parent birds there elude the perils caused by man and birds of prey and vermin, they prove the climate to be suitable enough for rearing a remarkably bouncing brood.

The simplest things afforded them to elude these perils give satisfactory results. But it is doubtful if there is a moor where such help is now given. Even the hotel proprietors who control vast shootings do not give it. Excusing themselves by pointing to the lapse of the Peace Preservation Act and the consequent freedom with which arms may be carried, they confine their attentions to the strictly protected winter migrants and acquiesce in the extinction of the grouse. The Scottish doctor readily grasped the situation. "You Irishmen fear to lay out a shilling to make a sovereign," he said. An immense sum of money is lying idle in the savings banks to the credit of the peasantry who are now becoming owners of the moors. It increases yearly. One wonders if ever some teacher will come along whose silvery tongue may induce them to disinter and invest some of their coin in the development of nature's gift. The coverts at Mackross give woodcock shooting in January that is fit for a king, and a neighbouring important river offers the earliest salmon fishing in the same month. The sojourn of King George, who appreciates both shooting and fishing, for a few weeks yearly in Ireland would be the best conceivable developer of Irish sport. It would make Irish shooting "fashionable," and thus the quick-witted peasantry would speedily learn the advantages of preservation.

The mountain from which the sick man's heather came rises as a witness to remind how the mere prevention of poaching, observance of close seasons, and destruction of vermin and such mischievous birds as grey crows, made it possible to bag in a season 80 to 100 brace of grouse upon its slopes, though, when such measures were taken in hand, it, too, could hardly show a grouse. The sporting rights over it were acquired on a seven years' lease at a trifling rent. Then the lessee took on a man's pay and confidence threw likely peasants. It is not a crime to kill a fox in Kerry by methods other than hounds. The mountain was infested with foxes and badgers. So the keepers were set to work upon the beasts, while at intervals the lessee wandered round with his gun to do a little hawk and crow shooting. By poison and traps the three so wrought that a live fox in a bag or a dead badger slung on a pole reached their employer's house at an average rate of one a day for months, the foxes in their bags generally finding their way to a master of hounds in a neighbouring county. The poison and the traps were kept at work for the first year, during which no attempt was made even to look for grouse. There was any stock of grouse. Imported. The lessee trusted to the bird's habit of moving from mountain to mountain until it meets with a satisfactory home. Thus when the Twelfth of the second year of his tenancy came round it was with great anticipations but no little uncertainty that he and I met the three keepers at the mountain's foot. No one had seen a grouse upon the great mass of heather towering above us with little wisps of morning mist still fondling it. But one keeper said that, from his cottage, he had heard cock birds crowing many times at break of day. We were not quite certain at the time that he knew what a grouse was, much less that he could discriminate the crow.

We begged nineteen brace of grouse that day over a couple of setters; and we walked the three peasants to a standstill, so that in the afternoon they found themselves constrained to find substitutes. It was genuine sport. The mountain is of great extent. Many thousands of acres are made up by its great shoulders rising from the sea on the one hand, and towering over bogs on the other. We confined ourselves to the west side, and there found eight scattered coveys, in one of which we counted fourteen birds. These last escaped without a shot being fired at them, for the simple reason that, though the dogs stood, they did so in view of the most unenlightened keeper who did not know what they meant, floundered into the birds, and so put them up. Those birds were quite knowing and strong, and was an excellent marker, as indeed are most Kerry peasants. The manner in which they walk to the exact spot upon which lies a crippled snipe is at times uncanny. So now this untutored fellow made recompense for his false step by several times marking down the individuals of a covey scattered by the first shot. It was terribly exhausting work, that following up his marked birds. To shirk the task would have easily disheartened our keeper, whose pride in his little successes was great. We might have shirked if we had carried through a process of heather burning and drainage for years, and if we had imported birds. As matters were, we were content several times to descend from an altitude of 2,000 feet to secure the lowest mountain spurs in quest of his marked birds, and, having invariably found them, to climb again and resume our beat at the point where we had broken off. This operation helped to exhaust the lynx-eyed keeper. When his substitute got to work we took matters with that ease which ensues pleasantly upon work well done. All these three peasants have got their places honest and reliable in every way. In the seven years during which the lease ran there was never cause for a prosecution for poaching. No poacher ventured to approach the place. The season's bag came to average 80 to 100 brace, as I have said. But now this great mountain is what they call in Ireland a "free shooting." When the lease expired the lessee was unable to renew. Preservation then became in a state of suspended animation while the landlord cast about for a new tenant at an increased rent. While he so cast about he gave occasional days' shooting to friends, who killed all the grouse. The foxes and the badgers and the grey crow increased and multiplied again. So that to-day this particular free shooting yields a bountiful supply of very beautiful heather, but no grouse. R. B. H.

