

smaller limbs, which they then transport to their camps by dragging them along with their teeth. Once in the water, they swim with their burden easily enough, taking care always to catch the limb by its larger end, allowing the branches to trail behind.

On the approach of winter they accumulate a large amount of material for food, and place it just outside the entrance to their houses, keeping it in position by other sticks and weights. This is to provide a supply for winter use when the ponds and rivers are all frozen over. They then dive out under, lop off a junk, and bring it inside to make a meal from, which they do by peeling off the outer skin and eating the inner, more succulent bark. When the junk is cleaned of all its bark it is carried outside again.

So wonderful is the instinct of the beaver, that he would seem almost to possess the reasoning powers of a human being. He appears amongst other things to possess the power of forecasting the weather, and the surest indication of a severe or mild winter, is the amount of provender, termed brouse, he may have stored up for use during that period.

In many other respects the Beaver displays an astonishing amount of sagacity. It has frequently occurred to me that the cunning attributed to the Fox is misplaced; it belongs more properly to the Beaver. His sense of smell and hearing are extremely acute, but his sight is not as keen. Although such a knowing animal, he can nevertheless, when not frightened, be easily outwitted by man. The Indian hunter can call, or toll him within a few yards of his gun, so long as the animal has not heard or winded him. He can even call him out of his house at midday. The Beaver is decidedly nocturnal in his habits, doing most of his work at night-time, and seldom leaving his abode during daylight, except at early dawn, or in the evening twilight.