

Target Tips and Hunting Helps by Alfred P. Lane

Send questions to Mr. Lane
care of this paper.



Questions and Answers

Which is the most particular thing in shooting, is it the holding of the breath, or the standing position, or the slow, steady pull of the trigger and not to jerk when you have the sights in alignment?

By all odds the proper pulling of the trigger in rifle and pistol shooting is the first and most important thing to learn. It is impossible to become a good shot unless one is able to pull the trigger so that the weapon does not move.

1. In what year were breechloading shot-guns first used? By whom invented? What was the caliber or gauge?

2. What caliber revolver do you consider best for general use? What frame? What length of barrel? What is the penetration?

3. Which powder do you consider best for use in a revolver, smokeless or black? Why? Which do you consider the most harmful to the gun?

4. What causes the leading of a rifle barrel? What would you suggest as a remedy?

5. What is the caliber and model of the rifles being used in the present war by the German army? By the English? By the French? By the Austrians?

6. What is the caliber of the rifles being used at present by the United States Army?

7. What gauge shotgun do you consider best for general purposes in this state for small game?

8. What is the range of a 30-30 cartridge used in a rifle with a 26-inch barrel?

9. Would you recommend a repeater or a single-shot rifle for target work?

1. Lefauchaux Pin Fire shotguns in various gauges about 1836.

2. "General use" is a pretty broad term. I should say a .38 caliber Military either Colt or Smith & Wesson, with a six-inch barrel. When used with the S. & W. or Colt Special cartridge the penetration is about seven inches in soft pine.

3. Smokeless because it is as accurate as

black, and long series of shots may be fired without cleaning. Smokeless is more harmful to the barrel only when the arm is neglected.

4. Friction of the lead bullet on the barrel. A brass bristle brush will generally remove leading.

5. Germany: Mauser, Model 1898, caliber .311. England: Short Lee-Enfield, Model 1907, caliber .303. France: Lebel, Model 1886, caliber .315. Austria: Mannlicher, Model 1895, caliber .315.

6. United States uses the Model 1903 Springfield, chambered for the Model 1906 .30 caliber cartridge.

7. Twelve gauge is the most popular.

8. Ultimate range is about three thousand three hundred yards.

9. Repeater because it is just as accurate and is also useful for other purposes.

1. Will a heavy rifle shoot any better, and last any longer than a lighter one?

2. Will it pay to buy a second-hand gun if I have the privilege of trying it out first?

3. Will a single-shot rifle shoot any better than a repeater that is of the same make and same length of barrel?

4. Will a .22 caliber rifle be suitable for shooting hawks and crows?

5. Will smokeless powder shoot any harder than black powder?

1. Provided the material and workmanship are of the same grade on both, there should be no difference in length of life.

2. Buying second-hand articles of any description is a gamble. You will have to use your own judgment. If the barrel is in perfect condition and the action works properly you might take a chance.

3. No. If the repeater is properly constructed it will shoot just as accurately as a single shot.

4. Yes.

5. In the .22 caliber rimfire sizes smokeless powder is the more powerful.