

The Summer.

The first signs of spring appear in March and the snow has generally disappeared by the end of the month. Canadians say they have no spring; the transition from winter to summer is certainly very rapid. By the end of May hot days occur, the trees are in full leaf, vegetables have made astonishing progress, and the woods are full of birds that have returned from the South and are preparing to build.

The lover of out door life may betake himself to his woodland cottage or 'shanty' as early as the first of April. Canoeing, fishing, and other summer amusements can be begun at once. At this time the naturalist takes great interest in observing the successive arrivals of the feathered tribes. Very beautiful ornithological collections can be made in Ontario, many of the species being highly colored. Among them the new comer will doubtless be astonished to find that there are golden orioles, canaries and humming birds. These birds supposed to be peculiar to hot countries afford a hint of the almost tropical summer shortly to be expected.

The Canadian summer may be defined as three months of splendidly fine and hot weather, sprinkled with severe thunder storms.

The retired Anglo Indian, during June, July and August finds himself among quite familiar associations. Long chairs and iced drinks on the broad verandahs which surround every Canadian home, are the order of the day—the venetian blinds are closed and rooms darkened for coolness, while tennis cannot be thought of until the cool of the evening. The mosquito and the fly have to be combatted by day or circumvented with the aid of gauze curtains at night.

Owing to the great heat of the North American summer, the splendid weather that prevails and the existence of endless wild country intersected by lakes and streams, camp life occupies a very prominent position in the round of the year. No one considers the summer has been properly spent without some "camping" so called.

This was originally genuine tenting, as is still done on canoeing and shooting trips or for their summer holiday by those who have not attained to the dignity of a cottage.

But tentlife in very hot weather, with occasional thunderstorms, has its drawbacks, and when a family came to revisit the same camping place in successive years and to form in fact a "standing" camp, it was found convenient to put up some kind of rough wooden shelter. This soon developed further, and it is now the usual custom to buy a suitable site, very often an island, and to build thereon a summer cottage, in which the hot months can be passed with more ease and comfort than under canvas. The cost of this is but small.