



The WHITE-TAILED DEER

This fine animal, better known perhaps as the Virginia Deer, is the best and most widely spread representative of American big game, as in one form or another it is found over the greater portion of the continent.

In Canada it is represented by three sub-species or geographical races, the typical form found in the East, the prairie form, which extends from Manitoba westwards to, and probably across, the Rocky Mountains, and lastly the Columbian White-tail or Cotton-tail Deer, which is the form found in extreme Southern British Columbia between the Selkirk and Cascade ranges. Nowhere in America is it found west of the latter range of mountains, where it is replaced by the Black-tail or Coast Deer, light-colored examples of which are sometimes taken for the White-tail. Nor do the ranges of the two species in any part of British Columbia impinge on each other, the Black-tail being exclusively confined to the coastal strip west of the Cascades. The White-tail of the Eastern provinces (where it is often known as "Red Deer") is not found in Newfoundland, nor is it indigenous to Nova Scotia, but its introduction to the latter province is being attended with success. In Eastern British Columbia a similar condition exists, and there is no chance of its extermination, nor of any serious decrease, if the present laws are enforced.

On the prairies, however, the inroads of civilization have seriously restricted its territory, and as it has a much more southerly range than its congener, the Mule-deer, careful preservation is required for its perpetuation.

Except in the prairie provinces therefore, it will continue to furnish to successive generations the highest type of sport—the still hunt in the woods—an infinitely harder art, and a better training for the young than deer stalking in an open country.