

## BEAVER.

The method used in beaver hunting is well known and needs no description from me. The inquirer is referred to Samuel Hearne's description in his account of his great inland journey from Ft. Churchill, 1769 to 1772. The method of that day has not changed. Suffice to say that wherever a beaver lodge is found the inhabitants are exterminated. Their house being broken, those not caught are left to freeze as it is impossible for them to build again that winter. The principal time for beaver hunting is in January or February when other kinds of fur are not plentiful. Last October I saw a beaver lodge in the course of completion on Muskeg River (a tributary of Lake He a la Crosse), and I spent the better part of a night listening to the beaver working. In November I was again in the locality, but alas, some persons had found the location and the lodge was broken. I am told that a few years ago beaver abounded around Green Lake, but this year I do not think there are any.



WINTER CAMP NEAR CANOE LAKE.

The pay in trade for a prime male beaver now is 12 lbs. of sugar or its equivalent. At one time male beaver was the standard value, hence the term "skin" which is used in trading, everything being priced at so many skins.

Mink are plentiful.

Marten are rare.

Muskrat abound.

Rabbits are scarce at present.

Squirrels are not too plentiful.

## FISH.

The staple food of the native north of the Saskatchewan is fish and with this commodity he is amply supplied. White fish are found in all the lakes and rivers. Green Lake is stocked to repletion with as fine white fish as will be found anywhere. He a la Crosse Lake is also amply supplied. Canoe Lake, Marten Lake and all the immense water area comprised of the numerous lakes in this district are well stocked with this valuable food. As to the value of white fish as a food I cannot do better than quote Sir John Richardson's encomium as his opportunity for forming an opinion was of the best. There is no traveller in our North Country