



Experiments With Reindeer

The Story of Canada's Efforts to Introduce a Valuable Animal to
New Forms of Service.

The connection of reindeer and forest conservation is not so remote as first thoughts might indicate. As mentioned in a recent number of the *Journal*, Mr. Ellwood Wilson, Chief Forester of the Laurentide Company, Grand Mere, P.Q., has succeeded in domesticating a remnant of the herd brought to Canada through the efforts of Dr. Wilfrid Grenfell, and these have come through the past winter remarkably well and will probably show an increase. Last year the deer showed their practical value in browsing off the hardwood seedlings in plantations where the forester wanted evergreens only to grow. Many devices were tried in an effort to get rid of the hardwoods. The reindeer finally were turned in and devoured

the hardwoods refusing to touch the conifers. That these animals were to be used for logging, or for winter travel in various woods operations and forest protection, is a happy theory which has not had much opportunity for demonstration.

The following article by Aubrey Fullerton in April "Rod and Gun" gives most interesting information on the reindeer question:

Five years ago a novel experiment was made by the Dominion Government in the way of wilderness colonization in the far Northwest. It was animal colonization, rather than human, but its success was likely to mean a great deal to the people who might settle there at some future time. For these new animal colonists were reindeer.