SNARES—*continued*

they were called *hayes* or *haia*. They were made of cut trees, much in the same manner that our stake-and-binder fences are constructed to-day, and formed permanent hedges. We read that they were to be made between the "dry and the green season," so that when the Spring comes they will be covered with leaves.

> "Thise holtis and thise hayis
> That han in wynter dede ben and drye,
> Revesten hem in greene, when that Mayis."
>
> Chaucer, "Troilus," iii.

Thus they would not scare the game, and being made across or along some part of the forest, and high enough to prevent the escape of the beasts, they formed ever-ready permanent traps.

When hunting took place beaters noisily drove towards these *hayes*, blowing horns, shouting, and even sometimes beating drums and clashing cymbals as they pushed their way through the woods. Dogs of all kinds were used to chivy or harry the game, and men with spears and bows and arrows, or whatever represented the Mannlicher in those days, hid themselves in the neighbourhood of the *hayes*, which prevented the escape of the game. There were many of these *hayes* in England; more than seventy are mentioned in Doomsday Book; they were chiefly in Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire. They occurred generally in groups of two, three, four and five, and even of seven, and were held by persons of all classes both in Church and State ("Shirley's Deer Parks," p. 12; Domesday, i. fols. 176, 185b, 189, 254b, 255b, 256b, 260, 263b, 269b, 240, 270, 165b; Ellis, i. 115; Delacourt, p. 7). As numerous quotations show, they were quite distinct from parks or chases.

Permission had to be obtained to make such hedges. The only one, the size of which is mentioned, is that of Donnelie, the modern Beldesert, in Warwickshire, which was half a mile long, and the same broad, and was appraised at thirty shillings per annum.

Deforestation and the diminution of game, as well as the more sporting instincts of the Normans, united to hasten the disuse and the disappearance of the Saxon *haia* in England, and after the Norman conquest one can find but little mention of the old permanent *haia*, although the fenced in or parked places in the forest were alluded to as hayés. In Edward II.'s reign the people of the county of Lancaster petitioned for the continuance of certain rights they had of the chase of smaller beasts in "tutes partes dedeinz sa Forest en le dit Countè, *dehors ses demeynes hayes*" (Rolls of Parliament. 18 Ed. II. 1324–1325).

Long nets were used in these reigns to make enclosures probably for occasional drives, and in the Wardrobe Accounts of Edward I. (6 Edward I.) there are entries showing that six carts were used to convey such nets belonging to the King from London to Oldham at the cost of 7 shillings and a sum of 7*s*. 6*d*. was paid for cordage to mend the said nets (*see also* Appendix: Fox). But the large battues within these nets or fences of stretched canvas were more frequent and usual in Germany and the other parts of the continent. If game was to be driven to the bows, or coursed in England, this took place within the many parks which had been enclosed with oak palings or stone walls; and it was this park hunting which was greatly in fashion in the late Tudor and Stuart days, for we had not those immense forests peopled with wild boar and wolves in our little island to render periodical wholesale slaughters an absolute necessity as they were abroad, and for which enormous lengths of nets and canvas and ropes were required.

In England in modern times the long nets used for capturing hares when their number was excessive or it was required to move them from one place to another, still retained the name of hays. They were about forty yards long and not more than six feet deep (Daniels, p. 467). But since the Ground Game Act of 1880 there is little chance of requiring these nets again, so much has the number of hares in the country diminished.

On the Continent the ancient *hayes* were not only used as impediments to the flight of game, but in such a manner as to trap the game; openings were made at short intervals, and in these openings were placed purse-nets and snares of all kinds, so that when the animals, scared at the noise behind them, came to the hedge they naturally made for the opening, and were there caught in the toils of a net or in a running noose. In order that the ropes of these snares might be less visible they were dyed green "with the juice of herbs, or brown with tannin from the tanners."

In a *Gaston Phoebus* picture we see a big boar taken in a purse-net and about to be despatched by his captor. As soon as the beast became entangled in it the man drew the cord which ran through the outer meshes of the net, and thus pulled it together like a purse-string.

It was this way of capturing animals that the prophet Isaiah had probably in his mind when he said: "Fear, and the pit, and the snare are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit, and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare."

In "the noise of the fear" we have the beaters shouting in the wood driving the doomed beasts towards the snare.

Gesner relates an instance of an amusingly mixed bag being captured in a pitfall, *i.e.*, a woman, a fox, and a wolf. The three remained in the pit together all night, the wolf hurting neither of the other two.

Plate XXIII. shows the manufacture of these nets as it was carried on in the first half of the fifteenth century.

Gaston de Foix only speaks of the use of *hayes* in conjunction with these nets and with pitfalls, as does also his predecessor the author of *Le Roi*

SNARES—*continued*

Modus. Their use without these snares, as introduced by the Saxons into England, was specifically a German custom, and survived in Germany in all its essentials, but with many *baroque* additions, to the end of the eighteenth century; indeed the use of cloth or canvas panels to direct the flight of the animals towards the stands of the sportsmen is to this day customary at some of the large battues at Continental courts.