Just published. STANFORD'S HANDY GAME BOOK AND SHOOTING DIARY. This neat, compact game book should be in the possession of every sportsman who appreciates the utility and pleasure of keeping detailed records for reference. Size 7¼in. by 4½in., oblong, with 110 openings, and suggestions for use. Bound in stiff roan and lettered. Price 7s. 6d. net (Post free 7s. 10d.). "It is conveniently schemed throughout, and is evidently the outcome of practical experience."—*Field.* Descriptive leaflet gratis on application. London: EDWARD STANFORD, 12, 13, and 14, Long-acre, W.C. Cartographer to his Majesty the King.—[ADVT.]

SPORTING TROPHIES AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

THE Big Game Pavilion at the Festival of Empire held at the Crystal Palace is continuing to attract large numbers of sportsmen from all parts of the world, and has already been visited by most of the well-known big game shots in this country. The pavilion, which is a facsimile of the one erected for the British Section at the International Sports Exhibition held at Vienna last year, contains about 300 record heads and horns of big game from all parts of the British Empire. These trophies have been arranged according to the countries they come from, the divisions being Great Britain and Ireland, Africa, India, Canada, and New Zealand; while the centre wall has been reserved for the trophies lent by His Majesty the King. In addition to these exhibits there is a very fine representative collection of British fishes and game birds, besides many pictures of sporting subjects, several bronzes, and relics having a special interest from their association with some branch of sport. The collection has been brought together by Mr C. E. Fagan in his capacity as honorary organising secretary of this section of the Festival of Empire.

It may be well to mention here that the catalogue of the Vienna exhibits compiled by Mr Fagan is now printed, but that at present it is not possible to distribute it, as it must first be presented to Parliament in the form of an official report from the Board of Trade.

We give below a list of the more important trophies and other exhibits in the Big Game Pavilion at the Crystal Palace, many of which were not shown at Vienna.

H.M. the King.

2 Caribou (exceptionally fine heads)	1 Musk ox
1 Tahr	1 Markhor
1 Asiatic Ibex	1 Javan rusa (deer) from Mauritius.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught.

1 Mounted lion (very fine)	Thomson's gazelle
Lion and lioness (fore parts mounted)	Waller's gazelle
Jackson's hartebeest	Oryx
Coke's hartebeest	Eland
Impala	African buffalo (very fine).
Waterbuck	

Major C. L. Graham, 4th Hussars.

Black wildebeest	Sable antelope
2 Eland	Kudu
Cape hartebeest	Reed buck
Oribi	Klipspringer.

Mr F. J. Jackson, C.B., C.M.G., Lieut. Governor for East Africa Protectorate.

East African eland	Hippopotamus
Fringe-eared oryx	Impala
Black-bearded wildebeest	Cape buffalo.
Jackson's hartebeest	

Major-General A. A. A. Kinloch.

Indian buffalo	Black buck
Gaur	Indian rhinoceros
Ibex	Chinkara gazelle
Pir Panjil markhor	Tibetan gazelle.
Suleman markhor	

Capt. R. Meinertzhager.

Blesbok	Coke's hartebeest
Vaal rhebok	Kenai oribi
Waterbuck	Nyasaland brindled gnu
Cape buffalo	Black rhinoceros.

Mr H. Hesketh-Prichard.

Moose (from Quebec)	6 Caribou (one from Labrador).

