continued from p. 5

capacity of the project area to support an increasing moose herd."

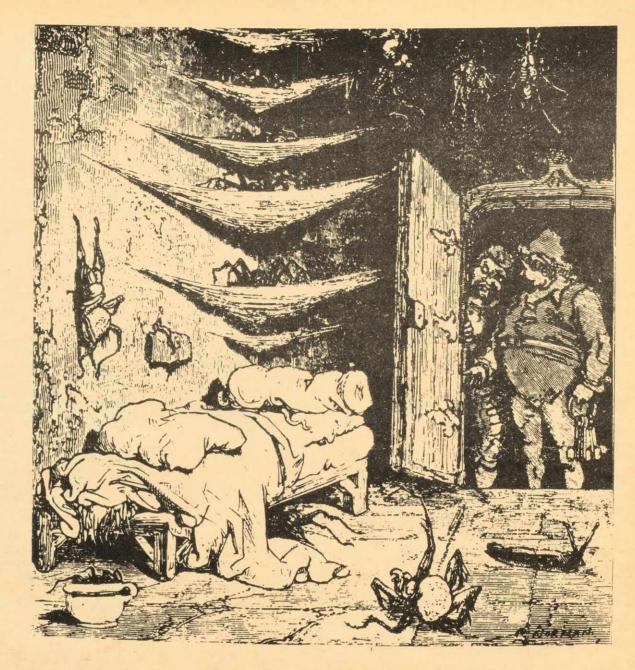
"The report states the flooding represents a reduction in habitat available to all mammal species in the project area. It goes on to say that since the project area is covered by mature coniferous forest, species such as the pine marten and lynx could be affected. But with the low densities and large home ranges normal for these carnivores, as well as the lack of concrete evidence as to populations or distribution in the study area, the significance of the effect of the development is difficult to predict. The CWF is concerned that statements such as these may imply that in depth mammal studies will not be conducted. We feel that these studies are important, especially in

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view of the fact that the present status of the lynx and the bobcat in Cape Breton are unknown, that no survey data are available on aquatic mammals, and that the Cape Breton Highland Region is reported to be the only area in Nova Scotia where the pine marten is found. Similarly, we recommend that adequate mitigating measures by implemented to protect bird life, with particular emphasis on: Two'' rare and endangered" species found in Cape Breton, namely the bald eagle and the osprey; the unique breeding the grey-cheeked thrush; the waterfowl found in the area; and populations of spruce and ruffed

* "The report does not give sufficient data to conduct a meaningful assessment of the environmental and social impact of the increased accessibility to previously remote wilderness areas, and of the overall cost-from both a financial and a resource point of view - of the project to the local economy."

* "The report indicates that a management strategy study will consider such parameters as resource values and management. It points out that placing a monetary value on the resource costs of the project would be naive, especially prior to the completion of surveys. Nevertheless, in failing to do so, we have no basis to estimate what the financial cost will be because the project will be completed prior to these evaluations."

The CWF also expressed its concern and anger over the apparent lack of real Federal Government interest in the issue. Only a single copy of the interim report was available for Environment Canada officials in Ottawa! On one occasion, that single copy was whisked off to Nova Scotia for three days, leaving Ottawa, perhaps symbolically, in the dark.

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