

## The Trapper.

BY ROBERT G. HODGSON (BOOKLET RIGHTS RESERVED).

### TRACKS AND SIGNS.

It is very important, if a person is to make a success of trapping on any sized scale, that he knows the tracks and signs of the animals he undertakes to capture, their habits and general peculiarities. Of course, this is not absolutely necessary, for the person who only catches a few pelts a season of the less suspicious animals, and this is mainly the reason why he does not meet with more success, because he does not understand the small things that go to make one successful.

Many are under the impression that it is not worth while to learn these, but you will find always that it pays for you to learn as much as you possibly can at whatever you go at. Understanding the tracks and signs and habits of the animals will not only make you more successful in trapping, but will prove invaluable to you if you should ever go into the raising of fur-bearing animals, which has all possibilities of becoming a great industry in the near future. A knowledge of nature and her animals will always be a means of satisfaction and pleasure to you, and will help you to understand many things you formerly did not. "Knowledge is power," and you, therefore, want to learn all you can.

An Indian or a professional trapper can tell you by looking at an animal's track in the snow, many things about that animal that almost pass your comprehension. They can tell you accurately by looking at a track what animal it was, male or female, how long ago it passed there, whether running or walking, often where going, and many other things you would not believe possible. They have learned to read the signs of nature as you or I would read a book, and while the average person may not be able to gain as much knowledge as these experts—it is not necessary—they can learn a great deal by close observation.

Some knowledge is so easily acquired that any one can do it. For instance, almost any one can tell you, if they see a den, and the odor of skunk is very prominent, that the den belongs to a skunk. Yet if no odor were noticeable, most people would be at a loss to know for sure what animal was in the den. One sure means of finding out is to reach your hand down in the burrow as far as possible, and grasping a handful of dirt from the bottom of the burrow, draw it up and look at it. If you find black and white hairs in the dirt (which you are sure to do if the den is occupied by a skunk), you will know it is occupied by a skunk.

In the same manner you will know a raccoon is making his home in a tree, if you run across a tree on which the trunk is much scratched up and worn smooth. When you run across the remains of a rabbit or partridge, you recognize a woodland tragedy, and can in most cases tell from the signs or tracks left what animal it was that caused it.

Floating weeds, grasses and bull-rushes in a stream in smooth, shallow water tells you this particular place is one of the feeding grounds of the muskrat; or smooth, half depressions in the snow on the bank of a stream tell you a muskrat has been out having a frolic, and has been following his favorite form of pastime—sliding.

These, and many similar signs we so often run across on streams, in woods and fields, we soon learn to recognize and identify with accuracy, and the more we observe and study them, the better we will come to understand them, and the more successful we will be in our trapping operations.

Now we come to the tracks, which are as easy, if not easier, to understand than many of the signs.

The mink and weasel "trail" is identically the same but for size, as the latter is much smaller than the former. The tracks are always in pairs, the left imprint being a little ahead of the other. The weasel's trail you will find in fields, swamps, along fences, old buildings, through hollow logs in the woods, etc. The trail of the mink will invariably be found along the banks of streams—he is especially fond of the smaller ones.

A skunk when walking makes a trail much the same as a mink, in that the tracks are paired off, but the left imprint is behind the right and not ahead, as in the case of the mink. Also, they are more than a length of the track ahead,

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Someone refused to look the facts in the face.

One day, in a moment of confidence, he said: "My success dates from the day that I started to look things in the face." Then he said:

"At one time I was in the habit of doing all the pleasant and easy things that came up and putting off the unpleasant things. If I had a customer who was not satisfied—had a kick coming, in other words—I would put off seeing him until to-morrow. If there was something disagreeable to do—something I hated to tackle—I could always find an excuse for putting it off. The first thing I knew I was in a tangle that nearly put me down and out. Then one day I said to myself: 'Here, young man, these things must be done. Now do them!' Since that day I have always done the hard and disagreeable things first."



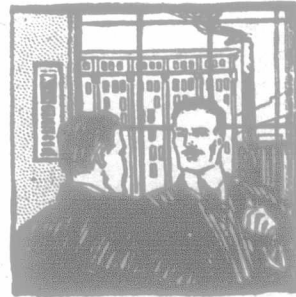
Then this successful man rubbed his chin thoughtfully— "And do you know," he continued, "that there wasn't one of those things half as hard to do as I thought it was going to be!"

All over the land, men and women, yes, and children too, are suffering because Someone was unwilling to face the disagreeable fact that men do not live forever. Families are losing their lands and their homes because Someone was unwilling to acknowledge the fact that he might die, or become old or unable to provide for those dependent upon him.

It is a strange thing that a man will often insure his crops against hail, or his buildings against fire, which may NOT happen, and neglect

to insure his life against death and old age either one of which is SURE to happen.

You may say, "Life Insurance is all right—but I have other forms of saving." Yes, that may be true. But how long will it take you to save enough to provide for your family—say five or ten thousand dollars? Will it take ten years or fifteen years? Many things can happen to you in that time. Think of the advantages of Life Insurance. Suppose that today you took out a ten-thousand-dollar policy that would guarantee your family that amount of money if you were taken off a week from to-day. You would then have created an estate of ten thousand dollars in one week!



That's what Life Insurance means. Suppose that you live for twenty years, or longer, would it not be a great thing to know that at the end of that time you would receive The Imperial Life Assurance Company's cheque for the proceeds of your savings.

Think of Life Insurance from two standpoints. If you live you collect the money to do with as you like—just when you will need it most—when you are old and want to take things easy. If you should not live, you have done what a good man should do, and that is provide for those who look to you for protection.

Give this matter a lot of thought, Mr. Farmer. Every day people are suffering because Someone refused to look the facts in the face. If you complete and mail to us the coupon in this advertisement we'll send you some interesting information about an Imperial Policy which will fully protect both you and your family

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