It would be difficult to say at what period exactly permanent *hayes* gave way to movable ones made of netting or canvas. Gaston, though he gives instructions how to make the former, says that those of rope are preferable, as they could be shifted according to the country where the hunting was to take place. The openings in these *hayes*, he says, should be two cubits wide and four cubits high, at least for stags, less of course for boar. The net hung in the opening or in the path of the beast should trail on the ground two feet if it be for a boar, otherwise he would make his escape underneath it. For stags a foot off the ground was considered the right way of hanging the net.

Near the *hayes*, about a stone's-throw off, the huntsmen were directed to hide themselves as best they could and holloa and clap their hands as soon as the game had passed them, so as to scare them into the toils. Or the sportsman, armed with bow and arrows or with a cross-bow, would stand well hidden near the *hayes* and shoot the driven animals.

In G. de F. there is no mention or picture of another kind of ancient contrivance for stocking parks, *i.e.*, the *Saltatorium* or deer-leap. For although these traps by which it was intended to beguile stags, especially during the rutting time to enter enclosures by means of a leap down a steep bank of sufficient height to prevent them returning, were according to the ancient British forest laws in constant use, no pictures of these contrivances older than two centuries or so have survived either in England or abroad. One of the best is that of the *Hirsch Einsprung* engraved by Ridinger, the German artist, about one hundred and fifty years ago.

In mediæval times land was often held, as every one knows, by the performance of various services connected with the chase, such as keeping horses, hounds, hawks, the making of nets, and the rendering of the tenants' services in any capacity which might be required when the lord came to hunt in the neighbourhood. Besides the above, we find frequently mentioned that "ropes" had to be kept, without, however, any reference to their particular use, except that they were to be brought to the chase. They were probably utilised for stretching nets "in that part where, danger is," as the "Master of Game" puts it, viz., where deer were likely to get away across undesirable country or to water. Possibly some of these "ropes" were sewels, which were cords many hundred yards in length, to which bunches of feathers were tied at intervals of a couple of feet. The Germans called them "Federlappen"; they were drawn along the sides of the coverts to be driven. In parts of Germany the manufacture of these sewels was imposed solely upon the Jews.[1]

In the Boldon book, compiled in the year 1183, we hear of tenants having to keep greyhounds and ropes wherewith to attend the great hunt (Caza Magna). The juxtaposition of greyhounds and ropes suggests that in England the game was coursed within a complete or partial enclosure made by sewels.

In Britain they do not seem to have ever been popular, and most sportsmen appear to have held the opinion that

> "It were not meet to send a huntsman out
> Into the woods with net or gin or haye."

To come to the subject of gins and traps and other deadly devices for the destruction of larger beasts of prey, one must not forget that on the Continent bears and wolves committed incredible havoc even in late periods. Against these formidable foes the inhabitants had still to defend themselves at periods when in Britain the marten and the weasel and the fox were the only foes against which an Englishman had to use gins and snares.

The spear-trap or *Dardier* was a cruel looking device, depicted in Gaston Phoebus. The place, be it orchard or vineyard or cattle-yard, which Bruin was in the habit of visiting, was enclosed—probably with hurdles or *hayes*—with the exception of one small entrance. Here the harpoon-shaped "Dardier" was laid: "well stretched, and the iron of the spear very sharp and pointed and well tied to one of the cords of the pole, an elbow long, and half a foot wide, and a small cord which should be over the opening where the beast will enter and a clapper (weight) fastened to it just like a rat-trap. And when the beast would enter, he will touch it and unhinge it and the pole will come with its stiffness and go through his side." Gaston concludes his description thus: "I will say no more of this, for it is a villainous chase." This sentiment he repeats at the close of other chapters, in which he gives details of the

[1] Sewell, shewel, sewel, also schaile; in Mid. Eng. schawle, a scarecrow. Anything hung up is called a sewel; "And those are used most commonly to amaze a Dear, and to make him refuse to passe wher they are hanged up" (Turbervile, p. 98). From Turbervile's day to the present one can trace the word "sewel" or "sewell." Why *sewin* is used in its stead in the "Encyclopædia of Sport" I do not know, unless spelt according to some local or provincial manner of pronouncing it. *Sewin* is certainly an uncouth corruption of a good old English word which has at least four centuries of use to support it. Sewels were much used by the ancients. They were made either of feathers or pieces of linen (*pinnatum, formido*)—*see* Gratius and Nemesius. The statement made in the "Encyclopædia of Sport" that "the original form has been much modified and improved in recent years" is without foundation. Reels very similar to those described in the above handbook were in use in Duke Casimir of Coburg's time three centuries ago.