General Sir A. Paget.

2 Clarke's gazelle	2 Speke's gazelle
Skull of lion	Leopard (head)
Oryx	2 Black buck.

Major A. B. Percival, 5th (Northumberland) Fusiliers.

Tiang	Waterbuck
2 Addax	Eland
Doreas gazelle	Barbary sheep
2 White oryx	Addra gazelle
White-cared kob	Abyssinian oribi.

Capt. C. G. Leslie, 5th (Northumberland) Fusiliers.

Oribi	Eland
Blesbok	Puku
Sable antelope	Lichtenstein's hartebeest
Rhodesian waterbuck	Cheeta
Lechwe	Lion and lioness.
2 Reedbuck	

Mr F. C. Selous.

White rhinoceros	Eland
Moose	Black wildebeest
Kudu	Gemsbuck
Cape Buffalo	Natal hog

Lord Wolverton.

Sömmerring's gazelle	Gaur
Waller's gazelle	Mounted lion
Black Leopard (head)	Mounted tiger
Oryx	Mounted leopard
Swamp Deer	Lion and lioness (foreparts mounted)
Crocodile	Four tiger cubs (in sprit).
Indian rhinoceros	

F.M. Viscount Kitchener, G.C.S.I., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., O.M.

Kudu	Gaur
Swamp deer	White rhinoceros (White Nile).

Capt. C. Hankey.

Oryx	White rhinoceros
Lesser kudu	Mongalla gazelle.

Great Britain and Ireland.

Record Scottish red deer antlers, lent by Colonel W. Hall Walker.

Another very fine pair of antlers, lent by Mr W. Radcliffe, shot by the late Mr Roualeyn Gordon-Cumming.

Other Scottish heads and antlers, lent by Lord Lovat, Sir John Ramsden, Bart., Viscount Iveagh, the Dowager Lady Burton, and Sir R. Buchanan Jardine, Bart.

Cumberland red deer antlers, lent by the Right Hon. J. W. Lowther, Speaker of the House of Commons.

A fine series of antlers of Exmoor red deer, killed by the North Devon and the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, lent by Earl Fortescue.

Three fine heads of park red deer, lent by Mr C. J. Lucas, including the Great Warnham stag, with shed antlers of six previous years.

Skull and antlers of the extinct Irish elk, lent by the Duke of Westminster.

Africa.

Record Coke's hartebeest, shot and lent by Capt. M. L. Pears.

Second best East African tiang, shot and lent by Major A. Percival.

Fourth best Topi, shot and lent by Lord Hindlip.

Second best Crawshay's waterbuck, shot and lent by Capt. C. G. Leslie.

Record Mrs Gray's kob, shot and lent by Engineer-Commander W. Scott Hill. Measurements: Length on front curve, 33½in.; girth, 7in.; tip to tip, 15½in.

Second best White-cared kob, shot and lent by Major A. Percival. Measurements: Length on front curve, 23½in.; girth, 6¼in.; tip to tip, 12¼in.

Record Impala, shot and lent by Sir Richard M. Dane. Measurements: Length on front curve, 31§in.; straight, 25§in.; girth, 6¼in.; tip to tip, 18§in.

Fourth best Speke's gazelle, and fourth best Clarke's gazelle, shot and lent by General Sir Arthur Paget.

Record Eastern Red-fronted gazelle, shot and lent by Colonel J. W. Yardley.

Record Somali Sömmerring's gazelle, shot and lent by Capt. C. G. Leslie.

Seventh best Sable antelope, shot and lent by Capt. C. G. Leslie.

Fourth best Roan antelope, and second best Gemsbuck, lent by W. A. Simpson Hinchliffe.

Second record Kudu, shot and lent by F. C. Selous. Measurements: Length on outside curve, 64in.; straight, 41in.: girth, 11in.; tip to tip, 25in.

Fifth best Zambesi eland, shot and lent by Major C. L. Graham.

Record East African eland shot and lent by F. J. Jackson.

