

fish for his net. Every animal he is strong enough to master, and can in any way lay hold of, he considers his lawful prey. And it is of daily occurrence, in sections of country frequented by him, for trappers, when going their rounds, to find they have been forestalled by the fisher, and the game eaten out of their traps and dead-falls.

The ominous title of Mr. Grant's paper, "The Vanishing Moose," is suggestive, and would lead to the belief that the animal is nearly extinct. This may hold good south of the St. Lawrence, but it does not apply, nor will it, I trust, to Ontario, for many decades yet.

Mr. Grant says: "Their extreme eastern limit, north of our southern border, is the Lake of the Woods and Dog Lake, in Manitoba, around which they are still numerous," and further on, "that a few may still be found in the once famous Muskoka deer country," but that "the best place to get one now is on the east side of the Ottawa River, above Mattawa."

Mr. Grant's paper, I make no doubt, is perfectly accurate, in so far as regards what we might call the geography of the moose to the south of us, but when he comes to deal with the moose in Ontario, he shows himself to have been wrongly informed, for at no period of our own known history were the moose so plentiful as now, in the Muskoka, Nipissing and Rainy River districts, and the unsettled parts of the Huron and Ottawa Territory.

It would seem as if our larger game had been in the habit of suddenly forsaking certain sections of country altogether, for a term of years, and then as suddenly returning to their former haunts, for in nearly all parts of Ontario the decayed antlers and bones of both moose and elk are frequently found. But it is only within the last few years that moose were to be met with west of the Ottawa River, south of the Mattawa, French River and

Lake Nipissing. No elk seem as yet to have returned to any part of that district.

Six years ago I met, at the head of Lake Temiscaming, an old Indian, who was then seventy-four years of age, but has since passed over to the happy hunting-ground. He had been born and had spent nearly all his life in that locality. He said, in his own quaint, broken English: "Long ago, plenty deer, plenty beaver, plenty bear, plenty wolf; no caribou, no moose. Now, no deer, no wolf a few beaver, some bears, a few caribou, p-l-e-n-t-y moose."

It may sound somewhat paradoxical, but is none the less true, that different families of the same species of animals, as well as distinct species, like man, seem to prefer having certain districts entirely to themselves, notwithstanding the fact that, both as regards food and climate, the country may be equally well adapted for all of them. Thus, while the otter, beaver, and nearly all the smaller fur-bearing animals are found all over the Dominion, of the different varieties of the bear family the only one found in Ontario is the common black bear, and the white polar bear, along the coasts of Hudson's Bay. And while the black bear roams all over, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, neither the brown bear or grizzly ever appears east of the prairie region of the west. And while there is abundant evidence that our woods were liberally stocked with both moose and elk at no very remote period in our history, I am not aware of any trace of the caribou ever having been found east of the Algoma District. Then, too, while the moose have returned in such vast hordes to their former haunts, the elk has failed to put in an appearance. It is a question if there are any at all in the province at present. They seem destined to be the next animals to follow the fate of the buffalo. This peculiarity of the four-footed animals belongs also to some birds. The common partridge