

ready to start. He wanted me to join him in his canoe; he was so sweet, "for," he said, "your men appear to be tired."

I had not time to refuse the offer when an unearthly noise proceeded from the bush, not far from where we were standing. It was the hoarse, impassioned voice of a bear in love.

Down fell the bundles that the Indians had just shouldered, and there was a general rush for firearms, the opposition himself even producing a revolver. For my part I enjoy a bear hunt, but I cursed the chance that had brought this brute there at that particular time. However, I thought, with some satisfaction, that my opponent's men were in it, too, and so I accepted the inevitable and plodded over the portage to find out how many of my men had gone on the bear hunt.

To my astonishment I found them all, paddle in hand, sitting in the canoe waiting for me. Ah, did I say? That wretched Weenusk was gone. The answer of the Indians as to where he had gone was drowned by the resounding cries of the amorous bear, which apparently was moving in the same direction that we were.

The Indians now shouted, "Boosin," "boosin," which means "embark," and I did so, cursing Weenusk and his folly. Indeed, so vexed was I with him that I made up my mind to leave him there, for it was only about four miles from the Indians' camp, and he could walk that much. So off we started, not so fast, for we were a paddle short.

The bear seemed to be following the shore, judging by the noise it made, and certainly was heading for a small point nearly half a mile from the portage; I noticed my Indians entering for the same point, and for fear the beast should try to swim across the lake, and so tempt my fellows, I bade them keep away from the point, and steer for the other shore, but they laughed, and utterly disregarded my commands. I sat there helpless and wild. If killing Indians had been fashionable at the time, I certainly would have slain one of these fellows.

I found them even slackening their speed, as if they did not want to pass the bear. When we were within less than one hundred yards of the point, we could hear the bushes cracking as the bear clumsily forced its way through them, and I knew that we were bound to hunt that bear. Only one consolation remained, and that was there was no sign of the opposition. The canoe even was not brought over yet, but we missed Weenusk. His paddle was worth that of nearly two other men. As I thus mused, suddenly, with an unearthly cry, the bushes on

the shore parted, and out jumped, not the bear, but Weenusk, who ran along the shore to the end of the point, while at the same time the crack of a rifle rang out, and a bullet went ricocheting across the water ahead of him.

I never heard if the man who fired the shot really thought it was a bear or whether he wanted to give Weenusk a scare when he found out how he had been fooled. Whatever it was, in a few seconds we were alongside of Weenusk, and into the canoe he jumped with a yell of derision and blood curdling hoots, in which the other two Indians joined, and then they paddled for dear life, and we sped along at a rate that defied pursuit, even if the other canoe had been able to start at once from the portage. As a matter of fact, however, the canoe was still on the other side of the portage and its crew were tramping through a rough bush back to the spot where they had left their loads.

We arrived at the Indians' camp long before they even appeared in sight, and by the time that they had landed, I had every skin secured, and was able to go down to the beach and entertain my friend with pleasant conversation, just as he had done to me on the portage, but I found that this time it was he who lacked cordiality, and he abused Weenusk shamefully.

But Weenusk profited by his ingenuity and pluck.

It is true, he gave me the loon skin, which, as long as my wife puts up with the moths it breeds, I shall keep as a souvenir, but to Weenusk I gave a complete suit, such as the Indian loveth, a black one abominably cut, baggy as to the trousers, and shining as if it had received a coating of best shoe blacking, and moreover, he gained a name, for now he is known as "Makwa" the bear, instead of "Weenusk," or "Akokojesh" (the ground hog).

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## LEAGUE OF AMERICAN SPORTSMEN.

### Its Organization and Constitution.

The League of American Sportsmen is organized for the purpose of protecting the game and game fishes; the song, insectivorous and other innocent birds, not classed as game birds. Its prime object is to enforce game laws, where such exist, and to secure and enforce such laws where not now in existence. It aims to promote good fellowship among sportsmen; to foster in the minds of the people a love of nature and of nature's works; to encourage the propagation of game and game fishes, and the re-stocking of game fields and public waters. To these ends it will act in unison with State, county and municipal authorities who aim at similar ends.

The League of American Sportsmen will not compete with any other organization that has similar objects in view. On the contrary, it desires to enlist the sympathies of and to co-operate with, all such.

The League of American Sportsmen is opposed to excessive slaughter of game and fish, under the name of sport. We are opposed to the killing of any innocent bird or animal, which is not game, in the name of sport, or in wantonness, or for commercial

purposes. We are opposed to the sale of game and game fishes, at all times and under all circumstances. We believe in reasonable bags. We believe the killing of game and the taking of fish should be limited by law, not only as to seasons, but that the bag for any one man, for a day, and for a season, should be defined by law. We believe in a gun-license law, with severe penalties for violations thereof.

We, as individual members of this League, pledge ourselves to work for the education of the public, and especially of our boys, on the lines indicated above; to co-operate with our officers, and with State or municipal officers, in the enforcement of game laws, whenever an opportunity offers.

### CONSTITUTION.

#### ARTICLE I.

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the League of American Sportsmen.

Sec. 2. Its objects shall be the preservation and propagation of game and game fishes, of song and insectivorous birds and of forests; the education of men, women and children to a love of nature and of nature's works; to a proper respect for game laws and to a proper abhorrence for the custom so prevalent to-day, among men and boys, of killing every living thing found in the woods, for the mere sake of killing.

#### ARTICLE II.

Section 1. The League shall be an association sub-divided, for convenience in administration and government, as follows:

(a) When there shall be 25 League members in any State it shall be constituted a Division, and the secretary shall call an election for a Chief Warden. The election shall be conducted by mail, and the secretary shall receive and count the votes and declare the result. The Chief Warden so chosen shall enter upon his duties at once and shall conduct the affairs of the Division under rules and regulations made by the Executive Committee.

(b) When there shall be 50 League members in any State, the Chief Warden shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer and the 2 officers shall organize the State Division, put it in working order, appoint County Wardens, and shall generally conduct the affairs of the Division under rules and regulations made by the Executive Committee.

(c) When there shall be 100 members in any State, the Chief Warden shall appoint a Vice Warden. The Chief Warden, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Vice Warden thus appointed, together with such other representatives as may be appointed as hereinafter provided, shall constitute the division board of officers, with power to make and execute a constitution and by-laws for the government of the division.

Sec. 2. When there shall be 25 members in any town, city or county, they may be constituted a local chapter, and the Chief Warden or Secretary-Treasurer of the Division in which such town, city or county is located shall call an election for a Rear Warden who shall be the presiding officer of such chapter. When there shall be 50 League members in such chapter the Rear Warden shall appoint a Secretary-Treasurer whose duties in such chapter shall be equivalent to those of the Secretary-Treasurer of the State Division in that body. Any funds required by such chapter for providing a meeting place, or for other purposes, shall be subscribed by the members thereof, or raised in such other manner as they may elect.

Sec. 3. The status of every division shall be fixed annually, on the first day of October and shall be based on the membership enrolled on the books of the League, on that date.

Sec. 4. When the membership of any division shall be less than 25, such division shall be discontinued, and all money and property shall be turned over to the secretary of the League within 30 days after notification by the secretary.

#### ARTICLE III.

Section 1. Any white man of good character, 15 years of age or over, shall, with the endorsement of 2 League members, or 3 other reputable citizens, be eligible to membership in this League, on payment of the membership fee, as provided in this constitution.

Sec. 2. Any woman may become an associate member by complying with the provisions of Section 1. Associate members