Two very fine Giant eland heads lent by Major H. Gordon and Capt. R. W. Hadow. Measurements: Major Gordon's eland, length on front curve, 38§in.; girth, 14§in.; tip to tip, 31§in. Capt. Hadow's eland, length on front curve, 35¾in.; girth, 13in.; tip to tip, 30§in.

India.

Record Indian buffalo, shot and lent by A. Forbes. With the exception of the pair of horns in the British Natural History Museum (from Sir Hans Sloane's collection 1753), this is the largest pair of Indian buffalo horns known. Measurements: Mr Forbes's head, outside curve, 71in.; girth, 21§in.; tip to tip, 34§in. Length of British Museum specimen, outside curve, 77§in.

Second best Pir Panjil markhor, shot and lent by Capt. H. Barstow. Measurements: length on outside curve, 60§in.; straight, 39§in.; girth, 11§in.; tip to tip, 46in.

Sixth best Pir Panjil markhor, lent by the Marquis of Lansdowne.

Record Suleman markhor, shot on British territory, shot and lent by Major Sir George Roos Keppel.

Record Shou or Sikkim stag. Although not in Rowland Ward's *Records of Big Game* (6th edition), it is larger than any specimen mentioned there. Shot and lent by J. Claude White.

Gordon Smith's two Indian elephant tusks, tenth and eleventh records; lengths, 7ft. 3§in., and 7ft. 3¼in.; girths, 17§in. and 17§in.; weight, 102lb. and 97lb.

Two Indian lions, shot in the Bombay Presidency, and lent by Lord Lamington.

Canada.

White bighorn (*Ovis dalli*), second record, shot and lent by Lieut R. C. Dalgleish, R. N. Measurements: length on front curve, 47in.; girth, 13§in.; tip to tip, 28in.

Rocky mountain bighorn (*Ovis canadensis*), fifth record, shot and lent by G. L. Harrison, the well-known American big-game shot. Measurements: length on front curve, 42in.; girth, 17§in.; tip to tip, 15in.

Record Newfoundland caribou, lent by Sir George Littledale.

Fine series of heads of caribou, shot and lent by H. Hesketh Prichard, including the second record Barren ground caribou.

A very curious head of a White tailed deer, abnormal with five horns, shot and lent by G. M. Gathorne Hardy.

New Zealand.

A fine series of red and fallow deer heads, wild boar, and goats, and fish lent by the High Commissioner for New Zealand and T. E. Donne.

British Game Birds and Fishes.

Series of British gamebirds lent by W. R. Ogilvie Grant, C. E. P. Long and G. E. Lodge.

British Fishes lent by The Piscatorial Society, The Friendly Anglers Society, The Lychnobite Society, E. W. Gawthorne, J. W. Zaehnsdorf, A. J. Gear, and others.

Pictures lent by the Jockey Club.

St. Simon	Persimmon
Eclipse	Isinglass
Ormonde	Rock Sand.

Mr C. J. Lucas,

King of the Forest, by Landseer	4 Sporting Prints Shooting (after Stubbs)
4 Sporting Prints Hunting (after Sartorius).	

Mr Clarence Wilson.

"A Grouse Drive," by Thorburn.

Mr R. H. Rimington Wilson.

The Big Pack, by Stuart Wortley.

Mr Geo. E. Lodge.

Wild Fowl	Mallards
Woodcock	Red deer and others.

Mr A. Baird Carter.

The Approach of the Peregrine, (Thorburn)	Three Pictures by Kilburne illustrating a day with the Cheshire Hounds.
Vixen and cubs (Paton)	
Among the Heather (Thorburn)	

The Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P.

"Hermit" in training	also sporting relics, including
"Galopin"	9 plates in which Hermit ran when he won the Derby
Four Hounds	
Hound "Regulus"	Hoofs of Hermit and Galopin.

Bronzes lent by H. Haseltine.

H.M. Queen Alexandra's Barouche | "Riding Off"
Horse "Splendour" | Pole.

Bronzes lent by Capt. Adrian Jones.

The Last Arrow	Persimmon
Two Year Old	A Thoroughbred Stallion.

