

hosts farewell, left for his den. The four braves trailed him for about an hour, when they came to a large cave. Peering inside they saw the sack lying on the ground a few feet from the entrance. Standing guard over it on each side were two immense black bears.

However, the four men had been selected for their courage, and without hesitating, they entered the cave and demanded the sack. The bears sprang at them. Three of the hunters were instantly killed. The last man was struck down, mortally wounded, but before he expired he slashed the sack and released the heat.

Instantly the air grew warm, the snow began to melt, and the rivers and lakes came into being throughout the land. The hills and valleys were covered with trees and flowers, berry bushes grew everywhere, strange birds came in great numbers to build their nests, and the streams were filled with fish.

And every year since that time, summer has come to the Yukon.

## An Indian Marriage in the Early Days of the Yukon Territory

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE in the early days of the Yukon Territory were very different institutions from the present ideas of the young braves and squaws who do most of their courting in the moving picture shows, and demand the services of a clergyman at their wedding. From the standpoint of legality, the Canadian Government has always recognized the Indian marriage as perfectly binding. However, it is a question whether married life was any happier before the advent of the white man or not.

When the young brave of the early days saw the girl of his choice, he didn't go to call upon her. He didn't even speak to her. For the peace of mind of his neighbors it would have been better if he had. But, perched on a log or a stump outside her wigwam, he would sing a doleful love song hour after hour. To the unaccustomed ear the tune sounded like a cross between the wail of a husky and an asthmatic wheeze. There was only one verse, a literal translation being:

I am pitiful,  
You come to me.  
If you do come to me,  
It will be very good.

After hours of this, if he was not shot at in the meantime, he left for his own wigwam. If the girl accepted his suit, she placed a pair of finely-worked moccasins on the stump or log where he had been crooning. When he spied them, he would pick them up and take them to his wigwam. That signified their engagement, provided there were no parental objections. The parents not only had the final say in the matter, but they made all arrangements for the wedding.

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