

BRITISH COLUMBIAN DEER.

The following letter from Mr. J. A. Teit of Spence's Bridge, B. C. is of interest both to the naturalist and the sportsman. Mr. Teit has lived in British Columbia for 15 years, is a careful observer and has had abundant opportunity for studying the animals of that province :—"There are three or four varieties of Western Deer known to me which are distinguishable chiefly by their tails. Now here in the interior there is :—

1st. A deer of large size, one of the largest, if not the largest, variety we have. Some of the old bucks have very large and thick horns, probably their horns grow to a larger size and are thicker than those of any other variety we have. The face is generally slightly concave although with some the reverse is the case. At the same season of the year there are two shades of color to be observed amongst them ; some are more greyish others more brownish. Their tail *is white all around from the root down to the tip* which is black. They are the commonest deer throughout the North Western portion of the "Dry Belt" (the Thompson, Bonaparte, Chilcoten, &c.) and are also very common in the Similkameen, the Okanagan, and in some parts of Kootenay. Some people call them Mule Deer. Others call them Black-tail and some call them American Deer.

2nd. A deer almost the same as the first and equal or nearly equal in size. Color of the body the same and ears just as long. The under part and the sides of the tail are white from the root down to the tip, which is black. The *back or outer part of the tail* is of the *same color as the body* and this stripe is *continuous from the body until it joins the black tip*. With some of them this stripe on the back of the tail is *very narrow* (about half an inch or less in width.) These deer are not so common in the Dry Belt as the first variety but are found along with them in most places. They are found on the Thompson, Bonaparte and Fraser rivers as far down as the canyon or even below, also around Lillooet and probably in most parts of the interior where the first