HUNT FOR ANTELOPE.

The Lake County Desert the Only Place Where Large Herds of This Game Can Be Found.

The trapper counted to let the traps go for a day and join in at an antelope hunt. A large band of antelope had been seen the day before out in the direction of Little Juniper. Big Juniper and Little Juniper are about five miles apart on the Oregon desert. They rise a few hundred feet above the plain. From the fact that a rusty growth of Junipers grow on the southern slopes of the two mountains, they were given the name of the growth. The sheepmen who come out with the winter season are the only people to visit this region, except cattle men and occasional trapper. They had been reduced to a few heads in Oregon and they are most found in this, the most level portion of the state. A band of 30 or 40 is often seen here, but the sheepmen never molest them, as the monotonous stretch of desert and the corn content prevent the loss of the sheep, for the lake is surrounded by trees that receive long term rains that save the foot and great fatigue to make a living in the desert. For an antelope is killed without great effort and unerring patience, says Fred Snell in Portland Journal.

"Aren't they antelope?" inquired the trapper, looking through the glasses toward Little Juniper, passing the glasses to the sheepman. "No, sheep," replied the sheepman, after glancing through the glasses for a moment. "Let me have a look," and after searching for some time with the assistance of my companions I found them. "They are antelope, as sure as you like," I exclaimed at once. "You are right, they are sheep," said the trapper upon examination. "There is the herder and the dog over to the right." We pressed on in a fast walk, stopping occasionally to examine the figures in every direction. "It is easy enough to tell the antelope from sheep," and the sheepman went on. "You only have to watch a second," replied the trapper. "What is that over to the left that ran across the road?" and continued, examining an object through his glasses critically. I said he was antelope, he said as he handed the glasses over to the trapper. GAME SHOOTER.

"You are correct. They are antelope," replied the sheepman. I took the glasses and soon discovered how easy it was to tell the difference between the animals at a distance where the mere motion of the animals could be distinguished. They did not look any larger than small sheep, but their quick movements to the right and left appeared mere-sinu ands, and the entire band, which afterwards proved to consist of between 30 and 40, were in motion as many snares. Their heads were dropping up and down and they were as restless as playful children. While over to the right, about the same distance, was a band of sheep. A glance through the glasses at them showed a marked difference. They were as steadily as a swarm and poured along the plain in a continual mass. The experience in the night before is telling the difference between these animals and antelope, it matters not how great the distance.

OCEAN-LAND PLAINS.

We started out on foot at dawn, after being well armed with a hard rubber-cutting rifle. The party consisted of three, the trapper, sheepman, and myself. We had to get out of the everyday sleep range before we expected to find the antelope, and this required about five miles walk. Soon after we were out we well could see them and we were crossing the country in every direction by keeping a pair of fine glasses in the hand. The first we came to were the antelope that had been the previous day and the trapper had seen them. They were pounded longer and greater than any of the sheep of the day, and appeared to be as level as a floor for miles in every direction, yet traveling over it and watching objects upon it was this easily discerned not to be true. The country lies in rises and falls. They were as level as the seas of the ocean. The same and distant were so great that one might travel several miles before reaching any perceptible change in altitude. But the fact that a landmark will appear plainly at one point and greatly disappear like the mast of a ship on the horizon as one goes farther from it soon convince one that the desert is not level. These low points have been designated as "swales" by many stockmen throughout the country.

ANTELOPE-AS-SHEEP.

One of the most interesting objects to be seen are the antelope. They are often mistaken for sheep. Their legs are so small and their body drooping down that they can be seen many miles at a distance. They are different enough to distinguish them clearly through the glasses, while their movements are so quick and varied that their identity is entirely lost on the trail. But the state-like form of the animal and his fumbling dog body can always be distinguished from other objects.