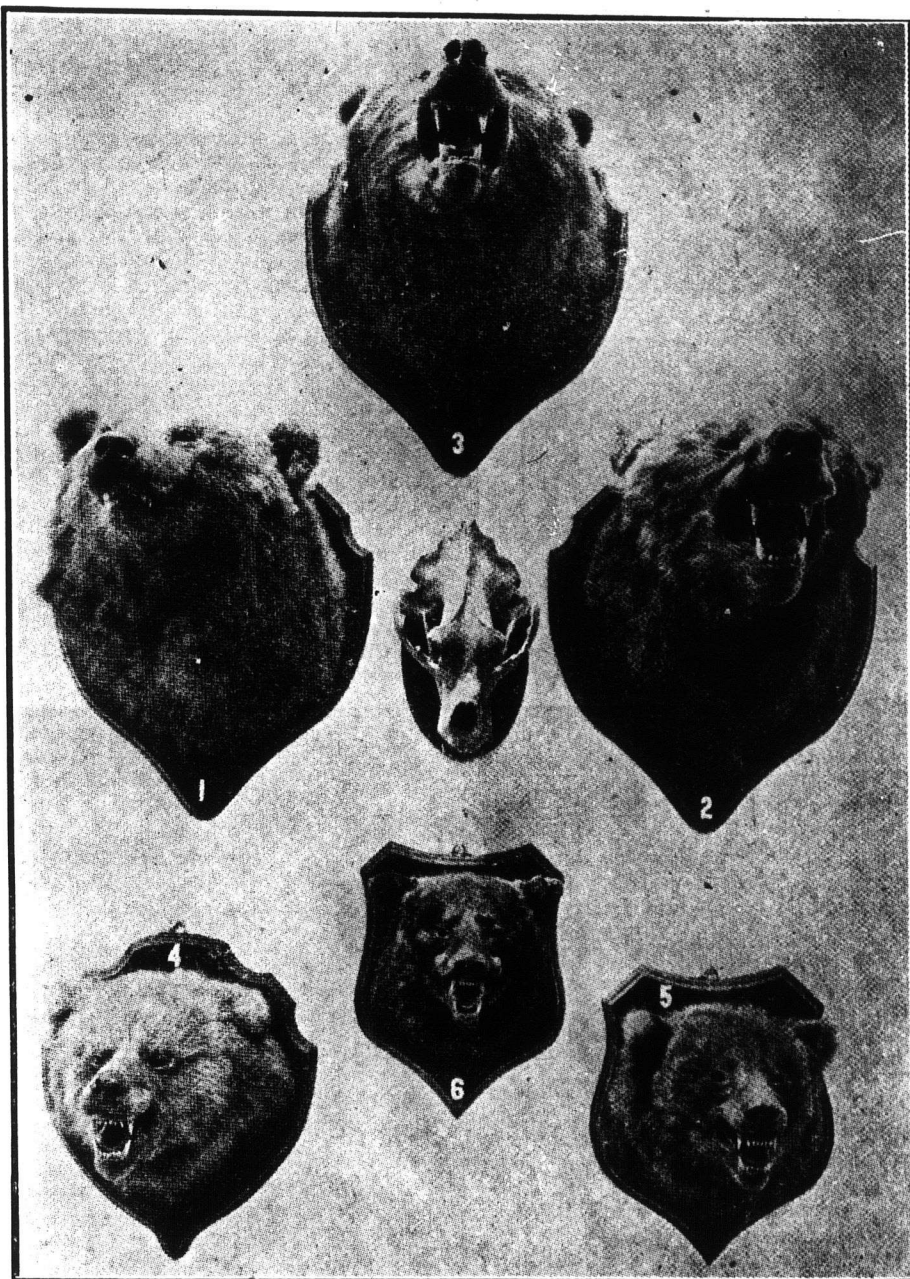


Of the fine collection of deer heads which have been gathered together one of the most prized from a zoological point of view is the set of antlers from Pere David's deer. This species of animal once lived in China, but is now found only in zoological gardens. Its total census amounts to about twenty-eight living representatives. Before the Boxer war a herd of two hundred was kept in the Imperial park, near Peking, but during the war they were destroyed. Only eleven pairs of David deer antlers are on record, and among these that in the national collection takes rank as third in excellence. Another very rare pair of antlers is that of the Schomburgk deer, a native of Northern Siam. This particular set of horns is second best amongst a total of eight specimens in existence.

