

Forest and Stream
December 15, 1887

Big Game in Dakota

ELKHORN RANGE, Medora, Dakota, Dec. 1.—Editor *Forest and Stream*: During the past season my bag has been two mountain sheep, four antelope and eight deer, all shot round the ranch, as I have made no regular hunting trip. One ram had very fine horns.

My old .49-75 being rather the worse for five years hard service, I have taken up the new Winchester model, the .45-90, the so called model of 1886. It has proved most satisfactory; the first weapon for which I have ever been satisfied to exchange the old .45-.75. It has a lower trajectory, a stronger breech action, is absolutely accurate for any range at which game can be killed with the least certainty, and is as handy and capable of standing rough work as the old gun. I use the regular cartridge, 90 grs. of powder and a 300 gr. Solid ball, but I am inclined to think that for shooting bear at close quarters it would be better to take a Keene bullet, half as heavy again. With such a bullet it would be impossible to find a better weapon for dangerous game, and the effectiveness of the Keene principle I have tested with the old .45-.75, having been attracted to it by the mention made of it by General Wingate, in his interesting "Horseback Tour through the Yellowstone."

It is worth while carrying a few such bullets for occasions when hunting dangerous game in thick brush, and the new 1886 model Winchester seems to me the most satisfactory rifle I have ever yet come across for the wilder kinds of hunting in the United States. With the possible exception of the nearly extinct buffalo there is no game for which I would not recommend it, and personally I should use it for buffalo, too.

Bear and cougar seems to be getting more plentiful than ever round the ranch, but without properly trained dogs it is nearly impossible to get them out of the dense thickets and heavy timbered bottoms.