John Peel Relics, including his photograph, and the famous "horn," lent by Mr Robinson Bell.

THE SWYNCOMBE LAKE, N.Z.

ON A MAP OF NEW ZEALAND, halfway down the east coast of the South Island, may be seen Kaikoura, marked large, and a mile inland over the sand-hills is the Swyncombe Lake. Newcomers are sometimes informed that it is so named from the fact that 134 pigs were once shot in a drive ending at the valley beyond the water, but really it was called by the first owner after his own home in Devon. Roughly speaking, the lake is three miles long by a single mile across; it is bordered by zaupo-bulrush-swamp, and is the home of a multitude of ducks and black swans.

A boathouse was to be our shelter for the night, and after our horses had been fed, we ran the boat into the water, and chose a dry corner for a sleeping place. Darkness came before five o'clock, with tea and half-grilled, wholly-blackened chops a few minutes later, but the succeeding hours were of the slowest. From midnight until 2 a.m. I listened to the eels plunging about the end of the boathouse, or to occasional comments from the others on the hardness of their beds, and sooner than expected I heard a call "Rouse up, you sleepers, it is six o'clock." I felt that the term "sleepers" in my case, at least, was not deserved, but no matter; we boiled the billy under the stars, and while the two who had drawn the nearest stations stole quietly out into the dark dawn, C. W. and I paddled the boat as noiselessly as might be to the far end of the lake.

The shore was half a mile distant on either side, so we disturbed little except a few black swans, which, uttering weird melancholy notes of alarm, flapped heavily away over the surface, and the next proceeding was to anchor half a dozen decoys on the open water, in front of my stand in a zaupo clump. The submerged footing was none too sound, and I had to break down zaupo across and across a chosen spot, and stand upon that—trusting assuredly to broken reeds—while C. W. went further on to his selected place. Day was breaking when he loosed off a signal shot, and instantly there was a roar of wings as all the ducks in his vicinity sprang suddenly into the air. About a score came close enough to give easy chances, and roused by the firing many more joined them as they circled round past the other guns. For a time shots came frequently, as the birds flew round and round the lake, but gradually they rose higher, and at last departed for a more peaceful place. During the next hour we had only an occasional chance at stragglers, and then the main flight began to return in small parties, or in twos and threes.

This was by far the best shooting. High overhead a whistling of wings heralded the returning ducks, and then the sound increased to a rocket-like scorch, as catching sight of the decoys they swept downwards to the lake. If ducks are wanted for any particular reason, the plan is to let them settle; but the swift descent is such a sporting opportunity, and the splashing plunge following a successful shot is so satisfactory that I took them as they came, and was thankful, or the reverse. The lake is full of eels, and presently I noticed that several birds which undoubtedly had been clean killed, were behaving in a most animated fashion, diving and reappearing every few moments. When C. W. returned with the boat we proceeded to pick up, and found that the eels had already spoilt a brace, by stripping their breasts of flesh. In the afternoon the bordering zaupo was beaten for what it might contain; with two guns ashore, and two taking turns to shoot and pole the boat among the reeds. In this way I got a right and left at a pair of beautifully plumaged spoon-bill ducks or shovellers, whose feathers afterwards adorned a lady's hat, on which, in the present fashion, there would have been room for much of the lake zaupo as well. The black swans received attention last of all. At the commencement of the firing they had carefully withdrawn into a secluded arm of the lake, and here we sought them, a man on each shore, and two working the boat slowly midway between. Soon the swans took flight, and came back high over the guns. Those in the boat had the best of it, but all had plenty of chances, and provided one is within range, there is no difficulty in shooting a black swan. At last we were back at the boathouse, and while the horses were being put to, the bag was counted. We made it two shovellers, twelve pukeko, or swamp hens—like big moorhens, with extra long legs—eighty-one grey ducks, and twenty-six swans—in all 121 head. DRUMMOND SHAPE.

An interesting Booklet entitled "EIGHTY-FOUR YEARS' TEACHING OF SHOOTING—1827 to 1911" post free on application to Joseph Lang and Son, 102, New Bond-street, London, W.—[ADVT.]

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