

was too late in the season, however, the snakes having all left for summer quarters, and all that was to be seen were some skins that had been shed and a dead snake, probably an interloper, which had apparently been killed by the others. Mr. Webster expressed the belief that the snakes belonged to different communities, and that an individual who attempted to force its company on a community to which it did not belong, suffered the penalty of death at the fangs of the members of the invaded colony.

The bull snake (so-called), *Pityophis catenifer*, a harmless variety, is described as being a deadly enemy of the rattlesnake, which the former devours whole. The bull snake is therefore carefully preserved. Mr. Webster says that since the advent of miners and settlers the number of rattlesnakes has sensibly decreased.

A curious account of a snake fight was described by Mr. Webster, the witness being a Mr. Richter, a man well known to him, and of whose veracity he can vouch. It appears that during a cattle hunt Mr. Richter, feeling tired, dismounted, and fell asleep, but was awakened by a rustling noise in the grass near him. He raised himself carefully and saw a bull snake holding on to a garter snake, a species of *Eutania*, by the head. The latter was making frantic efforts to get away by winding itself about the body of the larger snake, nearly succeeding several times, when the bull snake loosened his hold in the attempt to get the smaller snake "end on," so as to begin the swallowing operation. At length the bull snake, apparently tired of this way of trying to capture its prey, reared itself on its head and began twirling itself violently with a spiral motion. This continued for about a minute, after which the garter snake seemed quite paralyzed, and the bull snake proceeded to swallow him at his leisure.

J. R. ANDERSON.

Victoria, B.C., 1901.