

Certain it is that in early autumn the industrious little creature sets to work, and much of its time is spent in cutting and piling up leaves which it conveys to some hole among broken rocks, that has been chosen for the winter.

Three species of trees grow about our camp, all conifers : a spruce, *Picea Engelmani* ; a hemlock, *Tsuga Mertensiana* ; and a balsam, *Abies sub-alpina* ; none of them were of large size, but although we were camped within a few hundred feet of the snow, they were almost as large as the same species had been a thousand feet below. No fruit of any kind was found at the altitude of our camp, but about a mile lower down the mountain *Vaccinium myrtilloides* and *Vaccinium ovalifolium* formed in many places the principal undergrowth ; the berries of the latter resemble our common blueberries in appearance, but are much more acid, and not valued highly when other fruit is to be had. *Vaccinium myrtilloides* is unequalled among Canadian wild fruits ; its berries are large, about half the size of the cultivated black cherry, which it exactly resembles in colour, the flavour is exquisite, and it possesses the rare quality of leaving no feeling of satiety, no matter how many of them may be eaten.

Of small birds there were about a dozen species on the mountain, several of them forms of common occurrence in Eastern Canada ; the pine siskin (*Spinus pinus*) and white-winged cross-bill (*Loxia leucop-tera*) were flocking together, the rasping note of the red breasted nut-hatch and the assertive call of the kinglet (*Regulus calendulus*) were frequently heard, several little winter wrens sang continually behind our camp, and a family of mountain blue-birds (*Sialia arctica*) occupied a hollow tree near us. Although we were camped at an altitude of more than 6000 feet the rufous-backed humming bird (*Trochilus rufus*) was almost as common as it had been at the coast. Of game birds but two species were shot, the blue or sooty grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*) and the rock ptarmigan (*Lagopus rupestris*) ; the former is a common bird throughout Western British Columbia, and we had counted upon shooting as many of them as we should need for food ; the ptarmigan is found only on the summits of high mountains, generally near the snow.

The descent of the mountain was not so difficult as disagreeable,