

**LETTERS TO YOUNG  
SPORTSMEN ON  
HUNTING,  
ANGLING AND SHOOTING**

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Letters to young sportsmen on hunting, angling and shooting by J. Mackillop & G. Hutchinson  
& Lionel Edwards

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**J. MACKILLOP & G. HUTCHINSON & LIONEL EDWARDS**

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HUNTING,  
ANGLING AND SHOOTING**



LETTERS TO YOUNG SPORTSMEN.



*First published in 1920.*

ON  
HUNTING, ANGLING AND  
SHOOTING.

BY  
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AND  
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# ON HUNTING

BY

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. MACKILLOP.



## ON HUNTING.—I.

### SOME PRELIMINARY HINTS.

THE war has introduced hundreds of young men to the horse in R.A. and R.A.S.C. as company commanders and transport officers, and other ways. They rode and learnt to like it, and now the war is over many will think of hunting who, had it not been for the equestrian side of soldiering, would never have thought of following hounds. To these I write. I disclaim any idea of laying down the law on so complex a subject. The veteran will think it all absurdly elementary, but let that same veteran, not being a soldier, turn at fifty to make up a pay sheet or write an appreciation on manœuvre orders and see what sort of a hand he makes of it. Hunting men made splendid officers. The sport had developed their initiative, confidence in themselves, and the power of quick grasp on situations. Map reading and the use of ground came easy to them.

Those now beginning hunting will never regret having done so, it will open to them a new vista of enjoyment. Hunting improves on acquaintance, gives more than it promises and, after the initial stages are over, is nothing but rewards and rewards which endure till *anno domini* calls a halt. In the past, boys started hunting on ponies, even in baskets on donkeys. I have seen a baby of eighteen months blooded in a perambulator. This rather unsavoury ceremony consists in the huntsman smearing the child's cheeks with the blood of a newly killed fox. The rite is considered almost sacred in some families and each child is blooded, if opportunity occurs, when first he appears at the covert side. The knowledge of hunting a decade ago was gained during a childhood passed in intimate contact with