

"Towards autumn the periosteum becomes thicker, and takes on the character of skin, and from this skin grows the fine hair, which, as stated, finally pushes the sheath of the old horn away from its supporting bone, and at the extremity of the skin becomes new hard horn. After the sheath has been shed, the hair continues to grow, and as it grows it becomes matted together below the tip, dark and hard, and gradually working down toward the head, changes from a covering of single hairs, which are white in color, to a mass of black agglutinated fibres, precisely like the sheath which the animal carried the year before. This process gradually extends further and further down the horn, until at the base it is sometimes difficult to be certain just where the sheath ends and the skin of the head begins.

"During September and during the first half of October, antelope use their horns to some extent in fighting, and often come together with considerable force and energy, and push head to head for a long time. It is not probable, however, that such battles are ever severe enough to loosen the horns, or that they have anything to do with the annual loss of the sheath, which has been described."

It is an interesting fact that the female prong-horn possesses these ornaments, but they are smaller, rarely more than 3 or 4 inches long, if hunters are to be trusted. Packard gives an interesting figure, after Hays, of a young prong-horn with a pair of sharp conical horns, not pronged, but covered with hair like the rest of the head. Its method of feeding is unlike that of the deer for it crops grass but never nibbles leaves or shrubs. It is nomadic and so far as I could learn has no special local haunts.

Formerly large bands numbering thousands roamed over the prairie, but it is now scarce, indeed in some of the western states it is quite exterminated, so that where fifteen years ago in a county, in Colorado, fifty thousand of these beautiful creatures were known to exist, to-day there are not fifty. They never frequent wooded or sheltered districts, but constantly roam over the open plains where they are exposed to the hunter's rapacity. East of the Rockies, in Canada, small bands may be found, but excepting in California where a few have occasionally been noticed, the prong-horn is absent from the coast country west of the mountains. Only in severe storms do they forsake the open country, and seek shelter on the slopes of coulees, and they have been known to migrate hundreds of miles in winter to find slopes where the snow was light and feed obtainable. They cannot subsist on the rich eastern grasses, or live confined in sheltered reserves, and in captivity very little grass must be given if the captives are to be kept in health.