

to each on the upper line, a float of light pine, or cedar wood is tied which keeps the net distended; both in summer and winter the best depth for nets, is three to five fathom water; in shoal water the fish are not so good. In winter the nets being sheltered by the ice, the fishery is more steady, not being disturbed by gales of wind. In some Lakes in Spring and Autumn there are an abundance of grey¹ and red Carp;² the former have so very many small bones that only the head and a piece behind it are eaten; but the red Carp are a good fish though weak food. The daily allowance of a Man is eight pounds of fish, which is held to be equal to five pounds of meat; almost the only change through the year are hares and grouse, very dry eating; a few Martens,³ a chance Beaver,⁴ Lynx⁵ and Porcupine.⁶ Vegetables would be acceptable but [are] not worth the trouble and risk of raising, and almost every small trading house is deserted during the summer, or only two men [are] left to take care of the place; every person with very few exceptions, enjoys good health, and we neither had, nor required a medical Man. Formerly the Beavers were very numerous, the many Lakes and Rivers gave them ample space; and the poor Indian had then only a pointed stick shaped and hardened in the fire, a stone Hatchet, Spear and Arrow heads of the same; thus armed he was weak against the sagacious Beaver, who, on the banks of a Lake, made itself a house of a foot thick, or more; composed of earth and small flat stones, crossed and bound together with pieces of wood; upon which no impression could be made but by fire. But when the arrival of the White People had changed all their weapons from stone to iron and steel, and added the fatal Gun, every animal fell before the Indian;

¹ *Moxostoma lesueurii* (Richardson). [E. A. P.]

² *Catostomus catostomus* (Forster). [E. A. P.]

³ *Martes a. abieticola* (Preble). [E. A. P.]

⁴ *Castor canadensis* Kuhl. [E. A. P.]

⁵ *Lynx canadensis* Kerr. [E. A. P.]

⁶ *Erethizon dorsatum* (Linn.). [E. A. P.]