

roduction of the breech-loader and magazine rifle, a smooth bore that would chamber an 18 or 20 bullet to the lb., and good for a shot at 100 or 150 yards, or a rifle that would kill at 18 or 20 rods, was good enough, and I have no hesitation in asserting that, gun for gun, there were more deer killed in those days than there are now.

In those days a man would not shoot unless he knew the game was within range. Now, to use the language of hunters, they, whether the game is standing, or on the jump, "pump lead after them," either as long as the animal remains in sight, or until the magazine becomes exhausted.

In Ontario there is no open prairie, and unless in a newly burned district, or on hill tops a shot is not often had at a greater distance than the old muzzle loader would carry, and if sportsmen were confined to the use of weapons good only for such distances, and would not shoot unless the chances were fairly good, fewer wounded animals would be lost.

Another reason why so many wounded deer are lost is the prevailing idea that if one raises its flag and bounds off after being shot at, there has been a clean miss. This is entirely wrong. I have known a deer to raise its flag and bound as gracefully off as if it were unhurt, and run for 150 yards before it fell dead, pierced through the lungs, the bushes dyed red with the blood squirted out by every breath it inhaled; and I have known another raise its flag, and cover 300 yards before it dropped, with the tip of its heart shot off.

No doubt, in a great many cases—perhaps in the majority of cases—a wounded deer does not raise its flag. Every one fired at, no matter how it may act, should be tracked for some distance, and care taken to find out whether it has been hit.

A case came to the knowledge of the writer recently of a sportsman standing on a hill; he had emptied his magazine at a buck on another hill at a long range. He remarked to a friend who came up that he had scored a clean miss every time. The friend prevailed upon him to follow it. It was found a short distance off with two bullets in its hind quarters which might or might not have proved

fatal, but which would have left it an easy prey to even a cur dog. There were two other shots through the body, either of which must have proved fatal in a few hours. It was, in fact, so much cut up with lead that the carcass was bestowed upon a settler, as not being worth taking out.

But of all the unsportsman-like methods resorted to in order to secure a haunch of venison or set of antlers, I hold that the calling of the male moose during the rutting season takes the lowest place. There is no more caution to be exercised or fatigue to be endured in stalking the Ontario moose than there is in the case of the red deer. Yet there are sportsmen—I trust they are few and far between—who, instead of going in broad daylight into the haunts of the moose and taking their chances for a shot where the animal's instincts are brought into competition with their cunning, sneak quietly, in the gloom of the evening, into its feeding grounds, esconce themselves to leeward of where they have reason to believe the animals are browsing, there, in the dead of the night, with a birch bark horn imitate the call of the female when she longs for the society of her mate,—a cry which owing to their keen sense of hearing is audible at a distance of a mile, and repeating the call until the game, completely deceived and responding to every note, is lured to its fate. It is forbidden to set a snare for moose; yet here is a snare of the very meanest kind, against which there is no law, but which should be legislated against at once.

There seems to be a consensus of opinion that two deer per man per season are enough,—in fact, the trend of public opinion has grown rather in favor of reducing the number to one; and two years ago it was made permissible to kill one bull moose on payment of a license of \$5 once in three years. This is now being changed, and an open season of one month in which to take one moose or caribou provided, for all that portion of Ontario north of the line of the C. P. R. This is as it should be. They are now so plentiful in that region that this concession can be very well afforded.

But we think this might be carried still further, and the killing of the female of any species of deer forbidden. It will