

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA

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Sport in Labrador.

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The pleasures of life in any part of the world are very largely dependent on the person to be pleased. So, Mr. Editor, you must discount from that basis my statement that "life down here is as enjoyable as anywhere else in the world," and must put it down to "idiosyncrasy" if I fail to persuade your readers to agree with me. No life of idleness can ever be free from ennui, and suicide always seems to me the inevitable drift of the mere pleasure-seeker. Given, however, work enough to constitute a *raison d'être* for life in these regions, I am free to maintain that down here, viewed from whatever standpoint—spiritual, intellectual or physical—life needs no points from anywhere else, while a tired worker from the maddening crowd can find isolation enough from the strain and rush due to modern discoveries and inventions, without either vegetating into the proverbial turnip or being absolutely out of touch with the doings of the great world outside. What waste of brain matter five editions a day conduce to. It is marvellous what little news of the world the fortnightly summary, which alone reaches us down here, appears to bring, and how little of importance one finds one has really missed when one returns even to regions where hurrying along in underground tubes one sees at all hours miserable fellow-creatures of all ages ruining their eyesight over ill-printed "speshuls." One can get books that are worth having as well here as anywhere, and enjoy the

additional pleasure of being able to share whatever is pleasurable and profitable in them with others unable in any other way to attain it. It must be confessed that in many places intellectual development is put to as little practical purpose as is the physical development, though both are often gained in our big cities by such countless hours and even years of energy and toil. Inquiring in a certain city as to what uses the best athletes put their physical development, and what happened to them when "settled" in city life, the writer was informed, "the majority appear very rapidly to 'revert to type,' while many run to cumbersome adiposity." Neither happens with us here. One's only sorrows are how little one is able to impart to others. For one is called on to know everything from doctoring to watchmaking, from practical astronomy to curing boot leather from a recently-captured seal; while gymnastic or football training of our youth rewards one every day whether we hunt or travel, whether we sail the sea and paddle along river and lake in summer, or drive dogs, and komatik, and ply "ski" or snowshoe over the iron bound sea and land in winter. Alas, the poverty and often dire necessity of our neighbors, and I may add, friends, frequently grieves anyone possessed of a soul that cares for aught besides its own welfare. But it at least affords us opportunities of doing our charity without proxy, and feeling easy in mind that our second coat, when