

scarce or the fishing poor; when she puts on the screws the Indians often starve by the score. This I take it, is Nature's method of teaching the Indian to become a capitalist in a small way by putting up a little more food in the seasons of plenty than he actually needs. But simple as it seems poor Lo refuses to learn the lesson although his ancestors have probably experienced the famine demonstration hundreds of times.

The hardy French and English fishermen who came into the region a century and a half ago, found it to their liking as did the agents of the Hudson's Bay Company who succeeded them. They and their successors have left as descendants a brown-skinned race of Indian or Esquimo extraction on the maternal side. These are the "Liveyeres," as they are called to distinguish them from the Newfoundland fishermen who do not "live here," but come and go with each fishing season. Unlike the Indian who is willing to starve but not to work when game is scarce or the caribou fails, the "Liveyere" is apt to have the industrious habits of his paternal ancestry. Many of them have comfortable cabins which are always well stocked with rifles and supplied sometimes with a few books and, in one instance which I recall, with a small organ. Throughout the summer the "Liveyere" devotes himself to the salmon and trout fishing in Lake Melville, and in winter to trapping. These brown-skinned sons of the forest are apparently oblivious to the existence of the insect pests which drive an ordinary man to strong words. Cabot tells of a case where they drove a strong man to tears. A man new to the country frequently finds his eyes swollen almost to blindness for the first three or four days, but the swelling passes away after a few days, and the initiate is then more or less immune as regards swollen features for the remainder of the season. I can claim a fairly intimate acquaintance with the mosquitoes of both the Yukon and Mackenzie valleys but am prepared to take off my hat to the quiet efficiency of the Labrador blackfly.

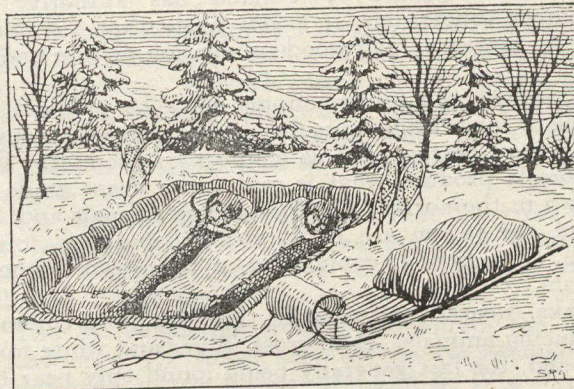
It is reported that the failure of one of the sawmills was due in part to the refusal of a shipload of laborers imported from Europe to labor after their arrival in the land of the black-fly. It does not require much imagination on the part of anyone having a speaking acquaintance with this little insect to guess why these foreigners developed an intense longing for their homeland shortly after their arrival in Labrador. If the management of this mill had relied more on the French Canadian timber cruiser and lumber jack and the "Liveyere," there might have been a different sequel to record concerning the venture.

The black flies and mosquitoes on which my cook exhausted a new set of adjectives every day, were treated merely with silent contempt by my native guide. He never deigned to use either head-net, tar dope or adjectives against the flies which my deep sea cook declared to be immeasurably more disturbing to his peace and happiness than any of the shipwrecks which had fallen to his lot in happier days. The Labrador native is in many cases a fine type of man, patient beyond belief, not only with the black fly but the 60 per cent. import duty assessed by Newfoundland on all of his food and clothing not taken from the forest or the sea. At the approach of Winter he goes into the forest for the trapping season, sometimes with a companion or with dogs, but frequently entirely alone and from 50 to 200 miles from any settlement. The solitary trapper ordinarily knows no other companionship for three or four months except that of the trees, the stars and the aurora. If the trap line is a long one, 4 a.m. will find a good trapper on the trail. These men appear to be as perfectly adjusted to and satisfied with their environment as the foxes and the otters whose pelts they seek.

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