

other particulars, it has long since been decided by competent naturalists to be distinct. It is between four feet six inches and five feet high at the shoulders, or about one foot higher than the English stag. In Knight's Cyclopædia of Natural History, it is said that "all the upper parts and the lower jaw are of a somewhat lively, yellowish brown; there is a black mark from the angle of the mouth along the side of the lower jaw, and a brown circle around the eye. The neck is mixed with red and black, with coarse hair descending from it like a dew-lap, deeper in colour than the sides.—From the shoulders to the hips, French gray; a pale yellowish patch on the buttocks, bounded on the thighs by a black line. The tail is yellowish, and only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, whereas it is nearly 7 inches in the European stag.—The hair is of a mean length on the shoulders, the back the flanks, the thighs, and the under part of the head; that on the sides and limbs is shorter, but the hair is very long on the sides of the head, posteriorly, and on the neck, particularly below where it forms the kind of dew-lap above alluded to. On the posterior and outer aspects of the hind legs, there is a brush of tawny hair which surrounds a narrow long horny substance. The ears are white within, and clothed with tufted hair externally of the same colour as the neighbouring parts; a naked triangular space round the large lachrymal sinus near the inner angle of the eye; hoofs small and black, like the common stag. The Wapite has a muzzle, upper canine teeth, and a soft tongue; the quality of the hair is brittle, and there is a short wool beneath it.\*

The horns are round, very large and long. A fragment now lying before us which was found in the County of Renfrew, is two feet four inches in length and seven inches in circumference. It is a piece from the central part of a horn that was probably over four feet in length when perfect. A pair of horns from the head of a full grown Wapite weigh from thirty-five to forty-five pounds. We have just weighed a pretty large pair of buck's horns of the common species, (*Cervus Virginianus*), and find their weight to be four and a half pounds. Those of the Wapite are therefore on an average, ten times the size of those of the common buck. They are not curved forward, but rise from the head upward and backward, the main shaft being nearly on a straight line with the facial outline, or a line drawn from the point of the nose above to the forehead. Near the base they sometimes have brow antlers, or branches which bend downward. Fragments of these enormous horns are frequently found in the new Townships of Canada by the settlers, while clearing their land from the forest. They may be easily distinguished from the horns of the moose by their not being palmated, but round, with round sharp prongs; and on account of their great size, they can never be mistaken for those of the common deer. Within the last one hundred and twenty years the Wapite was somewhat common in the valley of the Ottawa, according to traditions among the Indians. The many fragments of horns we have seen, do not appear to have lain in the ground more than one hundred years. They are usually found in the vegetable soil just beneath the

\* *English Cyclopædia of Natural History*, vol. 1, page 865.