

Some guides and some sporting men 'know it all' after they have a few trips to the woods and perhaps killed a moose or two, but I pick up something new every trip. I suppose it is because I am old and stupid.

"If I didn't have something to learn each trip, the business would soon lose its charm for me."

"Do you regard bears as destructive to moose, Mr. Braithwaite?"

"Yes, I am sure they are. They have a habit of following the cows about in the spring, and while as a rule they are too cowardly to attack the mother, they will await until her back is turned and pounce upon the newly born calf. I have even known cases where bears have attacked full grown bull moose. I remember one time being out in the month of April cruising for lumber on the Miramichi. There had been a considerable fall of snow the night before and I was not long in striking the trail of two large bull moose. I followed it and soon came upon the tracks of two bears going in the same direction. After travelling about half an hour I came to where the moose had parted company, and I was not long in discovering that the bears had done likewise, one going after each moose. The tracks were all fresh, and I began to get very much interested. I did not have to pursue one of the trails very far until I came to where the bear and moose had been engaged in a terrific battle, and the signs went to show that the bear had come off second best. The snow was dyed red with blood in many places, patches of moose hair were scattered about and the bark was partly torn from a number of trees, in fact it looked as if a small cyclone had travelled in that direction. A little Sherlock Holmes work satisfied me that the bear had started the row by leaping upon the moose's back, taking it completely by surprise. I don't know just what happened next, but from the rumpus kicked up I should say the battle must have raged at least an hour. I have read of Mexican bull fights, and should judge that they were very tame in comparison with the performance put on the boards by that bear and moose. The combat was certainly a fierce one, but the moose finally succeeded in unloading the bear, and compelled it to seek safety in a tree top. I saw the marks the bear made in shinning the tree, and concluded the old fellow must have been pressed for time. The moose got away all right, and although a blood trail was left behind I don't think the animal was 'all in' by any means. I felt like presenting that moose with a feed of oats."