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Various estimates have been made as to the amount of money which, on the average, the visiting sportsman leaves in Canada. The problem is one that does not admit of a mathematical demonstration, and quite naturally different estimators vary widely in the totals they arrive at. We have always considered that, if the truth could be known, it would be found that the average was far higher than had ever been claimed by the most enthusiastic statistician.

We recently had an opportunity of questioning three sportsmen who had returned from shooting trips in the west. They had done everything *on paper*, and their expenses had naturally been much heavier than would ordinarily have been the case,—but the excesses of the amounts they spent over the figures usually quoted were quite startling. Each man had spent some \$1,800 in railway fares, provisions, horses, and labor, and although the disbursements of wealthy men are by no means a criterion of the necessary cost of a Canadian hunting trip, we feel tolerably certain that a great majority of our visitors spend larger sums than have been credited to them, and that few spend so little as the accepted average, which may be put roughly at \$100.

We think that this fresh instance of the generous expenditure by these gentlemen is a fresh instance in proof of the statement which has been made in these columns, that our game is one of the most valuable assets we have. Supposing that a murrain were to sweep away all our big game, none of these sportsmen would visit us, and the farmer, the ranchman, the trapper and the Indian would miss many a welcome bill which now finds its way into his hands. We must decide for ourselves whether we wish this golden stream to continue with an ever-growing volume, or whether we consider that as a nation we are so wealthy that we can afford to do without this source of income. As the great, prosperous republic at the south fills up with human beings, they will desire to make a playground of this Canada of ours, and if our forests, prairies and waters continue to yield such sport as they do to-day, we may be very sure that in comparison with the multitudes which will visit us, the two hundred thousand men who now resort to Maine each autumn will be a mustard seed to a pumpkin.

We desire to offer no excuse for reproducing this month, as a frontispiece, another of those lovely landscapes, which make

the Devil's River such a charming stream to follow. Few outsiders have visited it yet—and it has absolutely no residents along its shores, but the day is fast approaching when it will be better known.

*

Unlimited numbers of rabbit skins are to be obtained from Australia at a merely nominal price. Now the warmest fur that the Indian knows of is that of the rabbit, and a rabbit-skin blanket will keep a man warm even when camping out at 40 below zero. If some enterprising genius would merely introduce Australian rabbit-skin blankets, they should soon be in great demand in Canada, and it is quite possible that jackets of heavy canvas, or other wind-proof substance, and lined with rabbit-skin would fill a long felt want. Our own rabbits are not available in any great numbers, and the Indian method of making blankets—by weaving long strips into a coarse network does not meet with much favor—but a blanket lined with fur such as that of the rabbit would be a perfect godsend to the camper out.

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A visit to the different markets and game dealers of Montreal during the spring and fall flights will often yield a rich reward to the naturalist. Some very rare birds may sometimes be picked up at a bargain.

*

We are happy to be able to announce that a bill is to be introduced next session to further protect the wood buffalo until January 1, 1906. Instructions have been issued by the Commissioner of the North West Mounted Police to police officers in the Territories, giving this information and instructing them to warn half-breeds and Indians that the wood buffalo must not be killed under any circumstances.

According to the latest reports received by the Commissioner of the North-West Mounted Police, there are certainly not more than 400 wood buffalo alive. Dr. McKay, who was in charge of the district in which these buffalo range, for ten years, is of the opinion that they do not exceed this number. Another estimate by a fur trader is 300 in all. A Mr. Emerson, who is well acquainted with the district, is inclined to believe there are not more than 150 animals.

*

That wonderfully interesting animal the white goat is to be known in future (until they change the name again) as *Oreamnos montanus*. For many years it has been *Mazama*; this name was given it by Gill. Other writers have called it *Haploceros*, Smith being the donor of this name. But Ord was the first to capture this queer-looking mountain animal, and he called it *Oreamnos*—so let it be.

*

In the far away lakes of British Columbia there is a so-called land-locked salmon which differs, of course, from the land-locked salmon we know in the east. It bears, however, the same relation to the sock-eye as our fish does to the salar. The fish in question is a small, red-fleshed salmon, and it exists in great abundance in Shawnigan Lake, B.C., as well as in Seton and Anderson lakes in the State of Washington. The habits of these fish have been investigated by ichthyologists connected with the Smithsonian Institute. They say in their report, that, although this small salmon has free access to the Columbia River, and, consequently, to the sea, yet that it never leaves the lakes in which it is found.

The fish is abundant in the lakes discharging into the Stikine and Skeena rivers, although they are seldom seen excepting during the month of October.