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### Deadfalls and Snares.

BY ROBT. G. HODGSON.

Primitive methods of trapping are not only interesting, but are sometimes very valuable in securing animals where, for any reason, traps cannot be used. From this I do not wish the reader to assume that he should use any primitive method or contrivance in preference to our highly efficient steel traps; rather that we use them should we run out of traps, or as a contrivance has proposed to the should we run out of traps, or as a contrivance has proposed to the should we run out of traps, or as a contribute has proposed in the standard transitions. sometimes happens in bear trapping, the heavy traps cannot always be trans-ported to the required place, and deadfalls must be substituted.

The simplest contrivance for the taking of any animal is undoubtedly the snare, and this can be used only for certain animals. It is much in use in the north for taking lynx, sometimes fox (where traps are scarce), and the rabbit to use as food or hait as food or bait.

For lynx and fox use No. 20 brass or copper wire, about six strands of wire being twisted together so that it will slip easily. The noose of the snare should be about eight or ten inches in diameter. It is necessary to get rid of the bright shine and brassy odor, and the following Indian method will be found to be

Take the bark of a hemlock tree and, peeling it right to the wood, chop it in small pieces. Put these pieces in a pot and cover with water and boil for an hour, then put in your snares and boil them until they are a nice brown color.

The method of snaring fox is to find their path, or a cattle or sheep path which they are sure to follow, and from an overhanging limb, or from each side of a "barricade" run up to each side of the path, suspend your snare, and if necessary to tie it to hold the nose apart, use strands of grass which are easily broken when Mr. Fox pokes his head through.

Another method, managed much in the same way, is to find logs crossing streams and set your snares here: The only disadvantage to this set is that stray dogs are prone to use logs as crossing places over streams quite as often as foxes; consequently if you find someone's dog in this set some morning you need not be surprised.

The method for lynx is sometimes

similar to the path method for fox; that is, the snare is suspended in like manner in their trail. You will undoubtedly have much more success in taking lynx in snares than you will fox; lynx at their best are very stupid animals.

Another method for lynx is to build a pen about four feet long, three feet high and two feet wide, of sticks, etc., and roof it over with boughs, bark and other debris. Bait is placed in the back end of pen, and the south end is left open and the snare set at the entrance.

Figure 1 illustrates a snare set, this being the kind used chiefly for lynx. As will be noted, a small tree is felled across the animal's path, one end of the tree suspended with a crotched stick, while the other is allowed to rest on the stump of the log. The set is then barricaded

with sticks as shown.

Of the dead-falls, there are many kinds, all serving the same purpose, but varying with individual trappers. The type illustrated in Fig. 2 is a kind used chiefly in the northern parts of Canada, and is the best and simplest I ever ran across. small pen is built against the trunk of the ree as shown. Guide sticks are used to guide the drop-log in its proper course, and the trigger, the most important part of the set is simply of two pieces, the end of the upright one being sharpened to fit into the groove cut into the lower one. Bait is placed on the end of the stick. and inclined inwards just as much as will be required to get the animal in reaching for the bait, to have the centre of its body directly under the drop-log. The small "log" in the bottom is to act as a platform for the trigger part and to form something solid, so that when the top log falls it will crush the animal.

There are many modifications and supposedly improvements on the deadfall, but you will never run across one that is better in every way than the one

Where the trapper goes north or any place to make trapping a business, and where he has to carry or otherwise transport his luggage, he is not always able to take along as many traps as he could use to advantage. A roll of snare wire, which weighs about the same as one good Thomas Graham, Port Perry, R.R. 3, Ontario | fox or lynx trap, will make dozens of

# Better Bull Bulletin

ONTARIO CATTLE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION TORONTO, CANADA

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