

THE SHOOTING OF TOMORROW



Nilo hunting ranges progressively from "soft" to "tough" with varying heights of vegetation merg-

ing into deep timbered ravines. Above, hunters move through wheat stubble toward food patch.

After a year's operation of The Nilo Farms controlled shooting area, John M. Olin, president of Olin Industries, Inc., is more convinced than ever that it is "the shooting of tomorrow".

The project has two immediate objectives. One is to reduce the annual "crippling loss" in waterfowl and other feathered game by encouraging the use of retrieving dogs. The other is to increase the game supply available to sportsmen by showing farmers how they can produce an additional annual cash crop through the release of pen-raised birds for controlled shooting on American farms.

Using farm land that was intensely cultivated for agricultural purposes, the project showed how pen-reared game birds could be released by farmers into rotation strips during the fall and early winter months.

Fees for hunting privileges will enable farmers to profit during seasons when little or no income from their acreages can be realized through farming.

The perusal of facts and figures and critical scrutiny of nearly 150 skilled observers leads to the definite conclusion that controlled shooting can be both attractive to sportsmen and practical financially to farmers.

Mr. Olin is the guiding spirit of the Nilo dem-

onstration program. He has personally analyzed the field reports submitted by many Nilo guests, as well as checked the recommendations of wildlife technicians.

Nilo Farms is a demonstration wildlife conservation project launched by the company a year ago on a 520 acre site 12 miles from East Alton, company headquarters.

Nilo is Olin spelled backwards.

We are going to take the reader backstage at Nilo for a description of actual operations. The figures given in this report are conservative. They were compiled to show what can be done by farmers.

All shooting at Nilo this past season was conducted on a demonstration basis, but as nearly as possible, shooting conformed to the same general pattern—a two-man operation, with the number of hunters never exceeding eight on a single day. The total number of hunters participating in regular shoots was 132, while 16 others took part in special shoots for demonstration and photographic purposes.

Use of top-flight dogs from the Nilo Kennels assisted the 148 shooters to harvest 616 pheasants out of 1019 released, for a performance percentage of approximately 60½ per cent. This figure is about 10 per cent higher than the average per-