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## USE OF RIFLE HAS CHANGED SINCE GRANDFATHER'S DAY

By Captain W. H. Richard

The individual use of the rifle has undergone somewhat of a change since the days of our grandfathers, both in the nature and form of the weapon and for the purpose for which it is used. In the old days a dependable working knowledge of the rifle was a necessity for defense, offense, and to provide meats through hunting. Skill at target shooting, while being a means or recreation, was considered more as a matter of individual pride than as an absolute necessity.

Knowledge of game habits combined with skill with the rifle, formed the attributes of the successful hunter, with the odds in favor of the first-named accomplishment. The hunter who could most successfully locate and stalk his future dinner had not the need of the extreme skill of the target-shot, in that he killed at much shorter ranges and sometimes with a much inferior weapon.

For most of us the hunting day is past and if we are to develop and maintain skill with the rifle, the rifle range is the only means left to us. Our efforts, instead of being largely a study of the habits and nature of game, must be confined to a close grouping of shots at a target with its attendant study of cause and effect. Mere target shooting may not have all the thrill of chasing and witting a frontier savage nor get the pursuit of a steak on the hoof, but it does hold a fascination that is easily developed into one of the most satisfactory and cleanest of modern sports. There is nothing in the line of recreation that gives a keener sense of pleasure to the man seeking relaxation from daily cares than to spend an afternoon or evening in an effort to better his shooting average on the rifle range.

It is to the beginner, rather than to the experienced shot, that these lines are written, with the hope that they may assist in development.

### WHAT BEGINNERS SHOULD KNOW

Much pleasure is to be derived and early training made easier by starting to shoot with a light-calibered rifle, the .22 caliber being the favorite. Any good .22 caliber rifle is an extremely accurate weapon and is better for the beginner than a rifle of higher power, as it has little or no recoil, less report and may be shot a great many times at less expense in ammunition, if the latter clause is to be considered. A range for the .22 caliber is also much easier to locate and make safe, both indoors and out.

To rifle clubs and other organizations the rules of the National Rifle Association usually apply, the shooting being done at specified ranges and from different firing positions. The position most used and the one from which the steadiest hold is to be obtained, especially for the beginner, is the lying, or prone position.

At the small arms firing school for officers in the late war, Colonel Brookhart, Chief Instructor, designated what he considered the "ten commandments"

for the prone position, and which is here given.

The position is taken lying on the ground with head toward the target; elbows on ground, feet spread comfortably apart. The rifle does not touch the ground while aiming.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Adjust sling high.
2. Position 45 degrees.
3. Rifle Hard on shoulders
4. Freeze face to stock.
5. Take command of trigger.
6. Align sights.
7. Hold Breath.
8. Last focus on Bull.
9. Final trigger squeeze.
10. Call shot.

The above requires more time to read over than is really required to carry out when one becomes accustomed to shooting from the prone position. Also there will always be a diversity of opinion as to the best way to carry out the instructions. However, in the main, they are good.

## BANKERS' CONVENTION OPENED MONDAY

(Continued from Page Three)

which invited careful study of it and, thereafter, an expression of those receiving it as to whether the Plan met with their favorable consideration, and, if so, whether they would be willing to recommend to their respective boards of directors the investment by their institution of such amount as the law permits in the stock of a corporation as outlined. Suggestions for any alternative proposals also were invited.

"It was but natural to expect that the replies would be limited and it was likewise expected that there would be much diversity of opinion disclosed by the replies received. The results, however, have been most surprising. Letters have been received by the Committee from bankers in practically every State in the Union, and more than eighty-five per cent of these replies favor the plan. A very large percentage of those favoring it have indicated a disposition to recommend investment by their banks in the stock of the corporation organized for the purposes outlined in the plan, and in very few of the replies were any alternative proposals offered, although numerous replies offered constructive suggestions practically helpful in working details of the plan as outlined. These replies may be regarded as significant and as an index to banking sentiment, and from them the conclusion may be drawn that once such a corporation is organized on proper lines, under able leadership and with a board of directors representative of the various sections of the country, with assurances of co-operative support, it would have distinct elements of success. Its personnel would be all-important, but with experienced men of sound judgement and foresight at its head it should fill a highly important place in the affairs of this country and the world."

## LEADING TRAPSHOOTERS OF NINETEEN NINETEEN

By Peter P. Carney

In what in horse racing would be termed a "Garrison Finish," Mark P. Arie, of Champaign, Ill., defeated Woolfolk Henderson, of Lexington, Ky., for the honor of being the high average amateur trapshooter of the 1919 season.

Arie won the leading position by the margin of one one-hundredths of one per cent.

To our way of thinking this is just about as close a race as was ever run in any sport. It couldn't be much closer without being a "dead heat."

Frank Troeh, of Vancouver, Wash., last year's average leader, led until September when Henderson and Arie went by him in a rush. Henderson led until early in November when Arie by breaking 80 straight at Columbia, S. C., went in the lead by a fraction of a point. This brought them to the last shot of the year, at Birmingham, Ala., and both shooters participated.

Arie missed one target in 180, his 95th, and Henderson missed two, one in his last event, and that cost him his leadership, and the glory that goes with it. But Henderson has the satisfaction in knowing that he put up a great scrap for the laurel wreath.

Not only does Arie close the year as high average leader, but he also gets credit for the longest run of the year by an amateur—122. And as the Illinois shooter won the Illinois State championship, the Hercules All-Round Amateur Championship, and one or two other titles of consequence, it will be seen that he was a notable figure in the 1919 season.

It is more than likely that the leading ten in the amateur averages will be sent to Antwerp next August to represent the United States in the Olympic Games. You will find the names of these shooters, and their season's averages, below.

Rush Razee, of Curtis, Neb., won the professional high average leadership. According to the records he is the first shooter to finish a season with better than a .98 average.

Give a glance at these figures—the leading ten amateurs and the leading ten professionals—and they will give you an idea of the wonderful trapshooters we have in America.

### AMATEURS

Name	Address	Avge.
Arie, Mark	Champaign, Ill.	9780
Henderson Frank	Lexington, Ky.	9779
Troeh, Frank	Vancouver, Wash.	9762
Hansen, Oscar	Framont, Neb.	9730
Wright, Frank S.	Buffalo, N. Y.	9725
Risser, Art	Paris, Ill.	9716
Bungay, Robt.	Ocean Park, Cal.	9700
Seavey, J. W.	Portland, Ore.	9692
Sharman, S. H.	Salt Lake City	9692
Hoon, W. S.	Jewell, Ia.	9673

### PROFESSIONALS

Name	Address	Avge.
Razee, Rush	Curtis, Neb.	9801
Clark, Homer	Alton, Ill.	9755
Jahn, J. R.	Long Grove, Ia.	9755
Gilbert, Fred	Spring Lake, Ia.	9753
Ward, Guy	Alton, Ill.	9723
Jones, W. S.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	9697