

The habit of calling or tolling wild animals is practiced by the Indians to a great extent, and that is where they excel as hunters. An Indian can imitate any animal, by uttering sounds similar to those of the particular one he is in pursuit of, and thus entice it within shooting distance.

The only other member of the Castoridae in Newfoundland, is the well known Muskrat (*Fiber Zibethicus*). He needs no description as he is familiar to everyone who takes a stroll near the margin of our lakes and ponds during summertime.

His habits and mode of life are very similar to those of the beaver, his elder brother or cousin, as the Indians call him. He feeds much in the same way, but is not able to fell such large trees, contenting himself with twigs and lilly pads. He sometimes constructs a house of grass and weeds, somewhat similar to that of the Beaver, but more often contents himself with a hole or burrow dug into the soft banks of the streams he frequents.

I am happy to say the valuable and interesting Beaver, which a few years ago was in danger of being exterminated, has of late, owing to wise legislation, which prohibited the killing for a term of years, begun to increase again rapidly.

#### Phocidae, the Seal Family.

The animals of this family are of course most interesting to all Newfoundlanders. It is the pursuit of these ice riding pinnipeds which constitutes our great annual Seal hunt, or sealing voyage. I need not delay you by describing this so called seal fishery. Of course it is scarcely necessary to tell you that this term is altogether a misnomer. The seal is in no sense a fish, but a warm blooded mammalian, while the true fish is a cold blooded animal.