

day after, about noon, and followed it up till dark, when, despairing of success we abandoned the chase. I have found that in writing to many of my friends I occupied more space in describing my failure with this last herd than in relating my achievement in killing that splendid bull. I am anticipating my revenge sometime in the near future. Jacko declares that the herd consisted of six cows and one bull. I distinctly saw four moose. Was ever sportsman favored with such good luck? Here was a splendid chance—the chance of a lifetime, and yet I let it go. Next time I shall select my game and never lose sight of it until it is absolutely dead.

Before returning home, in order to prevent trouble, I secured a certificate from the magistrate that the moose was killed in Quebec.

Now for a few brief reflections on our trip. In the first place, there is no use for any man attempting moose-hunting unless he is in the pink of condition, physically speaking. The ground to be covered is such as to subject the most robust constitution to a severe trial. In the district where we hunted, steep hills and precipitous rocks abound. In spite of the natural obstacles, however, we covered a good deal of ground.

The moose-hunter must be prepared to encounter all sorts of weather. In our case rain and snow alternately fell, and in the fall of the year it is always cold at nights. The sportsman needs to be well clothed and properly rigged for hunting, with a pair of shoe-packs and mocassins.

As to camp diet, it is almost absolutely necessary that the food should be of the plainest. In this instance our fare consisted of fat shanty pork and beans, with crackers and bread, potatoes, tea and sugar. These were the substantial articles. We brought a few delicacies with us, but they proved of little service in the woods.

THE MOOSE OR AMERICAN ELK.

Alce Americanus (Jardine.)

Prof. Baird says: "It is somewhat unfortunate that the European name of this animal, the elk, should be applied here in America to an entirely different animal or deer. Much confusion has been produced in this way, and it becomes necessary to ascertain the nationality of an author before it is possible to know exactly what the word *elk* is intended to convey."

Specific character—Muzzle very broad, protruded, covered with hair, except a small, moist, naked spot in front of the nostrils; neck short and thick: hair thick and brittle: throat rather maned in both sexes: hind legs have the tuft of hair rather above the middle of the matatarsus: the males have palmate horns. The nose cavity in the skull is very large, reaching behind to a line over the front of the grinders: the intermaxillaries are very long, but do not reach to the nasal. The nasals are very short.

Habitat—Northern United States northward. Still found, though scarce, in northern Ontario.

Average size—Equal to that of a large horse.

Average weight—800 to 1,000 lbs.

Average height—5 feet.

Average length—7 to 8 feet.

Average value of skin—In the raw, \$4 to \$5, or 40c. per lb.

It is generally conceded that the American moose is the same animal as the Swedish elk. It is certainly the largest of the deer tribe found on this continent, and fully equals a horse in bulk.

The males are considerably larger than the females, and often weigh over a thousand pounds.

The moose varies in color according to season and climate, some being of an ashy gray, others of a darker gray, and a few, in the autumn, of a glossy black.