

often necessary to make very long tramps and when we sum up a week's provisions, a nine or ten pound rifle, a tomahawk, cartridges, a few simple cooking utensils, a hunting-knife, a blanket, etc., it will not seem strange that at times the load runs as high as fifty pounds. This, however, need be done only when we make our headquarters in the settlements or when we go long distances from our camp.

Then there is the discomfort of camping in the open air. But this lying by the camp-fire on frosty nights in the fall with or without a blanket, or lying on the ground in the rain when this latter precludes the possibility of a fire, which is to the uninitiated a source of great misery, becomes to the true lover of the woods the chief delight of hunting. I confess that even with my devotion to woodcraft, at times when I hardly expected ever to see civilization again, I have often determined to give it up; but even then on second thought, except for one instance which I shrink from relating, I have always had the thought expressed so well in the words of Virgil, "forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit."

Camping out in the winter is sometimes very rough work, especially when it snows. The actual contact with hunted animals is not always free from danger. We sometimes have strange neighbors during the night who disturb us in the dark. Tramping through the woods at night in dense-darkness is not the most pleasant task one might wish for. Many experiences might be referred to; but would require a separate treatment.

In glancing at the problem of the future of moose-hunting on the Miramichi and in New Brunswick generally I remember several articles, which I have read during the last few months, speaking of the *rapid increase* of the moose in that region in late years. It is true that the increase has been remarkable. It was my pleasure last fall to hunt over a country where twelve years ago a moose had never been seen and when I was there they were very plentiful; but this is not to say that the increase can continue. Under existing circumstances it certainly can not. We must remember that during last season over two hundred moose were killed in New Brunswick and I have no doubt that many more will be killed during the winter. At this rate the moose cannot last long.

Then the ruthless and almost criminal destruction of our forests is tending to the extermination of the moose. The game and forest laws at present have a pretence of stopping this process of extermination: and yet I have no hesitation in stating it as my opinion that unless these laws are radically changed and the destruction goes on as it has this year, in the short space of five years a moose will be an almost unheard-of thing in the forests of New Brunswick.

C. J. Mersereau.

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