



*Having worked out the wheat stubble and the food patch, hunters tackle heavy weeds in ravine. Each*

*party is routed by guides to take advantage of natural hiding instincts of liberated pheasants.*

formance percentage on Illinois shooting areas, but well within the maximum "take" of 70 per cent permitted by state law. Hunters were permitted to shoot both cocks and hens, and the average bag was almost exactly four birds, which is considered "par for the course" under the Nilo plan.

On days when his attendance at field trials was not required, T. W. "Cotton" Pershall, manager of The Nilo Kennels, accompanied one shooting party of four, with one of his assistants, Elbert Cummings or Avery Symington, handling the dogs for a second party, if one was necessary. Occasionally guests were permitted to bring their own dogs, but in general, most parties were accompanied by a brace of Nilo dogs. Breeds used included pointers, setters; Brittany spaniels and Weimeraners. If members of each hunting party voiced no preference of breeds, pointing dogs were used. Occasionally, however, visitors expressed the desire to hunt over National Retriever Champion King Buck, and other Labrador retrievers in Nilo's field trial string.

On the basis of the season's performance, Mr. Pershall was able to say that the breed of dog used made little difference in the total bag, but naturally, the type of hunting differed, depending on whether pointing, springing or retrieving dogs

were used. Few wounded birds were lost—none at all in open country. Several impenetrable brushpiles afforded refuge for the few "runners" that escaped after being hit.

Jack S. Thatcher, area supervisor, and Clair Milliken, resident manager, impersonated "Farmer Smith" and "Farmer Jones" in all shooting activities. Theoretically, these are the two men necessary for the operation of the Nilo plan of controlled shooting. In general, one man greeted and registered hunters and guided one shooting party. The other planted pheasants and acted as second guide. By correlating their activities, all lost motion was eliminated. All safety precautions were observed religiously. Because many shooters were Company guests from distant points, Chas. H. Hopkins, the Company's director of Conservation, served as official host, assisted by Charles E. Gillham, technical adviser for the Nilo project.

Since the Nilo technique is intended for adoption by others possessing the necessary acreage, a model plan of operation is available to all inquirers. This includes cost figures on materials needed for the construction of holding pens, a brooder pen, a brooder house, and other essential equipment. However, it is pointed out that the average farmer or sportsmen's group need not fol-

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