

Moose Hunting on The Miramichi.

The treatment of a subject of the nature of the one in hand in the space to which I am limited must be both desultory and incomplete. Desultory because space does not permit sufficient detail to insure continuity. Incomplete because without greater prolixity than could be endured in a paper of this kind it would be impossible to give herein a guide to the would-be moose hunter.

I shall, however, attempt to give such a treatment as will give the reader a true idea of what moose-hunting on the Miramichi really is, both as to methods employed and experiences met with. It will also be desirable to avoid, as far as possible, references to personal experiences owing to the extreme piscatory flavor adhering to tales of this kind, and so any personal experiences that I relate will be of such transcendent simplicity as to meet with the immediate sanction of the most suspicious and so forefend any possible impeachment of veracity.

First, then as to methods. These may be classified into two : that in which the hunter goes in search of the game and that of bringing the game to the hunter. The first method is generally termed *stalking* ; but I think the connotation of this word is not broad enough to embrace all the modes of operation included under this head. Stalking, strictly speaking, is either following the trail of some animal or approaching him under cover when in sight.

The method of stalking is followed to some extent in summer and almost exclusively in winter at which time the snow affords an excellent means of tracking. In summer, however, tracking to any considerable extent in the woods is impracticable and can be carried on only on the barrens. To track a moose in the woods where the earth is hard and dry and generally covered with dry leaves or exceedingly elastic moss which retains no impression, singularly acute vision is necessary to distinguish the slight displacement of particles of earth, leaves and moss made by the passing of an animal, while it requires a ready and intuitive power of inference from these observations to insure a favorable result of the chase. These requisites are very rarely possessed by the modern hunter.

The barrens, however, afford a fairly good opportunity for stalking. These barrens are long narrow stretches of country occurring at intervals through the woods of New Brunswick where there is either no growth of trees or else only a sparse and scattered growth of tamarack with an occasional alder swamp. They are generally from two hundred yards to a quarter of a mile in breadth, extending parallel to the streams draining the country for many miles and interrupted at intervals by the encroaching forests. The bottoms of these tracts are covered with dense moss to the depth of several feet with water oozing up at a depth of a few inches. Cranberry bogs and growths of heather are frequent on these barrens.