

variety of the Mountain Sheep known as *Ovis Canadensis Dalli*, Nelson. The specimen seen was shot on a steep rocky slope near the summit of the range, and in rolling down, the skin and horns were injured so severely as to render them useless as specimens. This variety of the Mountain Sheep differs from the type of the species in its smaller size, in its uniform white colour, and in the slenderer build of the horns, but all these characters appear to be variable. The first information in regard to this animal is given in a short article by Mr E. W. Nelson in the proceedings of the U. S. National Museum, Vol. VII., p. 12, 1884. (See also Report upon Natural History collections made in Alaska between the years 1877 and 1881 by Edward W. Nelson, p. 282, issued in connection with the Signal Service U. S. Army, 1887. Mr. Nelson in this article describes the colour as a dingy white and states that the hairs are tipped with a speck of rusty colour. Lieut. H. T. Allen, U.S.A., on the other hand in a letter in "Science," Vol. VII., p. 57, 1886, states that the sheep seen by him on the head waters of Copper River, Alaska, were by no means dingy, but were, in fact nearly as white as their surroundings of snow. The latter statement agrees with my own observation, as the animal shot by my Indians was almost pure white. Another variation in colour was reported to me by some miners on the Yukon, who described some sheep shot by them on the upper part of this river as having a brown patch on both sides behind the fore shoulders, and referred to them as the "Saddle-backed Sheep." The latter probably mark a stage in a progressive change in coloration from the nearly uniform dull-brown of the normal species to the pure white of the northern variety.

The diminution in size of the northern sheep is even more remarkable than the change in coloration. Those shot in the southern part of the Canadian Rockies range in weight up to three hundred pounds, while the sheep brought into Fort Macpherson from the mountains west of Red River, according to Mr. Hodgson the officer in charge of that post, seldom exceed a hundred pounds in weight. Some of the specimens seen by Lieut. Allen, U.S.A., on the high snowy mountains at the head of Copper River, Alaska, are described by him as being as large as the ordinary Big-horn, while others met with only a