

and rivers called *Nuphar luteum*; also the bark of willow, poplar and birch trees. During the summer their menu is more varied, with berries for desert. His own flesh furnished a delicious dish for the Indians and early settlers. When roasted with the skin on, tasted much like pork.

One author gives some interesting facts concerning the teeth of the beaver "The front incisor teeth of each jaw have a sharp chisel-like edge, and are so formed as to preserve this through life. They consist of an outer layer of orange-colored enamel and a broad inner layer of a softer substance. As the creature gnaws, the softer material is worn away more rapidly than the enamel which thus protrudes in a sharp ridge. There is a continuous growth at the roots of those teeth to repair the constant waste that goes on at the cutting edge, so that if one of the incisors should be destroyed, the opposite tooth meeting with no check to its enlargement, will grow to an enormous length: and beavers have been found in which this growth had proved fatal by preventing the other teeth from coming together. The enamel is exceedingly hard; and until superseded by the English files, those teeth fixed in wooden handles, were used by the North American Indians in carving their weapons of bone."

There has been found in this country and Europe an extinct fossil species of the beaver very similar to the present species though much larger. The place that the beaver occupies on the 3p red 1851, and the 5c vermilion 1859 issues of the stamps of Canada is an appropriate one, as it is the national animal of that country.

When the fur of the beaver was used for hats, the animal came very near being ex-

terminated but the use of silk and other material for "stove-pipe" hats has saved it so deplorable a fate.

The body of the beaver yields a substance called *castareum*. It has a bitter taste and slightly fetid odor. It was formerly used as a remedy for hysteria, but is now only used in perfumes.

## United States Minutes

BY USONA.

The Buffalo Exposition stamps are to be of the denomination 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, and 10 cents, and probably of the size as the current issue. The Postmaster General is now considering the designs, which may possibly be printed in two colors.

Fifteen and fifty cent stamps for Cuba is the next issue by Uncle Sam.

The surcharged stamps for that island have been called in, for distribution along with the newspaper and periodicals and the Omaha remainders. The only Omahas now on sale are at the Washington, D. C. office.

The government postoffice exhibit at the Paris exposition is to be quite a feature. A postoffice in working order for the mail of American visitors, with all the latest labor and timesaving appliances will be the main attraction, though a museum exhibit will also be sent. The Chief of the Division of Salary and Allowances of the First Assistant Postmaster General's office is in charge.

The Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, whose recognition of philately as a science has caused much pride on our part, is to have an exhibition of postage and revenue stamps from March 18 to 24th, 1900. This will be the second exhibiton