

foxes, whenever they find them on the open plains, at a distance from their underground dens. A large wolf is strong enough to carry off an arctic fox in his mouth at a rate of speed far surpassing that of hunters upon snowshoes. They are said frequently to attack and carry off the sleigh dogs of the Indians.

The northern Indians improve the breed of their sleigh dogs by crossing them with wolves. This process adds to their size, speed and strength. The voice of the wolf and that of the Indian dog, to my own personal knowledge, in volume and sound, is precisely similar.

Many years ago I remember having hunted deer with a large sized Indian dog. He was one of the best dogs that I ever turned loose upon a deer track. As he pursued his quarry his tongue was distinctly and unmistakably the howl of a wolf, loud, clear and prolonged, without a single sharp bark like that of a dog. This dog, true to the instincts of his ancestry, never failed to find a deer, if there was one within reach, and once the game was found, he stuck to the trail like his old progenitors until he tasted blood. I would not mind paying what some of my audience would consider an exorbitant price for such another dog to-day.

When I speak of Indian dogs, I do not mean the miserable diminutive race of singed curs generally found in starving annoyance around an Indian camp to-day. Such attenuated whelps, in my opinion, can trace their origin to the fox; certainly not to the wolf. I allude to the strong and hardy wolf dogs used by the Indians in the Northwest, and by the Esquimaux as they speed along over the snow under the crackling of the aurora borealis in the Arctic Circle.

The late Sheriff Dickson, of Pakenham, who, during many years of his life was, not only a successful deer hunter, but also an enthusiastic student of geology, in an interesting article on the wolf, published in the Canadian Naturalist and Geologist, gives many entertaining particulars respecting the Canadian wolf. From personal experience he bears testimony to the cowardice and treachery of wolves. When caught in a trap, wounded by a gunshot, or cornered up so that they could not escape he invariably killed them with a club or tomahawk, without ever meeting with any resistance. Wolves, he found, could always be frightened away from the carcass of a deer by firing a shot amongst them.