

Before daybreak on the following morning, for a chase is seldom begun late in the day, the great body of hunters are off under the guidance of scouts in pursuit of the main herd. A ride of an hour or more brings them within, say a mile of the buffalo, which have been moving slowly off as they approached. The hunt, up to this time, has moved in four columns, with every man in his place. As they draw nearer at a gentle trot, the immense herd breaks into a rolling gallop. Now the critical and long-desired moment has arrived. The chief gives the signal. "Allee!" "Allee!" he shouts, and a thousand reckless riders dash forward at a wild run. Into the herd they penetrate; along its sides they stretch, the trained horses regulating their pace to that of the moving mass beside them; guns flash, shots and yells resound; the dust arises in thick clouds over the struggling band; and the chase sweeps rapidly over the plain, leaving its traces behind in the multitude of animals lying dead upon the ground, or feebly struggling in their death throes. The hunter pauses not a moment, but loads and fires with the utmost rapidity, pouring in his bullets at the closest range, often almost touching the animal he aims at. To facilitate the rapidity of his fire, he uses a flint-lock, smooth-bore trading gun, and enters the chase with his mouth filled with bullets. A handful of powder is let fall from the powder horn, a bullet is dropped from the mouth into the muzzle, a tap with the butt-end of the firelock on the saddle causes the salivated bullet to adhere

to the powder during the moment necessary to depress the barrel, when the discharge is instantly effected without bringing the gun to the shoulder. Sometimes it happens that in the excitement of the hunt accidents occur, and the ball intended for the buffalo strikes some unfortunate rider; at other times, guns explode, carrying away part of the hands using them; and then even the most expert runners sometimes find their way into badger holes, breaking or dislocating the collar bones of the riders in the fall.

The identification of the slain animals is left till the run is over. This is accomplished by means of marked bullets, the locality in which the animal lies, for which the hunter always keeps a sharp lookout, and the spot where the bullet entered. By the time the hunters begin to appear, returning from the chase, there have arrived long trains of carts from the camp, to carry back the meat and robes. The animals having been identified, the work of skinning and cutting up begins, in which the women and children participate. In a remarkably brief time the plain is strewn with skeletons stripped of flesh, and the well loaded train is on its return. Arrived at camp, the robes are at once stretched upon a framework of poles, and the greater part of the flesh scraped from them, after which they are folded and packed away for the final dressing. The choice portions of the meat are used in a fresh state, but large quantities are converted into pemmican, in which shape it finds its readiest market.

## THE PRODUCTION OF WHEAT.

### CANADIAN NORTH WEST VS. UNITED STATES.

We cannot exemplify the superiority of the North West as a wheat producing country better than by quoting from a letter recently written by the American Consul at Winnipeg, J. W. Taylor, Esq. He says:

"I find my best illustration that the climate is not materially different west of Lake Athabasca, in latitude 60

degrees, than we experience west of Lake Superior in latitude 46 degrees, in some personal observations of the north-western extension of wheat cultivation. In 1871, Mr. Archibald, the well-known proprietor of the Dundas mills in southern Minnesota, visited Manitoba. He remarked that the spring wheat in his vicinity was deteriorating — softening, and he sought a change of seed, to restore its flinty texture. He timed his visit to