

INTRODUCTORY.

Trapping in Canada and the provinces has been engaged in by white men ever since they set foot upon our shores, learning many of the fine points of the art from the Indians who roamed through the vast forests.

Too much credit cannot be given the hardy trapper of early days for his courage, skill and perseverance, which enabled him to explore unknown wastes, pass through trackless forests and drive his canoe along streams with dangerous and unknown rapids, and falls concealed around the bend, all in pursuit of furs fit to grace the shoulders of a queen.

Those days have practically passed away, except in the mountains and the far north, and to-day fertile farms have taken the place of the forests, cities and villages have dissipated the unknown wastes, and the rapids and waterfalls have been harnessed to provide power for great manufacturing institutions which tend to make our country prosperous and take its high place among the nations of the world.

Strange as it may seem, the catch of furs to-day is greater and more valuable than when the country was a wilderness, and while the professional trapper has to a great extent engaged in other pursuits, the bulk of the furs caught in this age are captured by the ambitious farmer