The collection had not been in existence many months before it was enriched by the addition of those magnificent and splendid trophies secured by Mr. A. S. Reed, an English sportsman, during an extensive series of hunting adventures in the wild Northwest, and which for three years has been on exhibition at the Union Club in Victoria, British Columbia. It included heads of the giant moose, caribou, Alaskan brown bear, white mountain sheep, and walrus. Owing to the disappearance of the big game of Alaska, it is doubtful whether it would be possible now to bring together a similar collection of such fine specimens. The Reed trophies were well known among the sportsmen of Europe. The reason why the owner desired to part with them was because he has taken up his residence in this country. When he left Victoria and finally settled in England he gave instructions for his collection to be sold, and fixed the price at £2,000. It went begging for some time, when it was finally secured for America's national collection for £1,000 through the generosity of Mr. Emerson McMillin, a member of the Camp Fire Club. This was the sum offered for the heads and horns, there being a great number of very large skin rugs in the collection. When Mr. Reed received this offer he replied that he would not like



Some brown bear heads from Alaska. No. 6 is that of an Alaskan black bear. These heads were in the Reed collection, which now has been taken over by the national collection.

to divide the collection in any way, and, in view of the important object for which the collection was desired, decided to let them go for £1,000—a truly sportsmanlike transaction. The purchase was made barely in time to forestall its sale abroad. Mr. Paul Niedieck, a famous German sportsman, was even on his way to Victoria with a view to purchasing the trophies. He has since declared that he would willingly have given £2,000 for the lot.

There are no less than six magnificent moose heads in the Reed collection. This animal carries the largest head weapon of any animal extant. It is truly the colossus of the north, though it is sad to relate that in certain districts of the North American Continent, where it formerly roamed in large numbers, it is now practically extinct. This is a pity, for the moose is a wonderful creature. Professor Osborne has said that "Nature has been a million years in developing this remarkable animal." One of the set of antlers in the collection boasts of a spread of 6 ft. 4 ins., only 2½ ins. less than the world's record; while the palmation is enormous, exceeding anything of the sort ever seen before. There are no less than forty-two points on this pair of antlers. There are also six mounted heads of the caribou, ten white mountain sheep heads, and six bear heads. Among the caribou is a specimen of the Osborn species, killed in the Cassiar Mountains of North British Columbia in 1896. In size, in massiveness, length of tines, and general ensemble it is certainly one of the finest heads in existence. It boasts of forty-four points. This particular species are declared to be the largest and handsomest of the caribou.

It was on the Kenai Peninsula in November and December, 1900, that Mr. Reed secured his sheep heads. Inasmuch as shooting white sheep on the Peninsula is now prohibited, these trophies may be rightly regarded as prized ones. The length of the outer curve of their horns runs from 34¼ ins. up to 38¾ ins. Another feature about them is this: A good many of the white mountain sheep now in the halls of sports-

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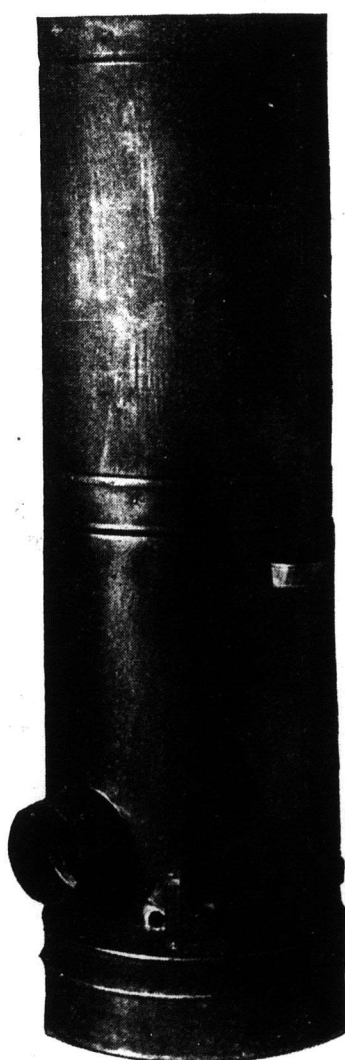
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Wolseley, Sask., Nov. 19, 1909.

The Sterling Straw Stove Co.,
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Gentlemen:—
I used your Straw Stove last winter and found it would do all that is required of it. I had a good coal cook stove, but it would not heat my house. After putting in a Straw Stove I had no more trouble. I only used the coal stove for cooking and then let it go out; and used the Straw Stove altogether for heating. By filling the cylinder night and morning, which took me from five to ten minutes I had a steady heat night and day at a cost of getting a load or two of straw during the winter.

Yours truly,
(Signed) GEO. C. CARRUTHERS.

Wolseley, Sask., Nov. 19, 1909.

The Sterling Straw Stove Co.,
Somerset Block, Winnipeg, Man.

Gentlemen:—
I purchased one of your Sterling Heaters last fall and found that it proved a success. Our kitchen was always cold before I got one of your heaters, especially in the morning, but after I got one of your heaters it seemed a new kitchen. My expense was nothing with it, whereas if I had burned coal in a stove all winter it would have taken three tons of coal and a cord of wood. My advice is for everybody to get a Sterling Heater for the winter months.

Yours truly,
(Signed) PEARD M. COLE.

Wolseley, Sask., Nov. 13, 1909.

The Sterling Straw Stove Co.,
Somerset Block, Winnipeg, Man.

Gentlemen:—
I used your Sterling Straw Heater in my shop last winter. I have a large and very cold building, and finding a coal stove insufficient, supplemented it with your stove for the very cold weather. Finding it a better heater than the coal stove, I used it entirely the balance of the winter and found it gave better and even heat, with no attention for twelve hours at a stretch. My fuel bill was \$1.25 for a load of straw and \$22.50 for coal. Saved the price of the stove in three weeks.

Yours truly,
(Signed) W. H. WOOLLATT

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