

"The beaver is a most prolific creature, and, if left undisturbed, the progeny of a single couple would, in a few years, stock a large extent of country. The young beavers remain in the same house as the parents until they are a year old, when they strike off in couples for themselves, and either build a new house on the same pond or select a site on some other creek, and there erect a dam and house. In a few weeks the dry swamp or marsh is transformed into a lake, and the stock of provisions, consisting of a pile of saplings and brush, for winter use, is laid up beside the house, only a few of the limbs showing above the surface of the water. In the interior of the house a dry, warm nest is made, where they remain all winter. Going out at the call of hunger to the pile of provisions, they drag a piece up out of the water and eat the bark, which, together with the roots of aquatic plants, is their only food, thrusting the pole back again into the water. Here they remain until the long, warm days of spring soften the ice, when, cutting a hole in it, they go out for a taste of fresh food. In the beginning of May they bring forth their young, which almost invariably consist the first year of two, after which the average number is from four to six."

Otter are also now very plentiful, and the marten, mink, fisher and their fur-coated kin are not behind in fecundity. In fact, the net-work of waters that course through the dark tree-avenues of the reservation are becoming thickly populated with these animals, and this region affords grand opportunities for the observation and study of the naturalist. The true sportsman will certainly rejoice that there is now such a sanctuary for our nobler game, and that already the lordly moose, which has been almost totally exterminated in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and elsewhere, and which bids fair to suffer a similar fate in this Province, is again multiplying. It seems almost incredible with what ferocity and wastefulness such animals as the moose have been hunted and killed in the past. According to an official report, in the spring of 1887, to give an example, the carcasses of not less than sixty moose were found in this district, the animals having been killed for their skins alone. During the preceding winter, between Lake Traverse on the Petawawa and Bissett's station on the C. F. R., a distance of a little over twenty miles, seventy moose were