

like shamming in its conduct, when brought to ground by a shot and apparently dead. In this condition it has been known to lie perfectly still until the hunter came close up to it, and then spring upon him, and impale him in an instant.

Very dangerous at times were certain sulky old bulls, which having been driven off from their herd, nourished, like some human beings, a hatred of everything living. Genereux, an old Hudson Bay man, in passing with a dog-train betwixt two thickets of timber, was suddenly pounced upon by one of these morose animals, which tossed dogs, sled and all into the air, and made a wreck of the outfit. Another, maddened by the persecution of some Indian dogs, charged a large train of carts numbering scores which was on its way from Battle River to Fort Carlton, loaded with pemmican and dried meat. The infuriated brute rushed among the oxen and ponies, smashed collars and shafts and injured almost every cart before the astonished freighters could collect their senses, and shoot it.

But the buffaloes never were so dangerous to man as their pursuers ever have been to each other. The history of the North-West plain Indians down to the time of the transfer of the territories was simply a history of raids and reprisals begot of the horse stealing which was begot of the chase. This does not closely concern my subject, but it may be fittingly recorded here that the last of the purely Indian fights in the territories took place between the Blackfeet and the Crees, twenty years ago, on the plains southwest of Batocle, on the South Saskatchewan. The lives lost in the fight were few, but the lives lost in consequence of it were many, and the struggle might almost be called the Saskatchewan bison's avenger. The dancing over a Blackfoot scalp taken in that fight, and which was infected with the virus of small-pox, spread that fatal disease all over the North Saskatchewan, and decimated the Cree race.

As the bison has practically passed away, so the economic uses to which it was put by the natives and early immigrants in the North-West have passed away with it. Most writers have made note of one or other of these economies and doubtless all of them have been described. But it is none the less in place to bring them together in a paper like this, since they are closely related to my main subject. As a food the flesh of the buffalo was inferior to domestic beef in nutritive qualities; but if less satiating it was much more digestible. The tongue, hump, back fat and marrow bones were the choicest parts of the animal. The tongues, taken in winter and cured in spring, were beyond all comparison delicious; much more delicate, indeed, than the domestic, or even the reindeer tongue, and not so cloying. To cure them they were steeped in cold, then in tepid water. Six quarts of common salt, with some salt-petre added, were rubbed by hand into a hundred fresh tongues, after which they were put into a vessel, weighted down with stones, and allowed to soak in the brine, thus formed, for fifteen days. They were then taken out and strung up in pairs upon poles in the ordinary lodge or cabin, and when dry-smoked were fit for use or export. For the latter purpose they were generally cured at the Hudson Bay Company's posts, and as many as four thousand were thus treated at Carlton in a single year.

The boss or hump, a curious protuberance upon the shoulders of the buffalo, had a separate set of ribs, inosculating with the spine, and consisted of alternate layers of exquisitely tender fat and lean meat. It was the most highly prized part of the animal, and in one of average size weighed about thirty lbs. The "back fat," which was rich,